

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Budget Worksession  
May 30, 2018

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners held a budget work session on May 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., in the commissioner's boardroom (342), of the Cherokee County Courthouse.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman; Gary Westmoreland, Vice-Chairman; Roy Dickey, member; Cal Stiles, member; and, C.B. McKinnon, member.

Also present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to Board; and, Candy Anderson, County Finance Director.

Present from the media: Local TV 4; WKRK Radio; and the Cherokee Scout newspaper.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Dickey.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Westmoreland thanked Commissioner Dickey and his maintenance staff for their work on the rock gym, with minimal cost.

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Jean Conley, Cherokee County Schools Superintendent, and Stephanie Hass, Finance Director, came before the board to discuss the schools requested budget. Chairman Eichenbaum and Mrs. Conley talked about the return of small schools funding and how that could impact the requested budget. Mrs. Conley said that the small schools funding cannot be used for capital construction projects. Chairman Eichenbaum said that he would communicate to Raleigh the wishes of the board for a waiver of the "non-supplant" requirement, since the county has been making up the shortfall of state funds over the last several years.

In other discussion, Commissioner McKinnon said that he would like to add camera systems at two additional convenience sites this budget year. He would like Peachtree to be a 24/7 site, and said that a building could be placed at the Joe Brown site to house the DVR and camera system. The board discussed possibly fencing behind the Joe Brown dumpsters to prevent waste from entering the lake. Commissioners Dickey and Westmoreland said that communities don't want 24/7 camera sites, because they are afraid of employees losing their jobs. Commissioner Stiles shared concerns of the effectiveness of increased cameras, if we don't have someone monitoring them. Commissioner McKinnon then suggested removing the green boxes at Joe Brown and at Bear Paw; saying that the Bear Paw green boxes were supposed to be removed following the opening of the Candy Mountain site.

Commissioner Westmoreland said that he wanted to designate funds to purchase property across from the Texana Community Center for the relocation of the green boxes that are currently at the community center.

Commissioner Westmoreland said he also wanted to designate \$80,000 for new equipment, fencing, and cameras at the playground at Konehete Park. Commissioner McKinnon said he thinks the Town needs to

contribute, and suggested that the county request that the Town of Murphy match county funds. It was agreed that he and Commissioner Westmoreland will approach the Town with the request.

Commissioner Dickey said that he would like to designate funds to pave the parking lot and address drainage issues at the Rock Gym. Since there is money remaining in this year's budget, the board instructed the finance director to prepare and present a budget revision at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting for the project.

Chairman Eichenbaum inquired of any needs at pickle ball and tennis courts at Konehete Park. The county manager said that the courts had been repaired in 2015 for a cost of \$25,000. He said the quote for a rebuild at that time was \$115, 000.

Commissioner Stiles inquired of the status of the old houses at the airport. It was decided that the houses would be demolished and removed, if the college does not burn them for fire training, within thirty (30) days.

The board set a budget worksession for June 21<sup>st</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>, both to be held at 6:30 p.m. The county manager told the board to let him know if they wish to invite TCCC, Valletown VFD and Hanging Dog VFD to one of these work sessions. Board members shared frustration with the lack of funding to TCCC from Graham County and Clay County.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 18, 2018.**