

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 28, 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 Special Called 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 28th day of June, 2013 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. The purpose of the special called meeting was to present the fiscal year budget ordinance; discuss the creation of a fire service tax district for the violet area; and, approve year-end budget items.

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 McKinnon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Barbara Vicknair and Corey Bailey of the Valley River Humane Society (VRHS) requested to come before the board to rebut accusations made by Pamela Runge and Jerri Ruth Roberts at the last commissioners meeting about the current state of needs at VRHS. Ms. Vicknair said that VRHS is not in arrears with anything. Both Ms. Vicknair and Mr. Bailey stated that the shelter did have rabies vaccines, dog food, catch poles and cages. Ms. Vicknair said that the shelter is always in need of extra cages and extra things, but the animals are being fed, vaccinated and taken care of. Ms. Vicknair, earlier in the week, had provided twelve months of bank statements to the county finance office as requested by the county manager. She said that the shelter can always use extra money. Ms. Vicknair also praised Dr. Carlton VanHorn, local veterinarian, for providing his services at no cost to VRHS. Ms. Vicknair and Mr. Bailey asked the board to designate any remaining animal control funds from the current fiscal year to a new truck for the shelter. She said the Toyota Tundra has 245,000 miles and is beginning to break down. Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Vicknair about spay and neuter programs, and talked about the success of prior spay and neuter programs. Ms. Vicknair said that was at a time that they had a vet on staff. She said that they now have a vet that is going to volunteer his time every Tuesday afternoon. The board thanked Ms. Vicknair and Mr. Bailey. Chairman Stiles asked if anyone would like to entertain a Motion to approve the funding request for a new truck. Commissioner Wood made a Motion to table, until the board had time to look into the matter. Chairman Stiles commented that the monies were in the current year's budget and said the board would need to make a move on it at this meeting. The finance director advised the board that they had two options: 1) Approve today and designate the money for the purpose of a new truck; or, 2) Approve it in the FY 13-14 budget, which would require a budget amendment and show as use of contingency or fund balance. Commissioner Wood commented that it is all the same dollars, whether approving in this year's budget or next year. Commissioner McKinnon said that he would rather it show as a use of fund balance in the next FY 13-14 budget, instead of making a quick decision. Commissioner McKinnon said he has no objection to helping VRHS with the purchase of a truck, and suggested that the county may have a vehicle coming out of its fleet service that could be donated. Commissioner McKinnon also said that until other contract issues get worked out with VRHS that he would not feel comfortable spending the money at this time.

Commissioner McKinnon seconded Commissioner Wood's motion to table the request for funding a new truck. Also voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Chairman Stiles and Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to create the Violet Fire Service Tax District, and to approve a contract with Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department (HDVFD) to provide services to the Violet service area for a tax rate of 5.1 cents. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Chairman Stiles commented that there is no insurance benefit at this time with the Hiwassee Dam option. He commented that someone had agreed to donate land in the Violet area for a substation for Unaka Volunteer Fire Department (UVFD) to service the area. He said at this time neither HDVFD, nor UVFD offers an insurance benefit; however, if a substation was built in Violet that the residents would then get an insurance rating of Class 9. He said this would allow residents a break on insurance costs. Chairman Stiles also commented that a substation in Violet would provide a location that is central to all those not currently in a service area. Also voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon and Commissioner Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Chairman Stiles. Jerry Malinowski, violet resident, also spoke in favor of the HDVFD option.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a resolution creating Violet Fire Service Tax District. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

After presentation of the fiscal year 2013-14 budget ordinance by the county manager, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to adopt the 2013-14 budget. Motion seconded by Chairman Stiles. Also voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Meltz and Commissioner Wood. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Jordan.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the year-end budget amendment. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

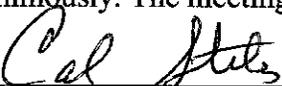
Board members shared comments concerning their personal feelings and convictions in different areas of the budget.

Commissioner McKinnon made a Motion to publish the county's budget, by departmental totals, in the local newspaper. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

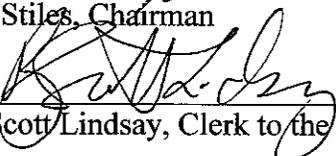
After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to purchase a 1.6 acre piece of property from Mike Stone in the amount of \$55,000, for the purpose of constructing a staffed convenience site to replace the open dump at Persimmon Creek. The property is located at the corner of Highway 294 and Candy Mountain Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Meltz, Wood and Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon.

Commissioner Wood asked the other board members if they would like him to pursue some restoration projects for water quality in the county. Commissioner McKinnon said that if the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition or any other organization that would like to do projects in Cherokee County, that he would be glad to look at them on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Stiles added "Based upon our cost and participation in the particular project". Commissioner Wood was in agreement.

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 2:15 o'clock p.m.



Cal Stiles, Chairman



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board