

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 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.

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Comment Period

There was on public comment. A young man spoke in support of his grandmother, who was recently involved in a delinquent tax foreclosure.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the minutes of July 29th, August 18th, and September 15th. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the revised contract/budget between Cherokee County and Integrated Care of Greater Hickory to reflect the current IRS mileage rate. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to approve a Grant Project Ordinance for the Opioid Settlement Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision for Use of McKinsey Opioid Settlement Funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to award the bid for the Airport's Rotating Beacon and Obstruction Lights Replacement Project to the lowest bidder, R.G. Tenney Electric, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The low bid was \$439,100.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$12,668 for additional county match for the Airport's Rotating Beacon and Obstruction Lights Replacement Project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of contingency in the amount of \$36,258 for required additional funding to N.C. Forest Service, and to approve the revised contract reflecting the adjusted funding. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner C. Stiles to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$9,515 for the purchase of new Fixed Asset Software. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to approve a Food Service Agreement for the Head Start Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The agreement will save the county .15 per meal, for an annual cost-savings of \$14,000.

New Business

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a request by DSS Director, Amanda McGee, to reclassify five social work positions. Motion passed unanimously.

Shelly Foreman and Capt. David Williams came before the board to speak about a co-response pilot program the sheriff's office is participating in.

Darren Watkins, of Wolf Creek VFD, came before the board to ask the county to donate and deed the fire department and community center property to Wolf Creek VFD for future growth and improvements, as they work to lower their ISO rating. Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to donate and deed the hothouse property to Wolf Creek VFD. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Forrister, Chairman of the Culberson VFD, came before the board to ask the county to donate and deed the fire department and community center property to Culberson VFD for future growth and improvements. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to re-appoint Deborah Albert to the Nantahala Regional Library Board for another six-year term, and to appoint Anna James as a new appointment to the Nantahala Regional Library Board for a six-year term. Both terms will expire June 30, 2031. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and second by Commissioner Bryant to appoint Tammy Stewart to the Cherokee County Jury Commission to serve out the remaining two-year appointment, expiring June 30, 2027. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to appoint Dr. Verle Thompson to the Cherokee County Board of Health for a three-year term, to serve in the Licensed Dentist position. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Adams to appoint Tammy Godfrey as Deputy Tax Collector. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the Tax Releases Report, Tax Refund Report, and NCVTS Refund Report, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner m. Stiles to approve the 2025 Insolvent Tax Releases, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the Mountain Youth Livestock Market Licensing Agreement, as presented by the county attorney. Motion passed 4-1. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners C. Stiles, Bryant, M. Stiles and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Adams, who felt like the committee should have control over all scheduling of the property.

Motion made by Commissioner C. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to declare Lot 36, Angel Mountain Estates in Shoal Creek, as surplus property, and to place a minimum bid of \$12,000 on the property. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to approve a resolution to declare a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado K3500 ambulance as surplus property. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner M. Stiles to deed a 50' x 50' parcel, adjacent to the health department, to the Town of Murphy for the town's sewer lift station relocation project. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner M. Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to select Vincent Valuations to conduct the county's 2028 real property revaluation, and to include a full list and measure. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

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