

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 7, 2013

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairperson Stiles: "Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local 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".

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

Present from the media was Joe Martin of the Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by the Commissioner McKinnon. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Wood.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Budget Revisions/Finance Items:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for additional state funding for the Department of Social Services for the Crisis Intervention Program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve entering an agreement for the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for an HVAC unit for the Andrews Rescue Squad. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve submitting a letter of intent for a TVA Agricultural Grant. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to waive a \$10 Occupancy Tax Report penalty. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2012. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Meeting Minutes are available for public inspection on the county website at www.cherokeecounty-nc.gov, or in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

New Business:

- J. R. Dunkley, Culberson Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Chief and other Culberson VFD members appeared before the board as requested by Chairman Cal Stiles. During the budget meetings last year, Mr. Dunkley had asked the county board of commissioners to increase the fire tax for Culberson Fire District to allow them to build their new station at the Ranger School location. Chairman Stiles had asked Mr. Dunkley and his board to attend the meeting and give an update on their goals and plans for the department and to share how they are going to serve their citizens better, with the new tax increase that they have received. Mr. Dunkley submitted a handwritten expense report and said that there is no way to make that happen at the present time. He said all of their equipment is outdated and has been donated to them. He said that their pumpers are old and that they need new

trucks. He said that their current building is not insurable because it is so dilapidated. Board members and members of the public commented that this is an even greater reason to move forward with the new building at Ranger. Chairman Stiles had previously met with Mr. Dunkley and other members to present them with a proposed plan of action and proposed budget, which would allow them to move forward on a new station at the Ranger location. Mr. Dunkley said that the budget is still tight, even with donations and fundraisers. Several Culberson residents were in attendance in support of the fire department moving forward with building a new station. Many said they would be willing to help if asked, and that they were not aware of any fundraisers. There were some questions about a mutual aid agreement between Culberson VFD and Fannin and Union County, Georgia. Candy Roberts, county finance officer told Mr. Dunkley that she would like to set up a meeting with him to go over the departments finances and help them come up with a plan. The board asked Mr. Dunkley to call Ms. Roberts and set up a time before the next board meeting on January 22nd. Mr. Dunkley was also asked to provide a copy of the mutual aid agreements with Fannin and Union County.

- Sara Wilson, Health Educator for the Cherokee County Health Department, came before the board to present the recently completed Community Health Assessment. Ms. Wilson shared many important updates and statistics concerning the state of health for Cherokee County. Copies of the Community Health Assessment can be viewed or obtained at the office of the Clerk to the Board or at the Cherokee County Health Department. The board thanked Ms. Wilson for a job well done.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a resolution creating the Tipton Creek Fire Service District. The Tipton Creek district will be served by the Hanging Dog Volunteer Fire Department. A public hearing was held on December 19, 2012 and the majority of residents were in support of a service district. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously. The new fire service tax will take effect July 1, 2013.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve an amended fire protection agreement between the Hanging Dog Fire Department and Cherokee County. The amended agreement includes the Tipton Creek Fire Service District. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a five (5) year agreement between the NCDOT Division of Aviation and Cherokee County for airport safety and maintenance projects at Western Carolina Regional Airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table a hangar lease agreement between Dr. George Dixon and Cherokee County, due to a question about the length of the lease term and adding a penalty clause for vacating hangar before expiration of term. The matter will be considered again at the January 22nd meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to donate two pallets of rock from the Mountain Folk Center to the Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department for the Bear Paw substation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

County Managers Items:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the refinancing agreement between Peachtree Volunteer Fire Department and First Citizens Bank. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- The county manager informed the board that there have been some problems with coyotes at the landfill. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to allow David Woody with the N.C. Wildlife Department to hunt the coyotes on the county landfill property. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to re-convey the Martins

Creek School property back to the Cherokee County Board of Education for the solar array project. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Items:

- Chairman Stiles said that he had been told that there were rumors that the board of commissioners was going to eliminate some personnel from current convenience sites and replace them with cameras. The chairman and the county manager said there is no truth to the rumor. The county manager said that there has been some talk about the possibility of placing cameras at possible new locations in the future.
- Chairman Stiles said that he has been thinking about the possibility of a central gas station and service garage for county vehicles. He said that he has had someone approach him about this and also has been sent a brochure. Chairman Stiles said that he would like permission from the board for himself, the county manager and county finance officer to investigate the feasibility of a fuel station and fleet maintenance program. Commissioner Meltz said that she has been talking about this and wanting the county to look into even prior to her being elected. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner McKinnon said it is worth looking into. All members agreed.
- Chairman Stiles said that he would like to see the Valley River Humane Society and the Sheriff's office complete an animal control plan. The county manager said that the revised ordinance was finalized at our last animal control meeting and that as soon as the Sheriff's attorney has given his approval that we can pass the draft ordinance on to the Humane Society for review. Sheriff Lovin was in attendance and said that he would have the draft back to the county manager this week. Barbara Vicknair and Daunita Maenle of the Valley River Humane Society also spoke of animal control issues and the importance of getting the ordinance finalized. Ms. Vicknair and the sheriff agreed that there has been a good working relationship concerning animal control issues between the two partners.
- Chairman Stiles said that he would like the board to look into the probability of using a collection company to collect delinquent automobile taxes. Currently, there is over \$500,000 in delinquent vehicle taxes, spanning several years, that has been uncollectable by tax office personnel. He said that he would like to meet with a representative from the company to discuss how their program might benefit Cherokee County. Commissioner McKinnon said that he would also like to be a part of the meeting with the company and the county manager.

Public Forum:

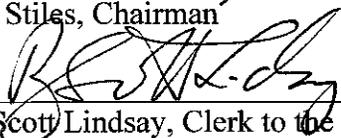
- During public forum, there were additional comments about animal control, the Culberson fire department issue, commissioner salaries, and a request to lower the millage rate, and oppose any future increase.

Legislative Goals: Immediately following public forum the Board discussed the NCACC Legislative Goals. The county manager asked the board to look over the goals and then submit their recommendations before the next board meeting, so that Commissioner McKinnon will know how the board would like him to vote at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference on January 24th and 25th in Raleigh.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Chairman Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 o'clock p.m.



Cal Stiles, Chairman



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board