

A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
January 3, 2012

*Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman Meltz: "Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the State 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 Meeting Room on the first floor of the Courthouse Annex Building in Murphy, North Carolina on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2012 at 8:30 o'clock a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Lorraine Meltz, Chair; David Wood, Vice-Chairman; and Steve Jordan, Commissioner. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Assistant Clerk to the Board; Candy Roberts, County Finance Officer; and, R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board.

Present from the media was Dwight Otwell of the Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Steve Jordan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by R. Scott Lindsay.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

**Public Hearing for Cherokee County Transit 5310, 5311, and 5316 Grants**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to go into the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously. Randy Cantor, Cherokee County Transit Director presented the NCDOT Public Transportation Program; Community Transportation Program; and the Human Services Agency Transportation Program. At conclusion of presentation, Mr. Cantor asked the Board to consider approval of these grant applications; and also asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no public comments.

**New Business:**

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the Public Transportation Program Resolution; Community Transportation Program Resolution; and the Human Services Agency Transportation Resolution as presented by Transit Director, Randy Cantor. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Shelly Lackey was unable to attend due to weather conditions. Ms. Lackey was scheduled to give an update on Smoky Mountain Center activities.
- Will Roberts, Tax Administrator, gave an update on the 2012 revaluation saying that all neighborhoods should be completed by the end of the work day. He said land values are where they need to be; and starting tomorrow they will be looking at sales ratio. Mr. Roberts said they have been working on weekends also, and he thinks that it will be a really good revaluation. The Board thanked Mr. Roberts for his hard work.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the Cherokee County Economic Development Incentive Plan as presented by Economic Development Director, Josh Carpenter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

### **County Manager Items:**

- Kevin Carter with the Cherokee County Rescue Squad came before the Board to request assistance with financing, to purchase their current leased space at 866 Joe Brown Highway. Mr. Carter asked the Board to consider loaning the Cherokee County Rescue Squad \$75,000 for the down payment to do an owner financing agreement with the property owner; or, for a "little to no interest" loan, until they get their truck paid for. Mr. Carter said that once the truck is paid off, that they could pay the County back. There were questions as to the legality of such business, and also comments that even if it was legal, that the County can't do for one squad or department, and not do for all squads or department; and that there isn't enough money to do so. After discussion, the item was tabled until further notice.
- County Manager Randy Wiggins said that Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department is interested in building a station in Bear Paw Village. This would create insurance savings for those persons who are not currently in a fire service district. The County attorney was tasked with looking into the statutes and options that the Board would have, before considering the matter. It was also suggested to have a joint worksession with the fire marshal to get questions answered.
- Mr. Wiggins said that at the next meeting the Board would be asked to take action on appointing someone to the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition.
- Mr. Wiggins also asked the County attorney about the status of the subdivision ordinance that the Board had asked him to look into. Mr. Lindsay said that he would have a draft for the Board at the meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Wiggins updated the Board on the matter of the jointly owned property, between the County and the Town of Andrews, known as the Andrews Industrial Park. Mr. Wiggins said that the county attorney had sent a letter to the Town of Andrews, and is awaiting a response.
- Mr. Wiggins also told the Board that Mr. Richard Parker had been told that he was personally responsible for the unapproved invoices for the artifact display cabinets at Western Carolina Regional Airport, and that Mr. Parker had paid the invoices.

### **Public Forum:**

During public forum, the following items were discussed:

- Further discussion concerning the Rescue Squad request.
- Commissioner Jordan stated that there were issues between the Andrews Rescue Squad and Andrews Fire Department that needed to be addressed.
- There were comments and suggestions from members of the public concerning consolidation of departments; and also suggestions of countywide fire and rescue departments.
- Steve Stratton shared his dislike and concern for departments that have flags flying, but no lighting or inadequate lighting.
- Someone asked about the county's fund balance.

### **Chair Items:**

The county attorney said that there was no update on the Swanson lawsuit.

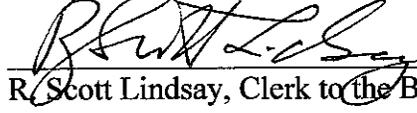
There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 o'clock a.m.



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Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair



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R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board