

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 5, 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 5th day of August, 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; 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 Commissioner McKinnon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Budget Revisions/Finance Items:

- The finance director gave an overview of her findings after a review of the financial records submitted by the Valley River Humane Society. Ms. Roberts said that she highly recommends that the Valley River Humane Society get an audit.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for the Jail Medical Malpractice Insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve carrying forward funds from the Nourishing North Carolina Grant. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a five-year rental agreement with Interstate Welding for EMS medical oxygen tanks. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Bart O’Sullivan came before the board to give an update on the proposed air show. The county attorney told Mr. O’Sullivan that he still has not received a contract and that the county also needs proof of liability insurance. Mr. O’Sullivan is to provide both of these items for consideration by the board.
- The Valley River Humane Society requested to be removed from the agenda.
- Commissioner McKinnon gave an update of his meeting with the Andrews Rescue Squad and Valletown Fire Department. He said that Valletown Fire Department had rescinded their request for Fire and Rescue status.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the minutes of June 24, June 27, and June 28, as he had not yet reviewed them. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the minutes of July 1 and July 15. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the Cherokee County Transit Locally Coordinated Plan, as presented by Transit Director Mike Catuto. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to submit a letter of support from Cherokee County requesting the establishment of an American Viticultural Area to be designated as Upper Hiwassee Highlands. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Marian Hill came before the board to discuss the Community Development Block Grant Scattered Sites Housing Program and share the history of the program, as it has related to Cherokee County. Mrs. Hill said that since we had two new board members that she wanted to brief them on the program.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the clearing of trees from the county property at the east end of airport; also known as, the Clontz property. The trees are encroaching on the adjacent property and killing their vegetation. The cost of will be covered at 90% by grant funds; and 10% county match. The trees are part of an already existing “obstruction removal” project for the airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Wood, Meltz, Stiles and McKinnon. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Jordan.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve replacement of the airport beacon tower on Sherwood Heights, as presented by Mrs. Hass and county Fire Marshal, W.C. King. The tower is over forty years old and has been twisted and damaged. This tower also houses the East Tac Emergency Repeater. The beacon and the emergency equipment are being compromised by the damaged tower. The cost of replacement will be

covered at 90% by grant funds; and 10% county match. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Wood, Meltz, Stiles and Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon.

County Managers Items:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to stop charging a rental fee for the county park pavilions, as this creates a liability for the county. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mrs. Hass gave an update on the airport. Progress is being made. Dion Viventi of the N.C. Division of Aviation was in attendance to answer any questions about the county report.

Public Forum:

- Several members of the public spoke in opposition of the Candy Mountain/Hwy 294 convenience site. Some of those persons were: Becky Hiester of 50 Mint Lane, Kathy Vetten of Exit Realty, and a gentlemen living at 15 Lemon Drop Lane. Commissioner Jordan suggested to the group to buy the Stone property from the county and make a park out of it. After further discussion and heated debate, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to allow persons from the subdivision thirty days to find another suitable piece of property. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Jordan, McKinnon and Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Wood and Meltz.
- Chuck Grant, former airport advisory member expressed his dislike for the dissolution of the airport advisory board.
- Jason Derreberry, Chief of the Andrews Rescue Squad, came before the board to request funding to help the Squad purchase a Chevy Tahoe in the amount of \$31,396.00 to be used as a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV). After discussion, Mr. Derreberry was advised to look for an emergency vehicle under \$20,000.00, and to come before the board once he has found one.

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. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 o'clock p.m.

Cal Stiles, Chairman

R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board