

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 2, 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 2nd day of December, 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 Anderson, County Finance Director.

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

The invocation was given by the Reverend Al Beck.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Organizational Meeting:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Commissioner McKinnon as Chairman. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Meltz and Wood. Motion failed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to appoint Commissioner Wood as Chairman. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Commissioner Meltz as Vice-Chair for another year. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Wood, Meltz and Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Jordan and McKinnon.

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 budget revision for use of sheriff's designated funds for radios and radio hardware. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2013. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Brandon Wilson and Steve Robertson District Veteran's Service Officers of the Veteran's Administration presented Cherokee County Veteran's Service Officer, Jan Griggs with the Veteran's Service Officer of the Year award. Board members and members of the public spoke in appreciation of Mrs. Griggs. Mrs. Griggs thanked the board for the

opportunity to serve the county, and said that she loved her job and that it is very rewarding.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the tax releases and refunds, as presented by Will Roberts. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to give the county manager permission to send a letter assuming legal and financial responsibility to Palmetto GBA Medicare on behalf the Cherokee County Health Department, as is required for Medicare accreditation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jan Griggs came before the board to request that the Mountain Folk Center Horse Arena be named in memory of Nora Starks. Miss Starks was tragically killed in a car accident in 2008. Miss Starks was a founding member of the Cherokee County 4-H horse club, the Cherokee Riders, along with Mrs. Griggs daughter. The county manager read a resolution honoring Miss Stark's accomplishments, community service and passion for helping others. Bob Massey also spoke on behalf of the request. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to name the Mountain Folk Center Horse Arena after Miss Nora Starks. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. Family and friends in attendance for the presentation were: Nora's mother, Janet Drew and her husband Doug; Bob and Marilyn Massey; and, Angie Hopkins, current 4-H Horse Club leader.
- Kathleen Nolte, Mike Lalone, and David Vanderlaan came before the board to give an overview of art events in Cherokee County and in the school system. Information was shared about the Cherokee County Arts Council, Empty Bowls, Art Walk and many other activities and happenings.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to revise the Rules of Procedure for Board of Commissioners to allow for Modification of Agenda and Agenda Adoption. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to revise Rule # 10 of the Rules of Procedure to allow for a majority of the board to extend a speaker's time limit beyond three (3) minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to move the Public Address/Forum prior to New Business on the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the revisions to the Cherokee County Personnel Policy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After much discussion and debate concerning funding for the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC), a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to give HRWC \$5,000.00 for annual dues. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, McKinnon and Jordan. Motion failed.
- Commissioner Wood discussed the Landfill and Shooting Range Project Proposal, as submitted by HRWC to re-establish native trees and shrubs in the 25 foot trout buffer. Sheriff Lovin was in attendance and also shared concerns and asked Mrs. Moore to come out and flag the proposed project area. Commissioner Stiles said that he would like to get something in writing from HRWC that there would be no restrictions on future use of the property, before voting on the matter. Callie Moore, Executive Director of HRWC was in attendance and said that there would be no restrictions. Commissioner Wood made a Motion to get a letter from HRWC that there would be no restrictions, and to take the sheriff's concerns into consideration and then move forward with the project. There was

no second to the Motion. Motion failed. Commissioner McKinnon said that he had met with Sheriff Lovin and looked at the area in question and that the area is used for several different events, including fishing events for children, and that he wouldn't want to jeopardize the easy access that the kids have for those events. The sheriff spoke and said that he uses the property for several different events, but that he encouraged strategic planning for the use of the property. The county attorney was advised to see if there are any current restrictions on the property. No action was taken.

County Managers Items:

- The county manager said that Duke Energy has provided a grant for a mitigation project at the drop-in area at the Ranger ball field.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to reschedule the regular meeting of December 16th and the Public Hearing for repealing the concealed weapons ordinance, until December 19th at 6 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. This change was made to accommodate Commissioner McKinnon's need to be out of town for his son's college graduation.

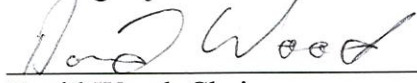
Chairman's Items:

Commissioner Meltz said that she will be unable to attend the first meeting in January. Commissioner Jordan said that he would be out of town in February.

Public Forum:

- Ron Smith asked for an update on the issue of smoking on the courthouse steps. The board told him that the health department is identifying suitable smoking and tobacco-use areas and will be bringing that information back to the board for consideration. Mr. Smith also complained about all of the billboards along the roadsides. Commissioner Meltz told him that there is unfortunately no zoning that prohibits it. Commissioner Jordan, as a business owner, spoke in support of the billboard, as well as his wife who was also in attendance. The county attorney was advised to look into the matter and see if counties have any authority to restrict billboards in certain areas. Mr. Smith also commented that there was a lot of garbage and refuse dumped around the town and county and said that he was ashamed to live here. Commissioner McKinnon shared his concerns about private property restrictions, and said that he was proud to live in Cherokee County.

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 7:30 o'clock p.m.



David Wood, Chairman



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board