

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
18 AUGUST 2023 at 4:30 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Cal Stiles  
Vice-Chair Jan Griggs  
Commissioner Randy Phillips  
Commissioner Ben Adams  
County Attorney/Acting Clerk Darryl Brown  
Representatives of the Cherokee Co. Saddle Club  
Cherokee Scout

LOCATION: Mountain Folk Center 9275 US 64E, Murphy, NC.

Purpose: To assess the current and future use of the Mountain Folk Center property and to assess a sinkhole located in the Nora Starks Memorial Arena.

At approximately 4:30 pm the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stiles. Commissioner Adams offered the invocation and attendees stood for the pledge of allegiance.

The Board observed a large sinkhole in the southwestern corner of the arena. Commissioners determined that such was a safety hazard and should be enclosed until a plan was developed to fix the sinkhole. Options were discussed. No action was taken on a permanent repair of the sinkhole until plans were considered regarding total property use and until the cause and origin of the sinkhole were determined.

Commissioner Griggs made a motion that, with the permission of the Cherokee County Saddle Club, County maintenance personnel use on-site fencing panels belonging to the Saddle Club to surround the sinkhole temporarily and to place appropriate signage on the fencing to mitigate the danger to persons who may be, lawfully or unlawfully, on or near the property. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and passed by a unanimous vote.

Representatives of the Saddle Club discussed with Commissioners the possibility of renovation of the existing arena and the possibility of building a new arena. Commissioners, while making no commitment to expend county funds or dedicate county property, suggested that the Saddle Club work with Cherokee County GIS mapping

to develop possible plans for arena sites. It was suggested that the Saddle Club bring proposals to the Commission when ready.

Commissioners expressed concerns when information was presented that NCDOT may be using county property upon which to bury dead animal carcasses.

Commissioners, individually and as a group, inspected the remainder of the property and buildings thereupon.

At 5:19 pm, Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2023.**