

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 21, 2014

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman McKinnon: "Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Board of County Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict".

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 21st day of July, 2014 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: C.B. McKinnon, Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; David Wood, member; and Steve Jordan, member. Lorraine M. Meltz, Vice-Chair was out of town. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Assistant Clerk to the Board; R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board; and Candy Roberts Anderson, County Finance Director.

Present from the media was a representative of the Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Modification of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to add an executive session to the end of the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jordan said that he would like to discuss septic fees under Commissioner Items.

Agenda Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum: None

Adoption of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the minutes of the following budget

work sessions: May 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 29th, 30th and June 9th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Jordan and McKinnon. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. Motion passed.

Finance and Budget Items:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a budget revision for use of sheriff's designated funds to purchase a drug dog and tracking dog, and related training and canine expenses. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of lottery proceeds for Cherokee County Schools upgrade to fire and security systems. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

The finance director submitted, as required by law, the 2013-14 Declared Surplus Disposal Form to the board. No action was necessary.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve the tax releases and refunds as presented by Delenna Stiles. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Ryan Sherby, Executive Director of Southwestern Commission, and Sara Jane Melton, Director of Aging, came before the board to give a regional update. Mr. Sherby and Ms. Melton also shared with the board what services are available, and talked about what counties receive for their investment in Southwestern Commission.

Shelly Foreman, of Smoky Mountain Center, came before the board to give a regional update on the Western Regional Partnership, and to ask the board to consider a commissioner appointee for the recently established County Commissioner Advisory Board, pursuant to §122C-118.2.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to table Agenda Item IX (e), which was a request from Mountain View Church for a release of 2012 taxes. The requestor, Pastor Jeff Owens was not present. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Commissioner McKinnon as the NCACC Voting Delegate at the annual conference in August in Buncombe County. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, McKinnon and Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. Motion passed.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Julie Higdon to the Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Jordan and McKinnon. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. Motion passed.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Barbara Vicknair to the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint David Badger to the Hiwassee Valley pool and Wellness Center Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Sara Wilson to the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Hass determined after the meeting that this 3rd appointment was not a vacant position at that time, and apologized for the error. The board will revisit this appointment at their August 18th meeting.

County Manger Items: None

Chairman Items: None.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Jordan said that he would like to have a work session to discuss septic fees. He said that he had to purchase a septic permit and that it is a lot of money. He would like to lower the fee. The county manager explained the adopted budget could be affected if the fee schedule is changed during this fiscal year. He said that the board might want to wait until the next fiscal year before making changes.

Commissioner Jordan asked to use his travel money to take a trip out west to investigate and learn more about fracking. The board agreed that if that is how he would like to use it, that they had no objections.

Commissioner Wood expressed his dislike of the recently revised board policy adding “Commissioner Items” to the agenda. He commented that he tried not to bring too many items to the agenda under chairman items when he was chairman. He said he thought it was against sunshine laws. Commissioner McKinnon said that the items are for discussion in public session, and are not typically items that are voted upon.

Commissioner Jordan made a Motion to cancel the August 4th meeting, since following the many budget work sessions there doesn't seem to be a need for two meetings in August. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Jordan and McKinnon. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. Motion passed. Commissioner McKinnon said that if there is any item that comes up that needs attention prior to August 4th, that the board could call a special meeting.

Executive Session:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

After returning to open session, there was no action taken on the matter discussed in executive session.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 o'clock p.m.

C.B. McKinnon, Chairman

R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board