

A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
March 04, 2013

*Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman 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 4th day of March, 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: 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. Randy Wiggins, County Manager was absent.

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

The invocation was given by the R. Scott Lindsay.

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 revision to the GIS/Mapping fee schedule to allow for a per-scan fee of \$5.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$9,990.00 to replace the roof on the old Health Department building, due to cracks in the roof. The job was awarded to the Cox & Son Roofing, Inc, who was the low bidder. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

**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 Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mike Stiles, member of the Mountain Folk Center Board, along with Rick LaRosa and Reid Dyer, architects from Morganton, Georgia, came before the board to present the Mountain Folk Center Master Plan. The master plan was created to decide the best use of the Mountain Folk Center property.
- Mike Stiles also requested that the Board allow the Mountain Folk Center committee to hire a grant writer for an upcoming Golden Leaf grant. Mr. Stiles said that the cost to hire a grant writer is \$2,150.00. The Mountain Folk Center committee recommended Callie Moore of the Hiwassee Watershed Coalition as the grant writer. Mr. Stiles stated the Mountain Folk Center funds were derived from rock sales and scrap metals sales and were not county taxpayer funds. However, the Mountain Folk Center is county property and therefore owned by the taxpayers of Cherokee County. Commissioner McKinnon asked who the check would be made payable to, an individual or Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition. Mr. Stiles told him that it would be made payable to the Hiwassee

River Watershed Coalition. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the \$2,150.00 request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

- W.C. King, Cherokee County Fire Marshal, came before the board to present a revision to the Hiwassee Dam Fire Insurance District to include the new Bear Paw Village Area. A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to add Bear Paw Village to Hiwassee Dam's Fire Insurance District. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Chairman Stiles asked board members to review the Rules of Procedures for the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners and be ready for discussion and adoption at the next meeting. All members were given a copy of the proposed rules of procedure.
- Commissioner Wood asked for his agenda item V (f) titled, "Resolution-Present Use Value Legislative Goal" to be tabled. He said that he would like to talk to the Farmland Preservation Board before moving forward.
- Commissioner Wood asked for his agenda item V (g) titled, "Resolution-Requests to the U.S. Forest Service" to be tabled until after he attends the U.S. Forest Service meeting tomorrow evening, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Wood said that he would have something to present at the next commission meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Assistant County Manager, Maria Hass, presented two (2) requests from Commissioner Meltz and Commissioner Wood to attend the upcoming "Strategic Planning for Elected Officials" and "Human Services Basics: What Every County Commissioner Should Know" workshops offered by the UNC School of Government. Mrs. Hass explained that if both commissioners attended the workshops that the Board would need to do a budget revision to add more funding to the Board's travel and training budget. Mrs. Hass suggested that the Board adopt some policies and procedures related to how travel and training is to be shared among Board members, so that everyone has an opportunity to receive important educational training. The Board asked Mrs. Hass to provide at the next meeting, a projected budget for funds needed for travel and training for the remainder of this fiscal year. Commissioner Wood withdrew his request for the two (2) workshops.

#### **Chairman's Items:**

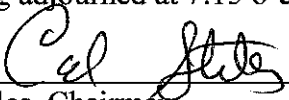
- Chairman Stiles reminded those in attendance of the public meeting to be held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at Violet Baptist Church Fellowship Hall to discuss the Violet area that lies outside of a fire tax service district.
- Chairman Stiles announced that the county finance officer had received bids for the new Culberson Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) building. He said that the county will be doing what it can to assist the Culberson VFD in securing financing for the new station.
- Chairman Stiles presented a resolution in opposition of Duke Energy's request to the North Carolina Utilities Commission for approval of a rate increase. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Jordan said that he wanted to look at purchasing a truck for the landfill. He said that the landfill was also in need of a compactor and that the Board would have to look at that in the near future. The finance officer said that \$25,000 each had been budgeted for a truck and a track hoe; however, the truck is the biggest concern at this time and she suggested that the Board allow the landfill to combine the \$50,000 to purchase a truck now, and then budget funds for the track hoe at a later date. A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to allow the monies to be combined to purchase a truck. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jordan said that he would start looking for a good deal on a truck. Chairman Stiles suggested that the county get quotes for a truck, and read the ethics statement, citing that it would appear to be a conflict of interest for Commissioner Jordan to seek out the purchase. Commissioner Jordan insisted that he knows what kind of equipment to look for and that he always takes care of the landfill's equipment needs. The finance officer told the Board that Commissioner Jordan has always helped find equipment, because he is knowledgeable about equipment. Chairman Stiles said that he

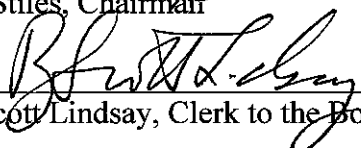
felt like the county needed to solicit quotes.

**Public Forum:**

- Cody Locke came before the Board to request that the county refund \$250 of his debt set-off that was taken from his tax refund for a delinquent ambulance bill. Mr. Locke said that he was in dire need of the money, because he was going to be evicted. The Board told Mr. Locke that they felt for his circumstances, but could not refund monies owed to Cherokee County. Mr. Lindsay told Mr. Locke to see him after the meeting and he would see if the Baptist Men's Association could help meet his needs.
- There was a question and discussion about the warranty of the roof on the health department building.

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 7:15 o'clock p.m.

  
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Cal Stiles, Chairman

  
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R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board