

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 4, 2016

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 4th day of February, 2016 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

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

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

The Chairman read the boards adopted ethics statement.

The invocation was given by Sheriff Derrick Palmer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to add the following two items to the agenda: 1) Add a budget revision for Schools Use of Sales Tax, under finance items; and, 2) Add discussion to have worksessions recorded, under New Business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.

Agenda Adoption:

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

Public Forum:

During public forum, Robert Olsen, representing the Cherokee County 9/12 organization, read a statement concerning the organization's opposition to the Cherokee County Tomorrow Plan, and opposition to the Southwestern Commission, saying that 99% of the organization feels the same way that he does. Mr. Olsen said, "We don't need a lot of big business, or big new growth". He

also said that his organization approved of the counties action in contracting with the community college for economic development. Mr. Olsen also praised the county for supporting our local law enforcement.

There were no other comments during public forum.

Finance and Budget:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of school designated sales tax. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Budget revisions are available for public inspection, in the office of the Finance Director.

New Business:

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve an easement from Cherokee County to Charles Forrister for an area at the Mountain Folk Center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to revise the Cherokee County Economic Development Grant Policy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. A copy of this policy is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.
- The Board reviewed the NCDOT Bridge Report, which included seven (7) bridges in Cherokee County that are on the five-year project list. The report was informational only.
- Four bids were received for a roof repair project at Ranger Community Center. They were as follows: Cox & Son Roofing, Inc., bid \$23,920 for membrane roof; Wells & West, Inc., bid \$21,000 for metal roof and \$24,750 for membrane; McKeon Metal Builders, bid \$25,500 for metal roof; and Vinson Sims, bid \$27,311 for metal roof. Commissioner and Maintenance Director, Roy Dickey, said that after meeting with the building code director that the roof needed to be replaced with another metal roof. A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to accept the low bid of \$21,000 from Wells and West, Inc. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Stiles made a Motion to revise the county purchasing policy to require advertising of projects estimated in excess of \$10,000; and to develop a non-exclusive bid list for notifying local and frequent bidders. After discussion, Commissioner Stiles withdrew his Motion. The county manager will present a revision to the county's current purchasing policy at a future board meeting, with these changes.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the tax refund report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the request for tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- The Board did not take action on the NCACC Resolution for Supporting the Healthy Together NC Campaign.
- The Board did not take action on the NCACC Resolution for Supporting the NC Bond Act.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a Cost Share Agreement between Cherokee County and USDA Forest Service for maintenance of Hanging Dog

Campground. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the following leases for Western Carolina Regional Airport:
 - 1) Andrew Ernst, Jr.-Lease of Office Space for a term of 1 year at \$150.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 2) Don Jones-Lease of Office Space for a term of 1 year, at \$150.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 3) Gene Ford-Lease of Hangar Number 2-East for a term of 1 year, at \$250.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 4) Sam Snowden-Lease of Hangar Number 5-East for a term of 1 year, at \$225.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 5) Tom Sarvis-Lease of Hangar Number 6-East for a term of 1 year, at \$225.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 6) Larry Klein-Lease of Hangar Number 4-East for a term of 1 year, at \$225.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 7) Smokey Mountain Flyers-Lease of one-half of Hangar Number 3-West for a term of 1 year, at \$175.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 8) Wood Farm, LLC-Lease of one-half of Hangar Number 3-West for a term of 1 year, at \$175.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 9) William Rohde-Lease of Hangar Number 3-East for a term of 1 year, at \$225.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016.
 - 10) Wright's Aviation-Lease of large Maintenance Hangar for a term of 5 years, at \$800.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016; OR, lease of Hangar 1-West for a term of 5 years, at \$400.00 a month, commencing on July 1, 2016. The county attorney will send a letter to Wright's Aviation, notifying them of the two options.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.

- Commissioner Stiles made a Motion to have Board of Commissioners worksessions videoed and recorded by Local TV 4, if the cost is the same as for regular meetings; \$75. He said that he knows many people who watch the regular meetings on Local TV 4, because they cannot get out to attend the meetings. He also said that it allows the clerk the opportunity to review the video, while drafting the minutes; as well as, provides an accurate and full account of discussions, in the event of a discrepancy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

County Manager Items:

- The County manager shared the 2014 statistics for our Veterans Service Office. According to the 2014 report, there were 2700 veterans; a decrease of 91 from 2013. The county manager said that our Veteran Service Officers, Jan Griggs and Sarah Jenkins, helped Cherokee County veterans to receive \$23,400,000.00 in benefits. This is an increase of \$3,552,000.00 from 2013. \$12,929,000.00 was for Compensation and Pension. An increase of \$1,879,000.00 from 2013. The county manager and board members praised Mrs. Griggs and Ms. Jenkins for their service to our Cherokee County veterans.

- The county manager asked the board to schedule a Rescue/VFD worksession for February 15th, following the regularly scheduled meeting. A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to set a worksession for February 15th, following the regular meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- The county manager informed the board that Al Lovingood has been hired as the new EMS Director, and will begin on February 12th. The county manager and the board thanked Derrick Moody, former EMS Director for what he has done to improve the EMS service and wished him well in his new endeavors.

Chairman/Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Stiles rebutted Mr. Olsen's earlier statement during public forum that Southwestern Commission was trying to bring Atlanta in on us, during the development of the Cherokee County Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Stiles said that Southwestern Commission did not do the Cherokee County Comprehensive Plan, and that it was done by a local committee.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A COMMISSION MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2016.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSESSION

February 4, 2016

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners held a worksession with the Town of Andrews on February 4, 2016, immediately following their regularly scheduled meeting. The worksession was scheduled at the request of the Town of Andrews, following their pool funding request at the January 4, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting.

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

Present from the Town of Andrews was Ed Burchins, Town Administrator; Mayor Nancy Curtis; town aldermen, Jerry Pullium and Ray Frazier; and Pete Noland, pool architect.

Mayor Nancy Curtis said the town is trying to refurbish the pool, which was built in 1974; and has proposed a pool renovation project estimated at \$500,000.00. Town administrator, Ed Burchins, said the town would finance the project, and is requesting the County help fund the project at 50%. Architect Pete Noland shared pool drawings and project proposals.

The board of commissioners each spoke of concerns with refurbishing the pool; noting failed repair projects in the past, for which the county provided funding. Commissioner McKinnon said that the town needed a structural engineer assessment. Commissioner Eichenbaum shared his concern of the continual water loss, and the town not being able to identify where the leak is. Commissioner Stiles shared concerns of the condition of the pipe; also suggesting that the town look at the cost of building a new pool, but on a smaller scale. He said that he would be in favor of assisting the town with a one-time payment, which would cut the cost of interest, but was not interested in financing any county portion. Commissioner Westmoreland questioned if the current pool is salvageable, and said that he would like to see the cost of building a new pool, before putting funding toward a repair project. The county manager shared concerns of liability with the pool conditions. Commissioner Stiles suggested that the town look at the cost of a new, smaller pool and then come back to talk about financials. Commissioner McKinnon said that he was willing to help, because the board had helped the Murphy pool, and that he had an amount in mind that he was willing to support and that he was ready to share that number, if the town was ready to talk cost. Mayor Curtis said that the town would look at the cost of a new pool and come back to the board with a plan. Mr. Burchins said that the request for funds would be for the next budget year, not this current budget year. He said that he would work with the county manager and come back to the county at a future date.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 o'clock p.m.