

A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
July 15, 2013

*Preamble to Minutes read by Chairperson 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 15th day of July, 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; 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, and Local TV4.

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

**Recognition of Commissioner Lorraine M. Meltz.**

Chairman Stiles read a letter from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners recognizing Commissioner Lorraine Meltz. The letter stated that Commissioner Meltz would be honored at the NCACC Annual Conference on Aug. 24 for achieving Practitioner status through the Local Elected Leaders Academy (LELA) Recognition Program. LELA recognizes local elected officials who show a desire and commitment toward developing themselves as true leaders, not only at the county level, but in the State of North Carolina.

**Budget Revisions/Finance Items:**

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for the health department for additional grant funds in the amount of \$413.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the following budget revisions for the use of sheriff's designated funds: 1) To purchase radios, uniforms, and filing cabinets in the amount of \$12,000.00; and 2) For drug informant money in the amount of \$2,000.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for the Pool and Wellness Center in the amount of \$3,000.00 for janitorial services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Wood said that he has not had time to read the minutes. Commissioner Wood made a Motion to table the minutes of June 24; June 27; and, June 28, 2013. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

- Karl Spiegel of the Marine Corp League came before the board to request permission to construct a veteran's memorial at Konehete Park. The memorial would be funded through the Buy-A-Brick fundraiser. The Marine Corp League would sell bricks at \$50 each and it would have the name of a veteran on it. After the presentation, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve the construction of a veteran's memorial at Konehete Park. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jerri Ruth Roberts, Pam Runge and other members of the Valley River Humane Society Board, came before the board of commissioners to request \$6,000.00 to pay for an audit. After much discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table the request until the August 5<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Tax Administrator Will Roberts presented a draft tax collection policy to the board for review.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Jane Stiles and John Aldrich to the two member positions on the Area Agency on Aging Council. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to draft a letter of support for Corridor K. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion failed for lack of majority vote. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Stiles, Commissioner Meltz, and Commissioner Wood.
- Commissioner Meltz discussed adopting a policy prohibiting smoking on courthouse steps. Chairman Stiles and Commissioner Wood also are in favor of policy. The county attorney and Assistant County Manager will research the general statutes and provide information to the board at the next meeting.
- Maria Hass, assistant county manager, provided a report to the board of issues and concerns for Western Carolina Regional Airport. Most importantly were areas of OSHA and FAA non-compliance, a damaged beacon and emergency tower, and foreign equipment on airport beacon towers. Mrs. Hass said that the report resulted from several different complaints and findings over the last few months. Mrs. Hass said that she has been consulting with the counties risk management group, as well as, the N.C. Division of Aviation and FAA. Commissioner McKinnon said that he met with the Airport Advisory Board on Saturday morning and they said that since the FBO left that they had not been in the loop of airport matters. Mrs. Hass told the board that that was not true and that she has been meeting with the airport advisory board. Mrs. Hass said that she had made courtesy calls to those in violation, and then sent certified letters after her requests for corrective action was ignored. After much heated debate, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to abolish the Airport Advisory Board and the Recreation Advisory Board. Commissioner Wood said that he felt that the assistant county manager could take care of the airport issues, and that the recreation director, Pee wee Davis could handle the recreation department. Commissioner Wood said that he felt that neither of these boards was necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Meltz and Chairman Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon and Commissioner Jordan.

#### **Public Forum:**

During public forum, Linda Hurd, Cherokee County Recreation Advisory Board member, questioned the action of dissolving the Recreation Advisory Board and expressed her concerns. There were also questions from the public about the airport report and the counties liability if the issues are not corrected. Tim Wright and Sheriff Keith Lovin both spoke on the issues that were related to their specific hangars and their vehicles and/or items stored on airport property.

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 8:00 o'clock p.m.



Cal Stiles, Chairman