

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2020
6:30 P.M.
Cherokee County Courthouse

Members present: Roy Dickey, Chairman; C.B. McKinnon, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member; and Gary Westmoreland, member.

Staff present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Officer; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Also present: WKRC Radio and Cherokee Scout.

The Chairman called the meeting to order, and reminded the Board of their duties under the Local Government Ethics Act.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to add a closed session to the agenda to receive an update from the county attorney on a multi-county lawsuit concerning certain voting machines in North Carolina. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to remove item "f" under New Business-Resolution Authorizing Sealed Bids for Old Post Office Building. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda as modified. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum-No public comments.

Finance and Budget

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for Juvenile Community Program Discretionary Funding awarded to Pacesetters. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. There is no county match.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the Health Department's COVID-19 testing fee schedule. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the tax refund report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the NCVTS report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to terminate the Andrews Rescue Squad contract at the end of FY2020, ending June 30. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners McKinnon, Eichenbaum, Stiles and Dickey. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed 4-1.

After discussion, a Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to advertise for sealed bids for the old County maintenance building, setting the minimum bid at \$110,000. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners McKinnon, Eichenbaum, and Dickey. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Westmoreland and Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a resolution declaring the old County maintenance building, located at 35 Central Street in Murphy, as surplus property. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners McKinnon, Eichenbaum, and Dickey. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Westmoreland and Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

County Manager Items

The county manager presented the FY20-21 manager's recommended budget and after discussion a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to schedule budget worksessions for June 3, June 8, and June 10. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to schedule a public hearing date for the commissioner's regular meeting on June 1. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Dickey to move the June 15 commission meeting to June 29 for approval and adoption of the FY20 year-end budget revisions and the FY21 budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

The county manager shared an update on the EMS Station 1 bid, saying that there may be grant funds available for the sewer portion of the project. No action required at this time.

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Eichenbaum read a prepared statement concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, sharing North Carolina statistics and saying it is time to declare Cherokee County open for business.

There was debate among the board concerning recent approval to renovate the armory and relocate departments from the code enforcement building to the armory.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to go into closed session pursuant to 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the county attorney concerning a recently-filed multi-county lawsuit concerning certain voting machines in North Carolina. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the attorney discussed the multi-county lawsuit filed by NAACP against county boards of election and the State Board of Elections. Counsel for the State Board of Elections will also represent named counties in the lawsuit.

Open Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken on matters discussed in closed session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JULY, 20, 2020.**