

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 3, 2017

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 3rd day of January, 2017 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

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

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

The Chairman opened the meeting and read the Board's adopted ethic's statement.

The Assistant Clerk kept the minutes of the meeting.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Dickey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to add a budget revision for purchase of jet fuel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to add the NCVTS Report to the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a change to item "b" under budget and finance. The agenda item should have read: *Replacement of Heat Exchanger at the Pool and Wellness Center*. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum: There were no public comments.

Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner to approve the minutes of October 3, 2016 with the correction of adding that Peachtree Manor will be providing the match for the NC Department of Commerce grant. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the minutes of October 17, 2016 as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the minutes of November 10, 2016 with the following changes:

- 1) Remove “approval of dome ladder”, as the board did not accept that phase of the project proposal); and,
- 2) include Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon and seconded by Commissioner Dickey, to set current facility-naming policy aside for naming the airport terminal after Mr. Richard Parker. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the minutes of November 21, 2016, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the minutes of December 5, 2016, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Budget:

- The finance director presented the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center report for the month ending November 30, 2016. The Center had a deficit of \$8,654.69, which is being covered by the Hiwassee Valley Recreation Foundation.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for replacement of a heat exchanger at the pool and wellness center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the budget revision for replacement of the mapping plotter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for an Emergency Management SMAT grant. No county match is required. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a Budget revision for the schools request for use of sales tax for a boiler at Andrews Elementary School. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for use of 4-H Teen Leadership Council Funds for Christmas meals for families. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision up to \$25,000.00 to match a Volunteer Rescue/EMS grant awarded to Hiwassee Dam VFD. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for

purchase of jet fuel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

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

New Business:

- Don Reynolds, of the Friends of Cherokee County Fair, Inc. came before the board to give a report of the 2016 fair. Mr. Reynolds said that the fair did not require any county dollars, and that it made a profit of \$21,428.00. He said that there is great potential for the property, but it is in need of some capital improvements and upgrade to meet current building codes. He said that Friends of the Cherokee County Fair, Inc. would like to see the area secured. Mr. Reynolds thanked Cherokee County Schools and John Higdon for the schools participation in helping to make the fair successful; and also shared his appreciation to the off-duty deputies and off-duty EMS employees that worked the fair. He said that they were able to pay the deputies and EMS personnel on an hourly basis. Commissioner Eichenbaum and other board members thanked Don and Patty Reynolds and congratulated them on making the fair a success. Mr. Reynolds said that they couldn't have done it without the volunteers. Commissioner McKinnon said the county has been making improvements to the facility and would continue making improvements to get the facility back to what it was originally intended for.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to change the name of the Mountain Folk Center to the Cherokee County Fairgrounds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Dickey, Westmoreland, Eichenbaum and McKinnon. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Stiles. The Motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Stiles said that he felt like the current name was more reflective of the facility's use, due to the farmer's market folks and the saddle club also using the property. He said that changing the name could possibly limit the opportunities for grants, since the current name reflects its multi-purpose use. He also said there would be an additional cost to replace the signs.
- The county manager and board of commissioners discussed policies for use of the Cherokee County Fairgrounds for the WNC Wagon Train. Mr. Wiggins shared concerns from the county's insurance provider, as to what should be required and what should be prohibited. Mr. Wiggins said that the insurance company said that the user should provide proof of insurance with limits that match the county's coverage of \$2 million dollars, and must name the county as Additional Insured. The insurance provider also said that a sheriff escort for the wagon train would present additional potential exposure issues that would apply to the county's coverage. They were also concerned with possible consumption of alcohol at the event and said that it would be in the county's best interest to have a binding agreement stating that the county would be held harmless, and that the wagon train group would be fully responsible for their event. Also discussed was a daily use fee and what that should be; a security deposit, and what amount that should be; and possibly a fee for use of electricity. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the following policy for the use of the Cherokee County Fairgrounds, specific to wagon Train: \$50 usage fee for entire event; a \$100 deposit, refundable if property is returned in original condition; a fee of .10 per kilowatt hour, for usage of power outlets and

lights; proof of insurance meeting minimum \$2 million dollar policy, naming Cherokee County as additional insured; designated responsible party to pick up and return key; alcohol prohibited; and that the wagon train would work out their own agreement with the sheriff's office to use off-duty deputies. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

- The county manager discussed the need for an EMS Station 4 for the Medic 5 crew. He said that Medic 5, which is a 12 hour crew, was approved in the current budget cycle to go to a 24/7 crew; however, that has not happened because there has been no place to house the Medic 5 crew. He said that the county could do an expansion of EMS Station 2; or, build a separate station on property the county already owns at the sheriff's training center, or at the Center for Applied Technology (CAT) in Marble. The recommendation would be to build a separate 2-bay station on the property at the CAT building. He said by locating the station there, that it would take over a portion of what Station 2 now covers and a portion of what Medic 1 and Medic 4 currently cover. He said this would allow for better distribution of resources, improve response times, and relieve some of the burden on employees, while also eliminating the transferring and moving of trucks, when another truck is out on a call or transfer. Building Station 4 on this property, would also allow hookup to the Marble water system and the Andrews's sewer system. Commissioner McKinnon suggested getting a set of plans before moving forward. A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to allow the county manager to solicit bids for a new 2-bay station at the CAT property. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the Tax Refund Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the NCVTS Reports for November and December 2016. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to reschedule the boards January 17th meeting to January 24th if there are enough items on that agenda for a meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items:

The county manager gave an update on the courthouse lantern removal project. Mr. Wiggins said, weather permitting, the company would be here on January 10th for crane delivery and to shut down the area around the courthouse; then on January 11th, the lantern will be removed, a temporary roof installed, and the lantern delivered to the airport hangar.

Public Forum:

Don Reynolds spoke again, saying that his figures were a few hundred dollars off on the fair report and that he would correct those. He also shared his concerns about buildings being open and unsecured at the Cherokee County Fairgrounds.

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 unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON FEBRUARY 6, 2017.