

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 20, 2012

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman Meltz: "Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the State Government Ethics Act to 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".

A Regular Meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commissioners Boardroom, also known as Multi-Purpose Room 342, of the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, North Carolina on the 20th day of August, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Lorraine Meltz, Chair; David Wood, Vice-Chairman; and Steve Jordan, Commissioner. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Assistant Clerk to the Board; Candy Roberts, County Finance Officer; and, R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board.

Present from the media was Dwight Otwell of the Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Wood.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Finance Items/Budget Revisions:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$86,586.85 for lottery proceeds, to be used by the Cherokee County school board for debt service on the Ranger Elementary/Middle School QSCB Project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood approve the minutes of August 06, 2012. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Joan Stillwell, of Grant Administrators, Inc., came before the board to give a quarterly update on the Scattered Sites Housing Program for April to June 2012.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Nantahala Regional Library contract. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a resolution for the 2012 Cherokee County Big Sweep Cleanup. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint the following persons to the Western Carolina Regional Airport Authority: Chuck Grant, Sam Davis, Charles West, Ralph Crisp, and Richard Parker. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Doug Clement came before the board to request approval to apply for an Appalachian Regional Commission grant to assist in developing a Master Plan for the Mountain Folk Center. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve the request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

- Eddie Wood came before the board to request 50% funding for an Agricultural Economic Coordinator for the Southern Appalachian Family Farms (SAFF). Mr. Wood said SAFF will be approaching the Clay County Board of Commissioners to request funding for the remaining 50%. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the item until the County Manager could speak with the Clay County Manager. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to table agenda item (g) concerning the 4th of July in the Park requests. Hometown Events, Inc. and the Marine Corps League have submitted letters of interest to host the 2013 Fourth of July Celebration. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Josh Carpenter, Economic Development Director, came before the board to request approval of a budget revision in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the Virtual Building Grant Project. Mr. Carpenter said the project will be 100 % funded by Murphy Electric Power Board and TVA Special Opportunity County grant funding; and he said that this is the result of the grant application that the Board approved on August 15, 2011. The request failed for lack of a motion.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the tax releases as presented by Will Roberts, Tax Administrator. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Audrey Ware came before the board to dispute rollback bills that she had received for 73.92 acres of property that she inherited from her mother. The property was once in PUV, but then removed after it had been subdivided among siblings. Ms. Ware said that her husband was sick during the time for the appeal process, and she was unable to meet the required deadline. She said that the property is still being used for farming. She requested that the board override a decision of the tax department and allow her property to remain in PUV. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to override the decision of the tax department, forgive the rollback bills, and allow Ms. Wares property to remain in PUV. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Delenna Stiles, DMV Tax Clerk, came before the board, to present a tax refund request she had received from Mrs. Miranda Humphries. Mrs. Humphries wages were garnished in the amount of \$595.17 on October 28, 2011, for taxes owed on a 1996 mobile home. Mrs. Stiles said that Mrs. Humphries came into the tax office six months after the garnishment and said that she had not owned the mobile home in years, and that the mobile home had been repossessed. Mrs. Stiles said that she could find no evidence of repossession or foreclosure in Cherokee County court documents, and that Mrs. Humphries has failed to provide any documentation that would support her case. After discussion, it was agreed that Mrs. Humphries did in fact owe the taxes on the 1996 mobile home. A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to deny the refund request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Paul Earwood came before the board to request funding assistance for a new air conditioner unit for the Andrews Rescue Squad. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the item until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items:

During County Manager items, the County Manager, along with the Tax Administrator and Tim Cain of ASI, Inc., presented an analysis of the recent tax revaluation. Commissioner Jordan expressed his displeasure with the revaluation. There were several comments and questions from members of the public. The County Manager also discussed volunteer fire departments and the non-fire district area, also referred to "no man's land" below Hiwassee Dam in the Violet community. Mr. Wiggins said that Hiwassee Dam VFD and Unaka VFD have provided services to this area in the past, but can no longer continue to do so without subjecting themselves and the county to liability. Mr. Wiggins said that the board could create a fire tax district like it did with Unaka, Culberson and Grape Creek; or the property owners of the unprotected area could sign a petition requesting a fire tax district be created.

Public Forum:

During public forum, there were additional questions and comments about the tax revaluation, and comments made concerning the SAFF proposal, the revenue neutral rate, and funding for the Southwestern Commission for this fiscal year. Also during public forum, Eurial Turner of the

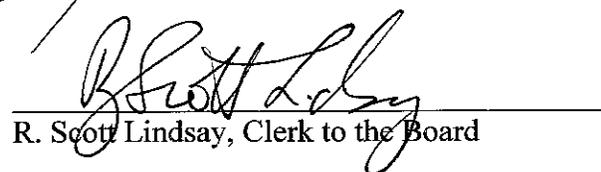
Texana Community requested that the board waive the landfill fees for the disposal of the tornado cleanup project. The board told Mr. Turner that they would have the county manager look into the matter.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 o'clock p.m.



Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board