

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023

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

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney/Assistant Clerk. Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board was absent.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order

Invocation

Invocation given by Commissioner Adams.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Ethics Statement by Clerk to the Board

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to move item "o" under New Business (Animal Control Ordinance) as the 1st item of New Business for discussion. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Eichenbaum, Phillips and Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Griggs and Adams. Motion passed 3-2.

After a brief statement by Commissioner Griggs, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs to remove discussion of the Animal Control Ordinance from the agenda. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Griggs and Adams. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Eichenbaum, Phillips and Stiles. Motion failed.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to add Lake Silvers, Congressman Edwards representative, to the agenda as the second item of New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

1st Order of New Business

Board discussion of proposed Animal Control Ordinance. No action taken. Current Animal Control Ordinance will remain in effect.

Lake Silvers, Constituent Representative for Congressman Edwards, gave an update from Congressman Edwards office.

Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner ____ to approve the minutes of May 23, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the Cherokee County Transit rate increase for Industrial Opportunities Inc. (IOI). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the Cherokee County Transit rate increase for Southwestern Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the Micro Purchase Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

2nd Order of New Business

Ellen Pitt, of NC MADD and WNC DWI Taskforce, recognized the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, and recognized and pinned the following officers who have completed training and met the qualifications for independently handling DWI suspects: Captain David Williams; Deputy Hunter Wood; and Deputy Dillon Daniels.

Cherokee County resident, Peggy Reid, came before the Board to ask for a reduction in a current EMS Bill she received related to her husband's treatment. Mrs. Reid said she didn't think the \$360 charge was justified. No action was taken on the request.

Cherokee County resident and mother, Victoria Ivie, came before the Board to present her ideas and proposed plans for family-friendly health and play areas at Konehete Veteran's Park. Mrs. Ivie presented her project, titled, "Little Blooms: Making Konehete Veteran's Park a destination site through family friendly park elements rooted in health, development, and inclusivity." After sharing her ideas and presentation, and after board discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the location and allow Mrs. Ivie to begin applying for grant funds. Motion passed unanimously.

After presentation by the Tax Assessor, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a late application for property tax relief for Herman and Beverly Manzer. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to reject Cherokee County Schools donation of two unwanted modular units that were part of the early college program on TCCC campus. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the following: 1) Release Deed for previously recorded Through the Fence Agreement; 2) New Through the Fence Access Agreement; 3) Release Deed for previously recorded AWOS Agreement; and 4) New AWOS Agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the tax releases, tax refunds, and NCVTS report, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to table the Timberwood Mtn Estates Lot 6 discussion, related to property tax foreclosure options. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to table the revised Travaglino tower lease, until the Assistant County Manager is back and can explain the revisions. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the following documents for the Mountain Folk Center Stormwater Mitigation Plan:

1) Exemption from Mini Brooks Act; and 2) McGill Stormwater Improvements Services Proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a project to construct a through-access from the Pool and Wellness Center driveway to the Rock Gym parking lot. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman/Commissioner Items

- Commissioner Phillips made a Motion that the Board approve of two commissioners serving on a homeless study committee, along with representatives from the Town of Murphy, the Town of Andrews and representatives from local law enforcement agencies. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Phillips and Commissioner Adams will serve as the Board of Commissioner representatives.
- Chairman Stiles announced that the Office of Rural Health would be hosting a meeting at the Penland Senior Center on Wednesday, July 19th at 3:30 p.m. to talk about health services for seniors.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (9) to discuss cybersecurity plans, and (5) to discuss a contractual matter. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

After returning to open session, no action was taken on matters discussed in closed session.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 2, 2023.**