

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 6, 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 Commissioners Boardroom, also known as Multi-Purpose Room 342, of the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, North Carolina on the 6th day of August, 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 Randy Wiggins.

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

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

- Commissioner Jordan said that he would like to lower the courthouse flags in memory of the two Department of Transportation workers who lost their lives tragically last Friday. Commissioner Meltz and Commissioner Wood agreed, if that was within the law. The Board was advised by the county attorney that only the president or governor can request the lowering of the U.S. and/or State flag. No action was taken.

Finance Items/Budget Revisions:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$4,500.00 for a VIPER radio for the new ambulance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for a Share the Warmth Grant from Duke Foundation of the Carolinas, in the amount of \$36,141.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$235,961 for two health department grants from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table a budget revision for the Virtual Building Project in the amount of \$6,000.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$35,150.00 for replacement of the roof on the Old Rock Gym. The Town of Murphy contributed to half of this cost. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by the Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$2,480.00 for a contract with the U.S. Marshal Service to investigate and arrest local, state, and federal fugitives. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the minutes of July 16, 2012. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Commissioner Wood opposed, stating that he was not at that meeting and therefore would not vote for approval.

New Business:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the tax releases and refunds for June and July 2012, as presented by Will Roberts, Tax Administrator. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table agenda item (b), under new business; and asked Delenna Stiles to research and gather more data to present at a later meeting date. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to allow Health Director, Jim Higgins to begin researching a new electronic records system for the Cherokee County Health Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table a request by Jim Higgins, Health Director, which would allow Cherokee County to submit an application, requesting to serve as the hub for a regional project through the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Project. The project would provide joint/multi military services; such as, medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary services to underserved/uninsured citizens in our region. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to allow the Cherokee County IT department to work with the Cherokee County Schools IT department to provide connectivity services to the Andrews Health Clinic. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a new Income Maintenance Worker position within the Department of Social Services (DSS) to be housed at Murphy Medical Center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously. Donna Crawford, DSS director, said that the position would be 50% grant funded by the State and 50% funded by Murphy Medical Center. Mrs. Crawford said that all overhead costs would be absorbed by Murphy Medical Center. The Board explained that at any time that the funding from either of these sources ends, the Board of County Commissioners will have to revisit the matter and decide if they wish to continue funding the position with county funds.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to table the Airport Authority Board appointments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items:

- The County Manager informed the Board that Bill Gibson, of Southwestern Commission, could not be present at the August 20th meeting. Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Meltz said that they did not feel like there was a reason for Mr. Gibson to attend a meeting. Commissioner Wood suggested that the 9-12 group invite Mr. Gibson to one of their meetings, and added that Mr. Gibson is easy to get in touch with. Commissioner Wood said that he would try to "round up" Mr. Gibson for the next 9-12 meeting. A couple of 9-12 members who were in attendance said that they wanted Mr. Gibson to attend a meeting with the Board of Commissioners, as well as, 9-12 members.
- The County Manager gave an update on the Veterans Administration office and said that Jan Griggs, the new Veteran's Service Officer is doing a great job; and that due to the demand for services, that the office is now open three days a week.

- The County Manager told the Board that he will have a meeting on August 15th with the architect concerning the courthouse waterproofing project; and also said that the asbestos issue has been resolved.
- The County Manager passed out for Board review, a contract for the Nantahala Regional Library and a memo from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, soliciting legislative goals of N.C. counties for 2013-2014. The Board will discuss these items at the next meeting.

Chair Items:

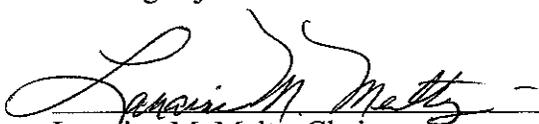
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to change the September Board meeting dates to the 10th and 24th; instead of the 4th and 17th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Public Forum:**

During public forum, the following items were discussed:

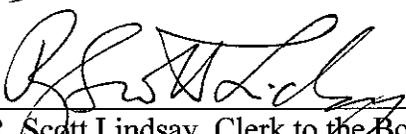
- C.B. McKinnon said that local septic businesses have to currently dispose of their waste out of the area, which is costly. He urged the Board to talk to the two towns and try to find a way that these business owners can dispose of the waste in the local waste treatment plants for a lower cost.
- There was additional discussion about Southwestern Commission.
- Brenda Blount came before the Board to thank the Board for funding half the cost of their new HVAC system, and to request additional funds for the Texana Community Center. A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to table until the next meeting. Commissioner Meltz asked Mrs. Blount to present a breakdown of what she is now requesting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Jordan expressed his frustration with the Cherokee Scout for a recent article.
- Barbara Lemmon came before the Board again to complain about the roadside flea market on 64 West, across from Rib Country.
- There was a complaint about the condition of the tennis courts in Murphy.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 o'clock a.m.



 Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair



 R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board