

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 26, 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 26th day of June, 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; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; and, Scott Lindsay, County Attorney and Assistant Clerk.

Present from the media was the Cherokee Scout and Local TV4.

The Chairman presided, and Clerk kept the minutes.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Roy Dickey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to add a USFS resolution to the agenda as item "j" under New Business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to add a resolution for a Department of Commerce grant for Aegis Power Systems as item "k" under New Business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to add the courthouse dome proposal for consulting services as item "l" under New Business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption:

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

Public Forum:

- Richard Parker came before the board to thank board members who attended his party at the airport on June 17th. Mr. Parker said that he was given a party by friends, who wanted to honor him and his contributions to the airport.

- Henry Ristorcelli came before the board to voice a complaint about the second public forum being removed from the agenda. Mr. Ristorcelli asked the board to reconsider. No action was taken.

Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the meeting minutes of June 5, 2017. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Budget:

- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to adopt the fiscal year 2017-18 budget ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Stiles said that he supports the budget, but wished that the board would have approved the proposed 3% “per employee” raise, instead of a flat 3%, divided among all eligible employees. The board thanked the county manager and finance director for all of their hard work in developing the budget.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the 2016-17 year-end budget revision. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- The finance director shared the May 31, 2017 financial report for the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center. The Center has a positive cash flow of \$4,753.39. No action necessary. Informational only.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the schools request for use of sales tax for multiple school projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

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

New Business:

- 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 Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a lease with Cherokee County Transit for their new location at 77 Hardin Street in Murphy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a lease between Cherokee County and Wood Farm, LLC. for the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at Western Carolina Regional Airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a hangar lease for Wood Farm, LLC. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Michael Bradberry to a three-year term on the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to re-appoint Chris Dickey to a three-year term on the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

passed unanimously.

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to appoint Thomas Nelson to the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center Board for a three-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to appoint Linda May to the vacant Member position on Area Agency on Aging Council. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mary Lou Lineberger, applicant for the Alternate position on the Area Agency on Aging Council, came before the board for a formal introduction.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to reappoint Nada Pullium to the Cherokee County Jury Commission for a two-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a resolution authored by Commissioner Eichenbaum, stating the county's position on the USFS plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a resolution for a NC Department of Commerce grant for Aegis Power Systems for facility expansion and job creation. Aegis Power Systems will provide the \$6,250.00 grant match. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table the Proposal for consulting services for the courthouse dome. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to cancel the next regular meeting of July 3rd, since it is just a week from this meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion and review of EMS Station 4 plans, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to move forward with placing the project out for bid. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Items:

- Commissioner Eichenbaum announced that following the July 17th meeting adjournment, there would be a meeting and discussion about the 2017 Solar Eclipse. He encouraged members of the public to attend.
- Commissioner McKinnon said that he was expecting a grandbaby and that he may not be present for the July 17th meeting.
- The board discussed closing county offices on August 21st, due to the influx of traffic for the solar eclipse. Commissioner McKinnon suggested that employees be granted paid time off; and for those employees in an essential job class, that they be granted a comp day.
- Commissioner Eichenbaum told members of the public, in response to the current situation at Ranger VFD, that the county board of commissioners had no control over volunteer fire departments. He said that they are 501C3 organizations and that they have a different set of rules. He said that he hoped that they could mend fences.

- Rob Brooks, VP and COO of Erlanger Health Systems and Robbie Tester, VP of Operations of Life Force, came before the board to announce that they have chosen Cherokee County and Western Carolina Regional Airport as a base operation of critical medical flight services; which will be operated by MedTrans Corporation. Mr. Tester said in preparation of coming to Cherokee County, that they had been working closely with Randy and Maria. He said that they are planning an in-service date of August 15th. Representatives from Erlanger, Life Force, MedTrans and Murphy Medical Center were in attendance.

Closed Session:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to a family emergency, the board was unable to proceed with the closed session, and a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to go out of closed session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JULY 17, 2017.