

A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 13, 2016

A Special Called 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 13th day of June, 2016 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

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

The purpose of the meeting was to consider two resolutions, concerning the railroad from Andrews to Murphy. Commissioner Eichenbaum authored and presented two resolutions for consideration by the board of commissioners. The first resolution was in opposition of removal of the railroad tracks, or any portion of the railroad tracks. The second resolution was a request to the NCDOT to reduce the current width of the railroad right of way.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

After discussion and debate, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a resolution opposing any removal, by NCDOT, of the railroad tracks between Andrews and Murphy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Commissioner Stiles made a new Motion to amend the resolution to include supporting the development of a walking trail adjacent to the tracks. Commissioner Westmoreland said that he could support Commissioner Stiles Motion if it meant keeping the tracks. After further discussion by the board, Commissioner Westmoreland withdrew his second to Commissioner Stiles Motion. Commissioner Stiles Motion failed due to lack of second. Voting in favor of Commissioner Eichenbaum's original Motion, was Commissioners Eichenbaum, Dickey and Westmoreland. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles and McKinnon. Motion passed 3-2.

After discussion and debate, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a resolution requesting the NCDOT continue to maintain jurisdiction over the existing railroad right of way, but to reduce its width to 30 feet (15 on each side) over the entire distance of the track between Andrews and Murphy. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed.

The board of commissioners was also presented with supporting resolutions from the Town of Murphy, the Town of Andrews, the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission, and the Mountain Lakes Board of Realtors. Several people were in attendance and there was supporting and opposing comments.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED JULY 5, 2016