

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2025

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman; Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman; Ben Adams, member; Alan Bryant, member; and Mark Stiles, member.

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

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Chairman Eichenbaum

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement

The ethics statement was read by the Clerk to the Board.

Modification of Agenda

- Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to add the following budget revisions: Budget Revision for two tankless water heaters for Detention Center (\$7,242); Budget Revision for zero-turn mower for Parks and Recreation (\$16,507); and Budget Revision for use of Fund Balance for TCCC roofing projects (\$432,032). Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to modify the agenda as follows: 1) Move item “c” under New Business (David Badger, Health Director – Requesting increase to the max pay rate for Pay Grade 80 of the county’s pay plan) to the Open Session portion of the meeting, following Closed Session; 2) Add “59 Hiwassee Street Bid Award as item “l”; 3) Add close session to discuss a personal matter and consult with the county attorney; and 4) Add Commissioner Adams request for “USFS Discussion” as item “n” under New Business; . Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Public Comment Period

There was a large crowd during public forum, speaking on the following topics: 1) Support for Valley River Humane Society; 2) Opposition to the Petition for Redress of Grievances concerning public lands; 3) Homeowner complaint and plea for help related to alleged criminal activity at and around her home; and radio communication complaints.

Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the meeting minutes of June 16, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the Board of Health Fee Schedules for the following: Various CPT codes; Excision of Malignant Skin Lesions; and two vaccines (RSV and Rabies). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of contingency to purchase an excavator thumb and warranty for the landfill (\$17,037). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and second by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of contingency to pay for a contract with Corrections Medical Claim Reduction (CMCR) for jail medical billing scrubbing (\$10,000). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for use of contingency for two tankless water heaters for the Detention Center (\$7,242). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for use of contingency to purchase a zero-turn John Deere mower for Parks and Recreation (\$16,507). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for use of fund balance for TCCC roofing projects (\$432,032). Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to table this item until receiving direction from AOC as to what their additional needs may be. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: Commissioner Adams will reach out to Alpha Music to seek possibly a simpler solution.

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to accept a property donation for Lot 36 in Angel Mountain Estates, a 1.04-acre property on Highland Ridge Trail off of Candy Mountain Rd, with a tax valuation of \$21,600. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The County Manager gave an update on the Senior/VA Facility project, saying there were no bids received during the first advertisement. He said the project has been re-advertised and bids are due on August 6th and will be presented to the Board at the August 18th meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to accept a bid of \$200 from Stacy Howard for a 2004 Chevy Tahoe from Parks and Recreation. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The county attempted to sell this vehicle on GovDeals for parts, and did receive a \$500 bid, but the bidder failed to follow through with the sale.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cals Stiles to approve a resolution awarding a county-issued firearm to law enforcement retiree, Paul Fry. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cals Stiles to approve a resolution awarding a county-issued firearm to law enforcement retiree, Montgomery Ward. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no action taken on Cherokee County Saddle Club's proposed lease for the horse arena at Mountain Folk Center. Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Adams instructing the county attorney to draft a license agreement template for use of county property, and to grant authority to the county manager to execute licensing agreements, once approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve additional funding to Nantahala Regional Library in the amount of \$1,778, due to a quote increase for the roof replacement project. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion and request by Chris Williams, Airport Manager, a Motion was made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$4,500 for a used 2019 golf cart for the airport. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the Tax Release Report, Tax Refund Report, and the NCVTS Refund Report, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a revision to the "Resolution to Establish Minimum Tax". Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The revised resolution changes the minimum amount to bill, from \$2.00 to \$5.00. Note: The Tax Assessor is making this recommendation, due increased billing and postage costs.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve a "Resolution to Establish a Formal Policy and Procedure for Residual Tax Values of Personal Property". Motion passed unanimously.

Note: This resolution replaces a 2015 resolution, and recommends updated residual values based on current market conditions.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to appoint

Commissioner Adams as the voting delegate for the 2025 NC Association of County Commissioners annual conference. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to accept the sole bid in the amount of \$485,000 for the 59 Hiwassee Street property. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to rescind the previously approved Petition for Redress of Grievances, and approval of his revised version. After discussion, Commissioner Adams withdrew his motion, but asked that the revised resolution and maps be sent to the county attorney and legislators to review.

County Manager Items

The county manager updated the Board on the following: Texana playground project; Konehete Park projects; Rock Gym project; courthouse alarm system project; Unaka Community Center project for ADA accessible restrooms; Mountain Folk Center arena and ADA accessibility needs; landfill mechanics shop replacement project; EMS Station 2; Senior/Veterans Services facility project; and the boardroom to courtroom conversion project.

Chairman/Commissioner Items

Commissioner Bryant announced the Chairman's Forum to be held in District 5 at Unaka Community Center on August 4th at 7:00 pm.

Closed Session – Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11 to discuss a personnel matter and consult with county attorney on the matter. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board discussed a request by a health department employee for an increase in salary. The increase, if approved, would place the employee over the max pay rate for the current pay grade, and would be outside of the county's adopted pay plan, creating a pay disparity/inequity.

Open Session

After returning to open session, no action was taken on the closed session matter.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 20, 2025.**