

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2022

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, Randy Phillips, and Cal Stiles.

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

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order and Ethics Statement

Members were advised of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act.

Invocation

Invocation given by Randy Wiggins.

Pledge of Allegiance

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Cherokee County Transit – FY2024 Public Transportation Combined Capital Grant Application

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

Jennifer West, Transit Director, explained the purpose of the grant and the intended use of funds. There were no public comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Local Share Certification and Resolution for NCDOT 2024 Transit Grant (\$21,561)

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the local share certification and resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Cherokee County Transit – Seeking Board Permission to Apply for a NCDOT Capital Grant for Fencing

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to make application to NCDOT for a Capital grant to construct a fence and gate at Cherokee County Transit. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the meeting minutes of October 17, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

During public forum, the following persons spoke in opposition of the current school consolidation plan: Jason Murphy, Judy Stines, Jenny Pike, Michael Pike, James Ellis, and Ron Wright.

The following persons spoke in opposition of crypto-mines in Cherokee County: Dori Mitchen, Lynell Morris, and Judy Stines.

The following persons spoke in opposition of proposed airport advisory board: Jenny Pike, John Midkiff, Judy Stines, and Ron Wright. Speaking in support of the proposed airport advisory board was John Leder.

Janet Wilson shared interest in leasing the Tipton Community Center.

Tammy Pearson shared support of the NCDOT trails grant, which is to be considered later in the meeting.

Budget and Finance

Budget Revision for State Funding to Purchase a New Vaccine Storage Unit (\$4,265 - No county match)

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision for Private Contribution to Veteran Services for Purple Heart Ceremony Expenses (\$500)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision for Repairs to Whitener Bend Camera System (\$1010)

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to table the item and look at other options. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Bonds for New Sheriff (\$25,000) and New Register of Deeds (\$10,000)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

TCCC Budget Review and Approval (Annual Formality)

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision for CCS Request for Use of Article 46 Sales Tax for Multiple Projects
(\$44,837)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

At 7:30 p.m., a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to take a short break. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Budget Revision for CCS Request for Use of Article 46 Sales Tax for FY2023 Budget Shortfall
(\$484,000)

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to table. Voting in favor of tabling the item was Commissioners Stiles, Griggs, Eichenbaum and Phillips. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed 4-1.

Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant Agreement for New Consolidated High School
Use of Article 40/42 Sales Tax for Local 5% Match for New Consolidated High School
(\$2,500,000)

After much discussion and debate, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to table the item until a later date. Motion failed.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the use of Article 40/42 Sales Tax for the local match. Motion passed 3-2. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles and Griggs.

New Business

Robin Caldwell – XCOMM Software Notification System (\$3,570)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Creasman – Funding to complete Viper Tower (lowest quote \$201,731)

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to accept the low quote and approve a budget revision for use of contingency to cover the cost. Motion passed unanimously.

Disposition of Old Pool Dome and Equipment

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to list the items on GovDeals for online auction. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Releases, Tax Refunds, and NCVTS Report

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve all tax reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Licensing Agreement for Use of MFC Property for Annual Town of Bethlehem Event on December 10th.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

NCDOT Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Grant Program Application Opportunity
Cherokee County Grant Specialist, Silas Shields, explained the grant program and discussed potential trail and sidewalk projects. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to allow Mr. Shields to complete and submit grant applications for the Texana Sidewalk project and the Murphy to Andrews Trail project, and to allow Mr. Shields to also look for additional grant opportunities for the Hiwassee Dam Park and Trails project. Motion passed unanimously.

Accept Resignation of Judith Davis from the Community Care Advisory Committee (Term expired)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to accept the resignation of Mrs. Judith Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

Amended SHP Lease for Office Space at Sheriff's Office (\$100/month - December 2022 through April 2023)

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Establishing an Airport Advisory Board

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to table the item. Voting in favor of tabling the item was Commissioners Stiles, Griggs and Phillips. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Eichenbaum and Westmoreland. Motion passed 3-2.

Commissioner Items

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to allow the Town of Andrews to host the 2023 county fair. Commissioner Phillips said making the decision now will allow the Town to begin preparing for the event and allow them time to secure vendors for the rides. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11 (6) to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board discussed the recent certification of the Cherokee County Tax Assessor, noting that Mrs. Ricks had attained her certification early and sooner than any other Cherokee County Tax Assessor. Board members discussed appointing her to a four-year term, as has been customary when an Assessor completes their certification.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by

Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a resolution appointing Teresa Ricks to a four-year term, following her recent certification. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Phillips, Westmoreland and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Griggs and Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Chairman Phillips to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.