

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET WORKSESSION  
June 09, 2014

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners held a budget work session in the Commissioner's Boardroom 342, of the Cherokee County Courthouse, on the 9th day of June, 2014 at 5:00 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Lorraine Meltz, Vice-Chair; Cal Stiles, member; C.B. McKinnon, member; and Steve Jordan, member. Commissioner David Wood was absent. Also present was: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Assistant Clerk; and Candy Roberts Anderson, County Finance Director.

The Cherokee County Board of commissioners met with the school board for a second budget worksession to discuss the budget needs, and also the future plans for the loss of small schools funding.

Dr. Stephen Lane, Superintendent and Stephanie Anderson, Finance Officer was present; along with the following school board members: Paul Brown, Erik Brinke, Dr. Dave Ackerman, Debbie Hogan, Winfield Clonts, and Randy Barnett. Also present from central office were Kim Gibson, Jennifer Cable, and Gary Wright.

Also present was Dwight Otwell of the Cherokee Scout.

Commissioner McKinnon said that he would like to see a long range plan for the shortfall in small schools funding. He said the county cannot continue to make up the shortfall, without having to raise taxes, and he is not supportive of a property tax increase.

Mr. Brinke talked about the cost-cutting measures that the school board has taken to reduce the amount of local funding request, and said that over time they may be able to cut more. He said that their unrestricted fund balance is at \$106,000. He said that Representative West has been staying in close contact with them to keep them apprised of the small schools funding issues at the state level. He also said that over the last few years they have cut the locally funded teachers from 16 to 8.

Commissioner Jordan asked what will happen if the county cannot make up the shortfall. Dr. Lane said that he would have to cut positions and programs. He said that since 2008 he has cut 35%. He said that there are now only 11 personnel in the central office. He also talked about the savings in energy costs and said that all Cherokee County schools are Energy Star schools.

Commissioner McKinnon asked how Cherokee County compared to other schools across the state based on population. Mr. Brinke said that he would do some research and get that information back to the commissioners.

After further discussion, the board thanked Dr. Lane and school board members for coming.

In other business, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for preliminary engineering services for the airport fencing project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Hass explained that even though the board chose not to complete the fencing project, that there were preliminary planning services that had been provided.

Mrs. Roberts talked about a cooperative purchasing program that the county could use to get our ambulances at a lower cost. She said that this would still meet the bidding requirement law. She explained that by joining the cooperative group, as a unit of local government, we would receive a better purchase price. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve joining the cooperative purchasing group. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Commissioner McKinnon said that he would like to have more information. Motion failed.

The board will hold a special called meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to adopt a final budget and approve the year-end budget amendment.

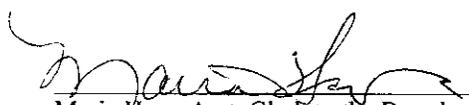
The Board decided to wait until next year's budget to look at an E-mail archive system for the Information Technology department.

The board discussed online viewing of commission meetings. Mr. Wiggins told them that the county does not have enough bandwidth to provide it on our website, but that he had talked to Ralph Robinson of Local TV4, and Mr. Robinson could archive the commission meetings and post three months of meetings on the Local TV4 website for an annual fee of \$500-550. A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve an annual expense for the streaming of commissioner meetings on the Local TV4 website. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

The board also discussed the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July events at the park. The board agreed that beginning next year, all vendors should be required to provide proof of insurance to participate in the event.

The worksession adjourned at 7:15 o'clock p.m.

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Lorraine Meltz, Vice-Chair

  
Maria Hass, Asst. Clerk to the Board