

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 24th, 2013

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman Stiles: "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 24th day of June, 2013 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Cal Stiles, Chairman; Lorraine Meltz, Vice-Chair; C.B. McKinnon, member; and Steve Jordan, member. 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. Commissioner David Wood arrived shortly after meeting began.

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

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Finance Items/Budget Revisions:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve Bear Paw Service District's annual budget, as submitted by the Bear Paw Service District Board of Director's. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- The county manager gave a report of the county's Declared Surplus Disposal.

Old Business:

- Chairman Stiles announced that the Cherokee County School Board had used the Sales Tax Fund for fencing the Andrews High School football field. Board members expressed concern that the school board did this before commissioner approval and said that in the future they hoped the school board would wait for county approval.

New Business:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a resolution to allow the tax collection department to not expend collection efforts on any amount under two dollars (\$2), as it is not cost-effective. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jan Davis, Valley River Humane Society board member was on the agenda to request funds for VRHS; however, she was not present. Jerri Ruth Roberts and Pamela Runge, former VRHS members and prospective new VRHS board members spoke on behalf of VRHS. Ms. Roberts first spoke, assuring the board that the VRHS would provide an audit and any other additional items that the county should require, once they are elected to the VRHS board. Ms. Roberts then introduced Pamela Runge. Ms. Runge requested remaining fiscal year animal control funds, saying that VRHS was desperate. She said that, according to shelter workers that VRHS has no rabies vaccines and that shelter workers have not had rabies vaccinations. She said that there are no catch poles and no heavy gloves. She said the shelter also needed special/bigger crates for the larger animals

and higher fencing. She said that they have had to borrow \$400 from someone to buy rabies vaccines for the animals. Ms. Runge said that if she and other new members are voted in that they will open new accounts and provide a statement of asset and liability, along with requiring dual signatures on checks over \$200, restrict access to post office box, have greater security for keys, change current locks, and get security cameras fixed. She said that there would be strict record keeping. Ms. Runge requested any remaining funds within the animal control budget to only be released to the new board after July 1st. A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the request until after July 1st. Commissioner McKinnon and Chairman Stiles shared their concerns. The county attorney also shared his concerns, due to dealing with the same issues in years past and not knowing where or how VRHS is spending county money. Chairman Stiles asked Ms. Runge to come back to the board at Friday's meeting and share immediate needs, such as animal food and vaccines. Commissioner McKinnon seconded the Motion to table. Motion passed unanimously.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to reappoint the following persons to the Airport Advisory Board, for the following terms: Larry Kernea and Ralph Crisp to serve a one-year term; Richard Parker and Sam Davis to serve a two-year term; and Charles West and Chuck Grant to serve a three-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. These appointments will be considered as first terms for each respective member. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint the following persons to the Bear Paw Service District Board of Directors for a one-year term: Dave Jacobs; Andrea Folkertsma; Ron Taylor; Jim Awbrey; Mark Ackerman; Greg Brock; and, Dave Black. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint John Robert to the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center Board for a three-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Nada Pullium to the Cherokee County Jury Commission for a two-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Donna Bryant to the Nantahala Regional Library Board of Director's for a three-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Jim Hedrick to the Tri-County Community College Board of Trustees for a four-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Also voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Stiles and Commissioner Jordan. Commissioner Meltz voted against the Motion.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to appoint Robert Merrill to the Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Also voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Jordan
- Commissioner Wood thanked all of the board applicants and appointees.

County Manager:

- Mr. Wiggins share an option to purchase the Mike Stone property for the purpose of developing a staffed convenience site at the corner of Candy Mountain Road and Highway 294, to replace the open dump at Persimmon Creek. The cost to purchase the property is \$50,000.00 and the county is to pay for any survey or recordings. A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to enter into a contract with Mr. Stone for the purchase price of \$50,000.00, provided Mr. Stone can provide to the county good and sufficient title and close the transaction within 30 days. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Commissioner McKinnon opposed and said that he felt like \$50,000.00 was too much for a half acre of property. He said that he has been working with the NCDOT and a lady from Hayesville about a potential piece of property; and also contacted the Forest Service about a potential piece of property. Also voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Meltz and Commissioner Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to enter into a mutual aid agreement between Cherokee and Clay County Building Code Enforcement Departments to provide support in the event of a disaster. The county attorney said the agreement should be contingent upon Clay County also adopting the mutual aid agreement. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Wiggins shared information concerning the House and Senate Tax Reform Plans. He said that the House plan would provide for an increase of \$250,000.00 for Cherokee County, and the Senate plan would create a decrease of \$342,000.00 for Cherokee County.
- Mr. Wiggins shared information concerning Payment in Lieu of Taxes owed to Cherokee County. The State of North Carolina had filled out a form incorrectly and was showing a 70% reduction in PILT payments for Cherokee County. The State is working with the Department of Interior to make the corrected payment to the county.
- The continuing resolution for the temporary state budget could be adopted by June 30th.
- Discussed potential impacts to the county from the DMV contract for the tag and tax together program. Originally the cost to the county was going to be 48 cents, but now may be \$1.06 for the first six months, and then be 71 cents thereafter. Mr. Wiggins said if the state makes those changes, it would result in an additional cost of \$43,000.00 to the county.

Chairman Items:

- Chairman Stiles said that Commissioner McKinnon and Commissioner Jordan had gone up to look at the Andrews stadium a couple of weeks ago, and that he went up last week and met with three or four folks from the school system. He said that an engineer is being brought in to look at the project, to assess the safety of the stadium and what the cost of improvements would be to utilize the current stadium.

Public Forum:

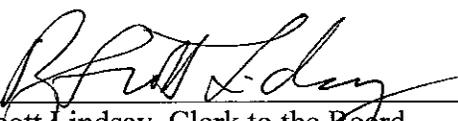
- Jim Hedrick asked where the Mike Stone property was located on Highway 294.
- Ray Frazier of the Andrews Rescue Squad asked for an update on the meetings between Valletown Fire Department and Andrews Rescue Squad. Mr. Frazier said he is concerned that Valletown VFD still has "Rescue" on the side of its vehicles, and that he "would like to proceed to get it off there". Commissioner McKinnon told Mr. Frazier that there is a follow-up meeting to be scheduled soon and that both entities are to be working out written agreements. Commissioner McKinnon said that the issue of "rescue" on the vehicles was not addressed at the initial meeting, but could be discussed at a future meeting. Commissioner Wood expressed concerns because Valletown VFD has still not provided proof of certifications to the board. The discussions will be ongoing until the issues are resolved.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 o'clock p.m.



 Cal Stiles, Chairman



 R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board