

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 15, 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 15th day of October, 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 Commissioner Steve Jordan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner David Wood.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

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 a Child Protective Services position for the Department of Social Services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for a public safety grant for Emergency Management. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision for the Use of Federal Forfeiture Funds to purchase software and wireless service equipment for the Sheriff's Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the meeting minutes of September 24, 2012. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Sarah Graham with Region A presented a draft of the Cherokee County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, along with draft maps. Ms. Graham announced that there would be three community meetings for public input, before the final plan is presented to the county board of commissioners and the Andrews and Murphy Town Councils. Copies of the draft plan and maps are available in the county manager's office for public viewing.
- Jeff Kirby of Michael Baker Engineering came before the board to present the need for an upgrade or replacement of the AWOS at Western Carolina Regional Airport. The N.C. D.O.T. Division of Aviation has recommended full replacement of the system, due to the age and current condition of the system. The replacement would be reimbursed at 90% of the cost by grant funds. The county's 10 % would be \$7200.00. After discussion, a

Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve full replacement of the system. Commissioner Jordan seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a tower lease on Johanna Bald with Duke Power Company. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Erika Wood with the Mountain Folk Center Committee came before the board to present a recommendation to hire Hayes James Associates to develop a Master Plan for the Mountain Folk Center. The committee has received a grant to cover the cost of hiring the firm. There were four bids received, and Hayes James Associates was the low bidder. A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the recommendation as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the recommendation made by the Peachtree Volunteer Fire Department for the following persons to serve on the Fireman's Relief Fund Board: Becky Turner and Mike Moss. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, Commissioner Jordan made a Motion to table the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board appointments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Cherokee County ID Badge and Access Security Card Policy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the amended contract with ASI, Inc. to exclude \$8,225.00 from the final payment; due to, commercial training not conducted during the 2012 revaluation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Commissioner Jordan voted "no".
- Steve Bias of Valleytown Fire Department came before the Board to request a contract from Cherokee County to provide rescue services. Paul Earwood of Andrews Rescue Squad spoke in opposition of the request by Mr. Bias. After much discussion and heated debate, the Board took no action and expressed their concern over issues between the two departments.

County Manager Items:

- The county manager gave an update on the "No man's land", and lack of fire protection issue. He also presented a bid for \$1,800 submitted by a citizen wishing to purchase the remaining stone at the Mountain Folk Center. The Board rejected the bid.

Public Forum:

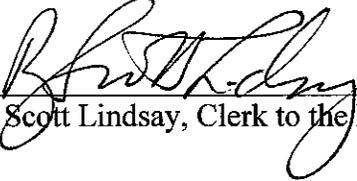
During public forum, there were further comments about the Valleytown VFD and Andrews Rescue Squad debate. Also during public forum, Callie Moore commended the Board on the worksession and plans to move the open green boxes from the lake. Others commented also on the relocating of the green boxes.

At 6:50 p.m., a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz pursuant to §143-318.11 to go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously. After returning to open session, there was no action taken on matters discussed in closed session.

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 7:25 p.m..



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board