

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 01, 2013

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman Stiles: "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 1st day of April, 2013 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Cal Stiles, Chairman; Lorraine M. Meltz, Vice-Chair; C.B. McKinnon, member; David Wood, member; and Steve Jordan, member. 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, County Finance Director.

Present from the media was Joe Martin of the Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by the Commissioner McKinnon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Stiles.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Budget Revisions/Finance Items:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$6,000.00 to take care of the mold issue at the Health Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, the board did not approve a budget request from Ms. Monica Holley for installing a new door at the health department.

Old Business:

- Chairman Stiles gave an update on a proposed county fueling station and explained that after looking at all of the facts that it is simply not feasible or advantageous for the county to construct and maintain a fueling station. He said that there is not enough margin or profit to substantiate the investment. Commissioner McKinnon said that the board has looked at the issue and done their due diligence to investigate the issue. A member of the public commented that the perception is that county employees are going to the more expensive stations to fill up. Commissioner Meltz said prices are comparable across county. Commissioner Jordan said that he likes the county buying from local stations. Commissioner Wood commented, "Excellent job chairman".

New Business:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to accept the release and refunds as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to adopt the 2013 National Day of Prayer Proclamation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to adopt the 2013 NCDOT

Litter Sweep Proclamation, declaring April 13th through April 27th as Spring Litter Sweep in Cherokee County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Bart O'Sullivan, Executive Director of the Hulburt-Johnson Friendship House, came before the board to request permission to use the Western Carolina regional Airport to host an air show, called "Operation Welcome Home" to pay tribute to all veterans. Mr. O'Sullivan said that this would be a fundraiser to support the Hulburt-Johnson Friendship House and the Veteran's Restoration Quarters in Asheville. Mr. O'Sullivan said that he and his community of supporters feel confident that the air show can happen without taxpayer dollars. Mr. O'Sullivan said that he would like to ask the county to provide law enforcement for the event, as an in-kind match. The board suggested that Mr. O'Sullivan get a final proposal and bring it back before the board. Commissioner Wood suggested that Mr. O'Sullivan apply for a micro grant from the Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority. Commissioner McKinnon suggested forming a small committee to research the feasibility. Chairman Stiles told Mr. O'Sullivan to get with the county attorney and see what types of legal documents and proof of liability he would need to host an air show.
- Philip Moore of Southwestern Commission presented the 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for Cherokee County. Also present to answer questions was Wesley Grindstaff, NCDOT engineer. Mr. Moore said that Cherokee County and Graham County are the only counties in the state that do not have a comprehensive transportation plan. He explained that having such a plan allows counties to rate better on the NCDOT points system for funding priority projects. Commissioner Wood said that he sits on the CTP committee and he thinks this is a good plan. Commissioner McKinnon asked if the projects were listed in order of priority, and said that the board of commissioners need to be able to prioritize projects. Mr. Moore told him that the projects are in no certain order and that the board can revise the plan at any time. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve and accept the plan as presented. Motion seconded by Chairman Stiles. Voting in favor of adoption was Commissioners Wood, Stiles, Meltz and McKinnon. Commissioner Jordan voted "no", saying that he did not know enough about it to vote for it. Dr. Dan Eichenbaum told board members that the purpose of the plan is to foster regional development and that implementation would cost taxpayers. Dr. Eichenbaum stated that "there is no such thing as free lunch". Commissioner Wood discussed bike paths and sidewalk needs in the Texana Community. Chairman Stiles commented that "we need to get our portion of tax dollars". Mr. Grindstaff said that the plan gives counties more ability to make decisions for local priority transportation projects. Margaret Deluna, a member of the public, said that Andrews needs bike paths and shared how cyclists have contributed to the seasonal economy and tourism in Andrews.
- After discussion, the board directed the county manager to invite Representative Roger West and Senator Jim Davis to a future board meeting to discuss the 2013 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals.

County Manager Items:

- The county manager announced the April 25th public hearing to discuss consideration of creating a fire service district for property owners that live in the upper northwest portion of Cherokee County, but are not currently served by a fire service district. The meeting will be held at the Hiwassee Dam Community Center at 6 p.m. Mr. Wiggins said that he has spoken to an individual that is willing to donate land for a fire station.

Chairman's Items:

- Chairman Stiles shared with other board members that local TV 4 had provided a quote to video board meetings for \$50 per meeting. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum:

- During public forum, Sandy Goss said that she would like to discuss two issues. One was

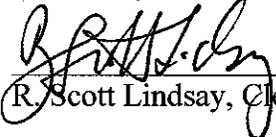
concerning the Tirezan Tires business on 64 West. She complained about the tires being piled up, retaining water and creating the potential for mosquito infestation. She asked what could be done about it. The county attorney told Ms. Goss that it is private property and that there are no zoning laws. Commissioner McKinnon suggested that she talk to the property owner neighbor-to-neighbor. Dr. Carlton VanHorn, board of health member, was in the audience and suggested that Ms. Goss come to a board of health meeting and ask the matter to be investigated. Ms. Goss said her second concern was the beautification of sidewalks and asked that the trees on the river across from Doyle's Cedarhill Restaurant be cleared. Chairman Stiles told Ms. Goss that the property belongs to the TVA and the county has no authority to clear the trees.

- A member of the public asked who initiates zoning restrictions and asked if the county can form zoning department.
- Steve Higdon, former commission candidate, commended Chairman Stiles for his fuel station analysis. Mr. Higdon also announced that 95.1 Talk Radio would be hosting a segment on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. titled, "Andrews Advantage" to promote Andrews, NC.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 o'clock p.m.



Cal Stiles, Chairman



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board