

A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
November 18, 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 18th day of November, 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 Anderson, County Finance Director.

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

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

**Budget Revisions/Finance Items:**

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint the County Manager Randy Wiggins as Deputy Finance Officer, as recommended by the finance director. Mr. Wiggins will serve as deputy finance officer during Mrs. Anderson's maternity leave of absence. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for debt service payment for Andrews High School. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the amended meeting minutes of November 4, 2013 as recommended by Commissioner McKinnon. The amendment was to replace Greentree Asset Group with Evergreen Group. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

- Doug Clement of Cherokee County Cooperative Extension came before the board to share the N.C. Cooperative Extension Vision and Planning Initiative; and talked about changes happening within the NC State University System's Programs, due to recent state budget cuts and the federal budget sequestration. He announced and provided a list of several upcoming listening sessions and encouraged board members and members of the public to attend and share their input.
- Mr. Clement also gave a status update and shared the progress that has been made at Mountain Folk Center. He also shared the Mountain Folk Center Committee's Plans for the future of the property and asked the board to let them know how they would like them to move forward.
- There was discussion about moving the Mountain Folk Center convenience site to the rear of the Mountain Folk Center property. Commissioner Wood also said that he would like

to waive the scrap metal fee at the landfill, since the county sells the metal and collects revenue from the sale. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to waive the scrap metal fee at the landfill. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously. This action becomes effective immediately.

- The Mountain Folk Center Arena item was tabled.
- Commissioner Wood discussed the Sheriff's Training Center property on the river at the old landfill site, and the Ricket Branch property at the airport. Commissioner Wood made a Motion that the county work with the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC) to plant buffers at these two properties, and that the county sign a contract with, and pay HRWC annual dues of \$5,000.00. After further discussion, Commissioner Wood rescinded his Motion until the other board members could look at the properties. Commissioner Wood made a Motion that the county pay annual dues of \$5,000.00 to HRWC. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion failed. Chairman Stiles said that some monies had already been paid to HRWC and suggested tabling the item until the board could determine the exact amount that had been paid. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to table the item. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Jordan, McKinnon, Stiles and Meltz. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. The item is to be placed on the next meeting agenda for consideration.
- Margaret Deluna, Chair of the Tourism Development Authority (TDA), came before the board to present an update on the TDA. Mrs. Deluna shared what the TDA has accomplished this year and presented a packet that included the TDA Strategic Plan, Budget, and current financials. Mrs. Deluna also shared information about upcoming events and shared the progress and opportunities of the TDA's new website, which is [www.visitchokecountync.com](http://www.visitchokecountync.com).
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to appoint Jane Stiles and Judith Davis to the Cherokee County Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee, as recommended by Region A Ombudsman Larry Reeves. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **County Manager Items:**

- The County Manager asked the board how they wanted to proceed, following the worksession with the school board and the request to fund the Andrews High School (AHS) stadium. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to move forward with the funding, saying that \$123,000.00 has already been approved in this fiscal year budget, and the board could commit to designating the remaining \$190,000.00 in the next fiscal year, to be paid sometime after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. After much discussion, Commissioner Jordan seconded the Motion. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Jordan, McKinnon and Wood. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed 4-1. Dr. Dave Ackerman and Winfield Clonts, school board members spoke in support of the stadium project and talked about the safety and ADA issues. Dane Rickett, athletic director also spoke in support of the project and shared what it means to the students at AHS. Several AHS students were in attendance to support the project. Members of the AHS football team that were in attendance were asked to stand and were recognized for their outstanding winning season.

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


- Commissioner Stiles said that the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center note payoff was completed on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Commissioner Stiles asked board members to reconsider the Valley River Humane Society (VRHS) Funding issue. After much discussion and debate. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to fund VRHS in the amount of \$10,000.00 and to take that money from contingency. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner McKinnon said that they were not ready to vote on the item at this time. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Meltz and Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Wood and McKinnon. Motion passed 3-2.

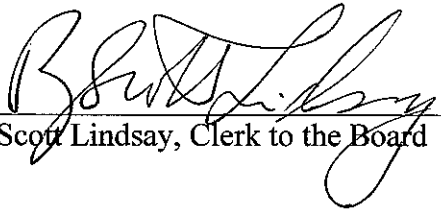
#### **Public Forum:**

- Two members of the public thanked board members for their knowledge of the issues they spoke on and also about their spirited debate.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to move the meeting time back to 5:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, McKinnon and Jordan. Motion failed 2-3.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 o'clock p.m.

  
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Cal Stiles, Chairman

  
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R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board