

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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 M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to add a closed session to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Hearing on Cherokee County Transit FY 27 Community Transportation Program Grants

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

There was no public comment during the public hearing.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the FY 27 Public Transportation Grant Resolution and Certification. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Two people spoke during the public comment period.

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$8,500 for grant funds received from the Division of Aging for the Senior Center Congregate Nutrition Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: There is no county match required.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$484,127 for Cherokee County Schools use of Article 40/42 sales tax for various capital expenditures. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$6,186 for use of contingency to purchase a 2016 Ford utility vehicle from Graham County Animal Refuge for the Sheriff's Office. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$18,289 for use of grant funds to purchase various items for Cherokee County Veterans Services.

Note: No county match required.

New Business

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners recognized the Cherokee County Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Support Services Team for being recognized by the State of North Carolina in the following categories: 1) Most Improved Overall (of all 100 counties) in Incentive Performance; 2) Outstanding Achievement in All Collections, Incentives and Self-Assessment Measures; and 3) Team of the Year. After discussion and comments from DSS Director, Amanda McGee, a motion was made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a "Resolution in Recognition of Cherokee County DSS Child Support Team. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Keevin Woody and Steve Coleman came before the Board to share Cherokee County Schools (CCS) plan for a consolidated Pre-K through 8th grade facility. Commissioners expressed concern that no preliminary plans and cost estimates have been provided to the Board of Commissioners, and without that, the Board cannot support a plan. Chairman Eichenbaum shared concerns that CCS has held no public meetings, allowing for public comment on the proposed plan, and encouraged CCS to advertise and hold a public meeting to get public input on the proposed plan. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to allow CCS to move forward with soliciting for RFP's for planning, and then bringing that cost back to the board. The board would then, if approved, use Article 40/42 sales tax to fund the plan.

Jordan Messer came before the board to request the board support Peachtree VFD taking over the Brasstown Fire Response/Fire Tax District. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to allow Peachtree VFD to move forward with plans to absorb the Brasstown Fire District, effective July 1, 2026, and following public meetings and public input from Brasstown Community residents. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to approve the “September Recovery Month Proclamation”. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept a Late Application for Property Tax Exemption or Exclusion for Ranger VFD. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to accept a Late Application for Property Tax Exemption or Exclusion for Maltby Baptist Church. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept a Late Application for Property Tax Exemption or Exclusion for Murphy First United Methodist Church. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to go into closed session, pursuant to §143-318.11 (3) to consult with the county attorney regarding a contract matter. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

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

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

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