

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 19, 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 19th day of November, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.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 congratulated the two newly elected Commissioners, C.B. McKinnon and Cal Stiles. They will take their respective oaths of office on December 3rd.

Finance Items/Budget Revisions:

- The finance officer presented the Smoky Mountain Center Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve the application of release of lottery funds for the Cherokee County School Board, to be used for debt service on Andrews High School. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for Use of Designated Fund Balance for School Capital Outlay needs for seven separate projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a budget revision for the Department of Social Services for the Guardianship Program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to grant approval for the Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department to enter into a financing agreement with First Citizens Bank for construction of the Bear Paw substation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously. The county manager told the board that the Hiwassee Dam Volunteer Fire Department had come to the last meeting for an advertised public hearing; however, they were required to hold a community meeting before coming to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to table the occupancy tax agenda item. Motion failed for lack of second. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve placing an insert into the upcoming tax bills, explaining occupancy tax requirements for owners of vacation rentals. The funding for

the creation and mailing of the insert will be paid from Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority occupancy tax funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Reed Caldwell and Aurelia Stone to the Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Commissioner Jordan voted no.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Dr. Mark Gilbert to the Cherokee County Board of Health medical doctor position to replace the seat vacated by Dr. Larry Holder. Dr. Gilbert will complete the remainder of Dr. Holder's term, which will expire on April 21, 2014. The term is effective immediately.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Donna McOwen to the Mountain Folk Center Committee. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Commissioner Jordan voted no.

County Manager Items:

- Update on the Tipton Creek area ("No man's land"). Mr. Wiggins informed the board that a public hearing has been scheduled for December 19th at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioner boardroom at the Cherokee County Courthouse. The public hearing will be to receive comments concerning a proposed fire service tax district.
- The county manager said that the Sheriff's office would be using five pallets of the stone for a signage project at the Sheriff's office.
- Mr. Wiggins announced that the bid opening was held today for the Cherokee County Health Department project. He said the low bid was \$529,194.00
- Appreciation and recognition of Dwight Otwell, of the Cherokee Scout newspaper, who will be retiring soon. Everyone expressed their appreciation for his fairness and professional journalism over the years of covering the board meetings.
- The county manager said that the school maintenance department would like to remove a lean-to at the Mountain Folk Center to be used on the school maintenance shed. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Wiggins said that the county is considering entering into an agreement with the American Red Cross to provide them office space in a county facility.

Public Forum:

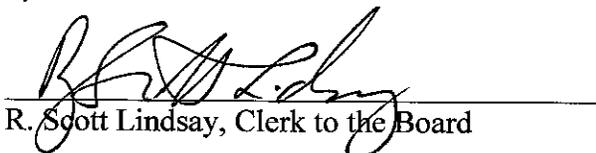
During public forum, Vicky Dumford came before the board to oppose the recent property revaluation and tax rate. Ms. Dumford read a letter to the board expressing her frustration and quoting biblical scripture. Board members and newly elected commissioners, Cal Stiles and C.B. McKinnon addressed Ms. Dumford's concerns.

Adjourn:

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 6:29 p.m.


Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair


R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board