

A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
April 7, 2014

*Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman Wood: "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 7th day of April, 2014 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: David Wood, Chairman; C.B. McKinnon, member; Cal Stiles, member; and Steve Jordan, member. Lorraine M. Meltz, Vice-Chair, was absent due to hospitalization. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Assistant Clerk to the Board; Candy Roberts Anderson, County Finance Director; and, R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board.

Present from the media was Joe Martin Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by Commissioner McKinnon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

**Modification of Agenda:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to add to the agenda, a resolution for bridge naming in memory of Marvin Raper. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing for Revised Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance**

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to open the floor for the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously. Ed Wood presented the revised Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. There was no public comment. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to change Item C. Amendments on page 16 to read as follows: **The Board of Commissioners may amend this ordinance from time to time. The Board of Commissioners shall consult with the advisory board prior to presenting any amendment for public hearing.** Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

All board members were not in attendance for the first reading, so adoption of the ordinance was postponed until the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Forum:**

- Dr. Dan Eichenbaum came before the board to discuss airport funding, and share his concerns about accepting grant dollars, saying that these monies always require the county to meet certain obligations, and have “strings attached”. He shared his concern about the county’s risk for potentially having to repay 12.1 million dollars in federal money for not adhering to the grant assurances, and asked the board to protect the taxpayers from any potential risk and to consider these things going forward when accepting grant dollars. He discussed three specific safety issues: Fencing, obstruction removal and height zoning.

**Budget Revisions/Finance Items:**

- The finance director updated the board on some changes in the health department budget, stating that with the departure of the former health director, last year’s budget calculations created a shortfall in operational expenses. Ms. Roberts said that the new health director has saved about \$86,000 within the payroll budget and that they will be using those funds to cover the shortfall in operational expenses.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table the EMS request to purchase stretchers and a cardiac monitor with remaining budget funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

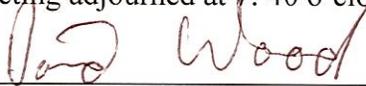
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve the Tri-County Community College Budget request in the amount of \$75,000, to cover a shortfall in their operational budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to proceed with the airport obstruction removal project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to decline the \$450,000 of earmarked funds from FAA for the Wildlife Safety Hazard Fencing project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Voting in favor to decline the \$450,000 of earmarked funds was Commissioner Jordan, Wood, and McKinnon. Voting in favor of the project was Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed. Commissioner Stiles said that his concern is that even though the project isn’t mandatory now, that it will be in the future and at that time the county may have to pay the \$450,000 with tax dollars, since the earmarked funds expire this year.
- Sara Wilson, Cherokee County Health Educator, came before the board once again to ask the board to proceed with adoption of a smoking ordinance for county-owned property, following the recent public hearing. The board could not vote on the first reading of the ordinance due to Commissioner Meltz being absent. The ordinance was postponed until the next meeting date.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Judith Davis to the Alternate position on the Cherokee County Area Agency on Aging Council for a term of three years. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Anthony El-Khoury to the Tourism Development Authority for a term of three years. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Joan Posey to the Tourism Development Authority for a term of three years. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Aurelia Stone to the Tourism Development Authority for a term of three years. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Commissioner Stiles to the Tourism Development Authority for a term of three years. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Jordan, McKinnon and Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. Motion

passed.

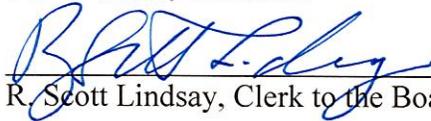
**New Business:**

- After discussion and presentation by Bill Forsyth, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a resolution requesting that NCDOT name the bridge over Nottley River on Hwy 60 after the late Marvin Raper. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Voting in favor of the resolution was Commissioners Jordan, McKinnon and Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Wood. Motion passed.
- The Smoky Mountain Center update was postponed, since Shelly Foreman was not present to give the update.
- After discussion and presentation by County Tax Collector Evelyn Postell, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adopt a Loose Coin policy for the Cherokee County tax office. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion and presentation by Chad Bonawitz, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a landscaped recreation area for Konehete Park. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion and presentation by Tax Assessor Will Roberts, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a resolution delaying the 2016 revaluation of property. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion and presentation by Social Services Director Donna Crawford, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a proclamation proclaiming May as Foster Care Awareness month. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Amanda Gambill to the veterinary position on the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to appoint Dr. Mark Gilbert to the medical doctor position on the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Board reviewed the recommended 2014 Cherokee County Child Protection Team for appointment at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve an amended airport hangar lease as requested by hangar owner Mike Lindsay. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Wood, Stiles and Jordan. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 o'clock p.m.



David Wood, Chairman



R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board