

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes|
June 24, 2024

Board members present: Randy Phillips, Chairman; Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Jan Griggs, member; Ben Adams, 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 Phillips

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement “Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act and should avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Board of County Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict as may be allowed by law”.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to remove item “i” under New Business and replace it with Bear Paw Service District Board of Director appointments. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add the Community Paramedic Grant discussion as item “f” under budget and finance. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add the Audit Contract and Engagement Letter. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Public Hearing on Road Names

(Aurora Jade Trail, Elaines Spring House Drive and Kirkland Ridge removed from consideration prior to public hearing.)

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

There were no public comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to close the public hearing on road names. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to adopt the road names, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the following Meeting minutes: Amended minutes of March 7, 2024 (Clarification of rescue fund approval); May 6, 2024; May 7, 2024; May 20, 2024; and May 29, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Ordinance Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to adopt the FY 25 budget ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Budget and Finance

- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve Cherokee County Schools request for use Article of 40/42 Sales Tax funds for Hiwassee Dam chiller rental, with the caveat that if Cherokee County Schools receives insurance reimbursement, they will reimburse Fund 40/42. After discussion, Commissioner Stiles modified his Motion to state if insurance does not reimburse for the cost, then Cherokee County Schools will reimburse Fund 40/42 from its fund balance. Additionally, the Board of Commissioners request a monthly update from Cherokee County Schools, as to the status of the chiller rental and the new purchase. Motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Woody was in attendance and said the new chiller had been ordered and he hoped it would be delivered in the fall. He also said an insurance claim had been filed on the old chiller.

- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the FY 24 year-end budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

-Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the Capital Project Grant Ordinance for the new Senior/Veterans facility. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the Supplemental Budget Request Ordinance. This ordinance sets a formal policy for how budget

requests are to be submitted outside of the established/approved annual county budget. Motion passed unanimously on first reading.

- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant Resolution for year two of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement Grant. This is a \$26,000 grant, with no county match. Motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. Jill Irwin, of the Cherokee County Health Department, presented a Community Paramedic Grant Program. After presentation and discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve submission of the application. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve an Audit Contract and Engagement Letter for the fiscal year 25 audit from Turner and Company CPA. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Griggs, Phillips, Eichenbaum and Adams. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed 4-1.

New Business

- Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to accept a bid by Shore Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$218,270.00 for the Rock Gym ADA Restroom Project. Motion passed unanimously. The project will be funded in part by a \$170,000.00 State Directed Grant.

- After introduction by Hank Parker, Jr., a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to appoint Mr. Parker to the Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority for a three-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to re-appoint Ray Cook to the Tri-County Community College Board of Trustees for another four-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to reappoint Erik Brinke and Larry Kernea to the Cherokee County Economic Development Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to donate an old ATV from Emergency Management to Hiwassee Dam Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the tax releases, tax refunds and NCVTS report, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to decline the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for a proposed Hiwassee Dam Park Project, due to a required county match of \$560,000.00. The Board instructed the grant specialist to investigate

other grant opportunities for a reduced project scope; possibly a walking trail. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a resolution for Kroger Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement. Motion passed unanimously. The resolution is necessary for the county to receive Kroger settlement funds.

- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the following Bear Paw Service District Board of Directors, as submitted: Linda Hughes, David Black, Bruce Roydes, and Stan Wise. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comment Period

Commissioner Griggs

- Announced Amateur Radio Event
- Shout-out to VSO, Rick Millett
- Congratulations to Gary Kilpatrick on retirement after 25 years with the Cherokee County Board of Elections
- Announced she participated in 4-H horse clinic in Asheville

Commissioner Adams

Asked County manager to contact NCDOT about signage for hidden drive in the Texana community.

Commissioner Eichenbaum

Asked the county attorney to work with the county manager on a policy for use of the Rock Gym. He said he was told persons are using public property for-profit.

Adjournment

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