

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 15, 2015

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 15th day of June, 2015 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: C.B. McKinnon, Chairman; Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman; Dan Eichenbaum, member; Gary Westmoreland, member; and Roy Dickey, member. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Roberts Anderson, County Finance Director; and, R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Assistant Clerk to the Board. Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board was out of town.

Media present were the Cherokee Scout and Local TV4. DVD copies of commission meetings may be purchased at Local TV4.

Chairman McKinnon read the boards adopted ethics statement.

The invocation was given by Sheriff Derrick Palmer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Modification of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to add NCDOT Road Commissioner, Jack Debnam, as the first item of new business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to add to the agenda, discussion of the Hiwassee Dam School Based Health Clinic, as item "f" under new business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to add Bear Paw Service District FY15-16 budget as item "h" under new business. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to add an executive session at the end of the agenda to consult with the county attorney, concerning a legal matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Commissioner Stiles made a Motion to add the Valley River Humane Society to the agenda, since several people had signed up for public forum, to discuss the shelter. Motion failed.

Agenda Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.

Public Forum:

Jonathan Hart, president of Valley River Humane Society, along with shelter manager, Mark Brouseau, and several humane society members, came before the board to ask that the County continue funding the shelter at the current contract rate, and requesting no modifications or changes to the current contract. Member Jerri Ruth Roberts praised the VRHS staff, board of directors, volunteers and shelter members. Chairman McKinnon said that the board of commissioners may call for a future worksession with VRHS.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.

Budget and Finance Item:

- The finance director presented the Smoky Mountain Center Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report to the board.
- After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of school sales tax in the amount of \$19,423.00 for multiple boiler and chiller repairs. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Jack Debnam, NCDOT Division 14 Road Commissioner, came before the board to introduce himself, and to give an update on current projects in Cherokee County. Mr. Debnam also asked the board to support the governor's road bond.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the tax releases and refunds, as presented by Delenna Stiles. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a resolution requesting the N.C. General Assembly change the requisite funding formula to increase the number of allotted classroom teacher's positions by applying the formula to individual schools and grades, rather than districtwide; and, fund these positions by the current budgeted amount. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a resolution, as requested by the Town of Andrews, requesting the NCDOT rename Country Hearth Lane to Upper Valley River Lane. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- Dr. Mark Gilbert of the Cherokee County Board of Health came before the board to request funding of the Hiwassee Dam School Based Health Clinic. The board will discuss this item at their worksession on Thursday, June 18th.
- Towanna Roberts, Health Director, came before the board to request a letter of intent that states that Cherokee County health department will continue providing Environmental Health (Food and Lodging) inspections, Communicable Disease Education/Treatment and Emergency Preparedness Planning for all citizens who reside on tribal property in Cherokee County. The current Memorandum of Agreement between EBCI, Division of Public Health, Cherokee County, Swain County, Graham County, Haywood County, and Jackson County will expire in September 2015. The State of N.C. would like a letter of intent from Cherokee County to continue providing these services. No action was taken on this request.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint the following persons to the Bear Paw Service District Board of Directors for FY15-16: Mark Ackerman, Patrick Palmer, Andrea Folkertsma, Greg Brock, Andrew Ernst, David Dempsey, and Mark Songer; and, to approve the FY15-16 Bear Paw Service District budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to appoint Tom Flinn and Terry Jones to the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to appoint the following persons to the Economic Development Commission for a four-year term: Bill Forsyth, Paul Worley, and Tom O'Brien. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Chairman/Commissioner Items:

Chairman McKinnon said that the board had received the draft Spotlight ordinance from the county attorney and would now forward to Wildlife Resource Commission for review. Once finalized, the board will schedule a public hearing for public input.

Commissioner Stiles asked the board to allow Valley River Humane Society to attend the Wednesday worksession to continue budget discussions. The board agreed that they would ask

VRHS and Cherokee County Schools to attend Wednesday's worksession for last minute budget discussions.

The county manager said that the board has been in discussions with the forest service at the state and federal level concerning the county's request that the forest service reopen the Hanging Dog Campground. He said he spoke to Congressman Meadows, and Congressman Meadows was meeting with the 2nd in command of the USFS on our behalf.

Executive Session:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to go into executive session, pursuant to §143-318.11 to consult with the county attorney on a legal matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.

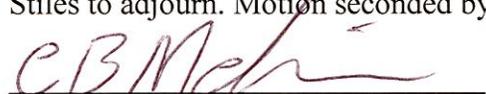
During executive session, the county attorney updated the board on the Keith Lovin case. The board also discussed a contractual matter.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

After returning to open session, no action was taken on items discussed in closed session.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.



C.B. McKinnon, Chairman



Maria Hass, Clerk to the Board