

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2024

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

Chairman Randy Phillips was absent due to illness.

Others present: Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to Board; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

County Manager Randy Wiggins was out of town.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Vice-Chairman

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement “Members of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners are reminded and advised of their duties under state law and the Cherokee County Code of Ethics Resolution, as such may pertain of their personal actions and actions of the board”.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearing for FY26 Public Transportation Unified Grant Application

- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to open the public hearing. Motion passed 4-0.
- There were no public comments.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to close the public hearing. Motion passed 4-0.

Approve Grant Program Resolution and Local Share Certification

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the FY26 Public Transportation Grant Resolution and Local Share Certification. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment Period

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools for use of Article 46 sales tax to increase the FY25

appropriation by \$187,670 to cover increases in salaries and benefits. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of Article 40/42 sales tax in the amount of \$437,521.74 for a paving project at Hiwassee Dam School. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools for use of Article 40/42 sales tax in the amount of \$140,000 to purchase four SRO vehicles. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to table a budget revision for the purchase of two high speed scanners for DSS. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision for use of contingency in the amount of \$8,000 to replace a pavilion roof at Konehete Park, contingent upon the Town of Murphy paying 50% of the cost (\$4,000). Motion passed 4-0.

New Business

Graham Raxter, NCDOT County Maintenance Engineer, came before the Board to request continued use of county property in the Peachtree community and at the Mountain Folk Center property for a debris site. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the use for a one-year term, revocable at will by the county. Motion passed 4-0.

Note: NCDOT has been using these sites for the past several years, and is asking for continued use. Storm debris gets chipped up and hauled off on a recurring basis.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to participate in the Stop-Gap Solutions Program for Community Access to Broadband (CAB) grant funding, but authorizing no county match; and to designate the County Manager and the Cherokee County Grant Specialist as the county's team members for any CAB project. Motion passed 4-0.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to adopt a Public Records Policy. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Stiles, Griggs and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Adams. Motion passed 3-1.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the new Emergency Operation Center (EOC) building plans, as presented, with the option of hiring out some aspects of the project. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Griggs, Adams and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed 3-1.

Note: The cost of the project will be covered by grant funds.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the tax releases, tax refunds and NC Vehicle Tax Report, as submitted. Motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Comment Period

Commissioner Griggs

- Reminder – joint worksession with Board of Education on September 16th
- Announced upcoming MANNA food distribution
- Reminder – animal control worksession on September 30th

Commissioner Stiles

- Announced this is his and Janet's 58th wedding anniversary

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to go into closed session pursuant to §143-318.11 (3), to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Motion passed 4-0.

While in closed session, the Board discussed a contract matter with the county attorney.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to return to open session. Motion passed 4-0.

Open Session

After returning to open session, no action was taken.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0.