

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Work Session Minutes
May 23, 2024

Board members present: Randy Phillips, Chairman; Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Jan Griggs, member; Ben Adams, member.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to Board; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Chairman Phillips

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement “Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act and should avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Board of County Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict as may be allowed by law”.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Adams to enter into closed session pursuant to §143-318.11 (3) to consult with the county attorney in order to preserve the attorney client privilege. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board continued discussion about its need for the county’s property at 911 Andrews Road for public safety purposes. The board had instructed the county attorney at its last meeting to draft a letter requesting the Board of Education surrender the property, and to also include an offer of the county’s interest in real property, in fee simple absolute, at 118 James A. Mulkey Drive, as an alternative option for relocating central office.

After reviewing the letter, all board members agreed to proceed and a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

After returning to open session, the county attorney read a letter addressed to Cherokee County Schools Superintendent and Board of Education Chair, RE: Demand to Surrender Property and Alternative Office Facility. Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve

the letter as written, and instructed the county attorney to hand-deliver the letter to Cherokee County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Keevin Woody the following morning, May 24, 2024.

Budget Discussion

1) The finance officer and county manager presented the following budget requests, which were not included in the county manager's recommended budget:

- Increase landfill solid waste fee from \$75 to \$85
- Increase landfill tipping fee from \$80/ton to \$90/ton with \$4.50 minimum
- Undesignate Article 46 sales tax revenues effective 7/1/2024
- Detention Center 4-wheel drive vehicle
- EMS - Additional 24 hours of paid leave
- EMS - Additional 16 hours of holiday pay
- Health Department – Add New PHN II position
- Health Department - Convert PHN II position to a Nurse Practitioner position at \$100,000 salary
- Town of Andrews – Annual operating appropriation for recreation \$125,000
- Town of Andrews – Annual appropriation for recreation capital expenses \$50,000
- Friends of County Fair - County Fair funding \$5,000
- Nantahala Regional Library – request budget increase of \$37,916
- Logan's Run Rescue – Additional \$5,000 over county managers recommended budget
- Peachtree VFD fire tax increase of 2.5 cents
- Wolf Creek VFD fire tax increase of 5.5 cents

Unanimous and majority-consensus items will be added to the final FY 2025 budget for adoption on June 24th.

2) The finance officer and county manager discussed three different options for updating the county's pay plan. All board members favored option three. In option 3, the finance officer said she removed the suggested "hiring rate" column, which was added by the MAPS Group, applied a 5% increase across the county's current pay scale, and then added a 2% cost of living adjustment. She said in this scenario, every employee would get something.

Adjournment

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JULY 15, 2024.