

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 22, 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".

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 22nd day of January, 2013 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

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/Assistant Clerk to the Board; 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 Jordan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by R. Scott Lindsay.

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 request from the Cherokee County Board of Education for the use of sales tax funds for various school projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously. A budget revision will be presented at the next board meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2012 and January 17, 2013. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. 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.

Old Business:

- The county finance officer and Chairman Stiles gave an update on the Culberson Volunteer Fire Department proposal for a new fire station on the Ranger area property. Chairman Stiles said that the fire chief had met with him, the county manager, and the county finance officer and had agreed upon a plan to move forward with construction of the new building.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the fifteen (15) year airport hangar lease for George Dixon at the Western Carolina Regional Airport. The board said that they would like to look at shorter term leases for future hangar leases.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to authorize Commissioner McKinnon to vote in favor of all of the suggested NCACC Legislative Goals at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference on January 24th and 25th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McKinnon opposed the following goals, but said that he would vote the pleasure of the board: OPPOSE WEAKENING OF SMOKE-FREE RESTAURANT AND BARS LAWS; SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO GRANT COUNTIES THE OPTION TO

PROVIDE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OTHER LEGAL NOTICES THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS IN LIEU OF REQUIRED PUBLICATION IN ANY NEWSPAPER; and AUTHORIZE DESIGN BUILD OPTION FOR ALL COUNTIES.

New Business:

- Will Roberts, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to present the current tax releases and refunds. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to accept the release and refunds as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Smoky Mountain Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan resolution as presented by Emergency Management Director, Robin Caldwell. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- The board accepted the resignation of Ms. Debbie Weatherly for her appointment on the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition. The position has been advertised for a replacement.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Karen Wayman to the Nantahala Regional Library Board of Trustees, to replace Ms. Erla Jones, who resigned from the board unexpectedly. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to allow Interstate Credit Collections to assist the county in collecting delinquent vehicle and personal property taxes in the amount of \$545,000. Commissioner Stiles said that the company will assist in collection of delinquent taxes for 2008 and prior years. The company is paid on a percentage of money collected, so there is no additional cost to the county. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Stiles, Commissioner Meltz, Commissioner McKinnon, and Commissioner Wood. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Jordan.

County Managers Items:

- The county manager informed the Board that Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department has agreed to extend their response services to the area across Hiwassee Dam through the end of January. Mr. Wiggins shared a letter from Unaka Volunteer Fire Department stating that they were not interested in treating the area as a response district for the purpose of providing services. He said that he was looking at meeting with Unaka and then scheduling a community meeting to get public input.
- Mr. Wiggins said that the Sheriff had approved the draft animal control ordinance and that it has been passed on to the Health Department for review and consideration no later than January 28th, and that it would then be sent to the Valley River Humane Society Board for review. We will then submit to the board of commissioners for review and a public hearing on the matter would be scheduled at a later date.
- Mr. Wiggins said that the board needed to designate someone to as a Commission Voting Delegate for Region A. After much discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Chairman Cal Stiles for a year. The position would be appointed each year by a majority vote of the board of commissioners. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Items:

- Commissioner Wood made a Motion to move the March 4th commission meeting to March 5, so that he could attend a U.S.F.S. public hearing on March 4th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner McKinnon made a Motion for all regular meeting agendas to be finalized the Wednesday prior to the following Monday's meeting, in order for the board to have sufficient time to review agenda materials and be able to make educated and informed

decisions on agenda items. Commissioner McKinnon said that agendas may be revised if absolutely necessary by the county manager, and upon approval by or direction of the Chairman to the Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum: None

Closed Session:

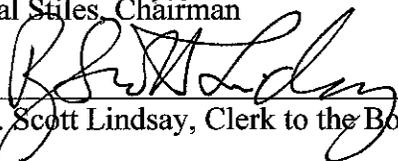
At 6:50 p.m., a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to go into closed session, pursuant to §143-318.11(6) to discuss a personnel matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously. During closed session the board discussed personnel issues within the Emergency Medical Services department. Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

After returning to open session, the board took no action on matters discussed in closed session.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 o'clock p.m.



Cal Stiles, Chairman



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board