

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 20, 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 20th day of February, 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.

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 County Manager kept the minutes of the meeting.

The invocation was given by Hugh Williamson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to add a budget revision for a tip reward for illegal dumping. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to remove item b) under New Business – Robin Caldwell – Code Red Alert. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. 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: There were no minutes for approval.

Finance and Budget:

- The Finance Director presented the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center report for the month ending January 31, 2017. The Center had a deficit of \$9,347.30. Per the Board's previous direction, coverage of this amount is not currently being sought from Hiwassee Valley Recreation Foundation. The Board will continue to monitor the deferred memberships balance against the reconciled cash balances.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for the School Board's request for use of sales tax in the amount of \$81,060 for multiple projects consisting of a concrete walk at Marble Kindergarten for \$10,418; MHS bleacher repairs for \$7,493; HD heating system burner for \$13,000; MMS replace HVAC module for \$7,313; district-wide consulting services for school facilities planning for \$30,000; completion of district-wide VOIP phone system upgrade for \$5,607; AMS baseball field repairs for \$7,229. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve a budget revision for the School Board's request for use of Article 46 sales tax in the amount of \$62,306 to cover 2 classroom teacher salaries and benefits due to NCDPI's ADM reduction to the State allotment. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$25,000.00 to purchase a used service truck for the Facilities Maintenance department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$200 for a tip reward that lead to the investigation and solving of an illegal dumping case. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

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

New Business:

- Dr. Jeffrey Martin introduced himself as a candidate for the Board of Health's vacant MD position. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Dr. Martin to the vacant MD position on the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- EM Director, Robin Caldwell presented information to the Board that Cherokee County has been recognized by the National Weather Service as a StormReady County. Cherokee County is now one of sixty-nine counties out of one hundred in North Carolina to receive this recognition and only one of two west of Buncombe. The Board congratulated Robin and her team on their work to make this happen.
- After discussion and a proposed resolution prepared and read by Chairman Eichenbaum, a Motion was made by Chairman Eichenbaum to adopt the resolution requesting NCDOT to name the bridge to the entrance of the Valley River Casino in Murphy, NC in honor of State Representative and Native Son Roger West. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Commissioner Stiles added that the NCDOT number assigned to that bridge is 274. Motion passed unanimously.

- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the Tax Refund Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items: No items.

Commissioner Items:

- Chairman Eichenbaum stated that he had constituents asking what they could do to get the NCDOT railroad right of way reduced to thirty feet – fifteen feet each side from centerline of rail bed/track. Commissioner McKinnon stated that he has been unable to get any information returned from his message to NCDOT on this matter. Per the Chairman's suggestion, the Board agreed to ask the County Attorney to initiate proceedings to seek reduction of the railroad right-of-way to thirty feet along county-owned properties and in so doing be able to inform the public how they too can initiate proceedings affecting their properties.
- Chairman Eichenbaum read a statement about the County plan and how the County will proceed. He stated that this was to be a financial plan and asked the Board to set a date for a listening session whereby the public could speak to the Board on their opinions of what the County's spending priorities should be. The Chairman stated that the Board would not discuss at this meeting but would use that time to listen to the public's comments. The date set for the special meeting is Thursday, March 23rd, 2017 at 6:30PM in the Commissioner's Boardroom (Room 342) of the Cherokee County Courthouse.
- Commissioner Stiles stated that he had a conflict for the Board's regular meeting scheduled for April 3rd, 2017 and asked the Board to consider rescheduling that meeting. The Board agreed to reschedule the April 3rd, 2017 meeting to April 4th, 2017 – same time and location. The Board further agreed to review any business and may choose to cancel this meeting depending on the business for that agenda.

Public Forum: There were no public comments.

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 7:10 o'clock p.m.

THESE MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON MARCH 20, 2017.

