

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2025
6:30 P.M.

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

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement

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

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to remove item “j” (Boardroom to Courtroom Conversion) under New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to add Dr. Keevin Woody to the agenda to speak about Cherokee County Schools proposal for a consolidated Pre-K through 8th grade school. Voting in favor of the motion was Commissioners Adams and M. Stiles. Voting against the motion was Commissioners Eichenbaum, Bryant and C. Stiles. Motion failed 2-3.

Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to add a resolution requesting land for a state park in Cherokee County. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and Commissioner Bryant to adopt the agenda, as modified. Voting in favor of the motion was Commissioners C. Stiles, Eichenbaum and Bryant. Voting against the motion was Commissioners Adams and M. Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

Public Hearing on Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to open the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

There were two members of the public that spoke during the public hearing. Nancy Knox spoke

in opposition of the proposed road name, Big Blue Mountain. Edwin Marvin spoke in opposition of the proposed road name, Bell Hill Ridge Drive.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the following road names: Bell Hill Ridge Drive; Certain Way; Grape Creek View Drive; Montego Way; Patriot Hollow Way; Pile Creek Road; Sandys Terrace; Sunset Creek Drive; and Taili Lane. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Several people spoke during the public comment period on various topics.

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to approve a budget revision for carry-forward of FY 25 funds to the FY26 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools use of Article 40/42 sales tax in the amount of \$90,337 for various capital expenditures. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for use of grant funds, sale of assets, and budget savings in the amount of \$34,500 to purchase a side by side for Emergency Management. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for receipt of grant funds from NC Amateur Sports in the amount of \$10,000 to purchase ballfield supplies and make improvements to ballfields. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to award the bid for the Senior/VA facility project to Place Services, Inc., the lowest bidder. Motion passed unanimously. *Note: The bid amount is \$8,776,634.*

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of fund balance in the amount of \$6,593,288 for the Senior/VA facility project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to approve an amended Grant Capital Project Ordinance for the Senior/VA facility project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to award the bid for EMS Station 2 to Wells and West, Inc., the lowest bidder. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The bid amount is \$1,088,000.

Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for use of fund balance in the amount of \$633,500 for the EMS Station 2 renovation project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve an amended Grant Capital Project Ordinance for the EMS Station 2 renovation project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to table the Licensing Agreement for Cherokee County Saddle Club and Mountain Youth Livestock Market, until a later date. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between Cherokee County and Integrated Care of Greater Hickory for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The program will be funded with opioid settlement dollars, and is 3-year phased approach. Services will include peer support specialists, treatment of substance use disorder, mobile medical services, and recovery housing placement. This treatment program is a result of many meetings over the last couple of years between county admin, public health, and ICGH.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to charge the Cherokee County Tax Collector with collecting 2025 property taxes, and to accept the Annual Tax Settlement, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to accept a Late Application for Tax Exemption from Thomas J. Taylor III, and a Late Application for Tax Exemption from Peter Rather. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11 to discuss national opioid litigation, and a contract matter.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to approve the “Resolution to Approve Purdue Pharma Lp Et Al, Plan and Approve Opioid Settlements”. Motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken on agenda item, “Select Tax Revaluation Firm”.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

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