

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 4, 2016

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 4th day of April, 2016 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: C.B. McKinnon, Chairman; Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Gary Westmoreland, member; and Roy Dickey, member. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; Candy Anderson, County Finance Director; and R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Assistant Clerk to the Board.

Media present were the Cherokee Scout and Local TV4. DVD copies of commission meetings may be purchased at Local TV4.

The Chairman read the boards adopted ethics statement.

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to add an executive session at the end of the meeting agenda, to discuss a personnel matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

Agenda Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

Public Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to go into a public hearing to discuss revision of the county's current 911 addressing ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. Sam Davis, 911 addressing coordinator, presented the revisions; which stemmed from changes in the general statutes. There was no public comment or questions. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Following the public hearing, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the revised 911 addressing ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed. A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to adopt the revised ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Public Forum:

During public forum, Jamie Wilson, former NCDOT engineer, discussed driveway permitting and the Appalachian Development Highway project. Mr. Wilson shared several personal environmental-related concerns.

New Business:

- Ryan Sherby, former executive director of Region A Southwestern Commission, came before the board to provide an annual update and to introduce the new Southwestern Commission executive director, Sarah Thompson.
- Matthew Williamson, applicant for the Nantahala Regional Library Board, came before the board for introductions. .
- Brett Nourrcier and Robert Hay, applicants for the Cherokee County Board of Health, came before the board for introductions.
- Linda Hurd came before the board to present the 2016 National Day of Prayer proclamation. A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the proclamation, proclaiming May 5th, 2016 as a Day of Prayer in Cherokee County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- Rick and Gaye Carter came before the board to present the 2016 Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation. A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the proclamation, proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Cherokee County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- EMS Director, Al Lovingood, came before the board to request permission to place “In God We Trust” lettering on the county EMS fleet. A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- Emergency Management director, Robin Caldwell, came before the board to request approval of a FEMA grant for updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles authorizing the Cherokee County Tax Collector to advertise delinquent tax liens. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the request for tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the tax refund report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the 2016 Community Child Protection Team, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the AWOS agreement for

Western Carolina Regional Airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the NCDOT Litter Sweep for April 16th-April 30th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.

County Manager Items:

- The County manager gave an update on the Article 46 Sales Tax Referendum, saying that he had talked to TCCC President, Donna Tipton-Rogers, and that she is also supportive of the referendum, as presented by Superintendent Conley, for the purpose of education.
- The county manager asked the board what they would like to do with the county's five surplus ambulances. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to offer one of the ambulances to the fire departments and one to the airport, and to sell the other three. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Chairman/Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Westmoreland asked for an update on the Hanging Dog Campground.

Executive Session:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

While in executive session, the board discussed the open health department director position. The county manager informed the board that Trevor Peterson who had been recently appointed as interim director, was stepping down on April 5th, and that Commissioner McKinnon had approached him to serve as the interim director. There was also discussion of appointing a board of health member as interim director. After discussing the idea with the county attorney, it was decided that there would be greater liability with appointing someone who is not a county employee and that the county manager was the more suitable choice. Commissioner McKinnon told the board and Mr. Wiggins that the appointment would only be for a couple of weeks, and that the board of health should have a director hired by then.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Randy Wiggins as interim health director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners McKinnon, Eichenbaum, Dickey and Westmoreland. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed. Commissioner Stiles said that he did not feel like the county manager should be serving as the interim health director, while in the middle of developing the budget. Mr. Wiggins said that since no other person is available, and in order to keep the county from any potential liability that he would serve as interim at the board of commissioner's request.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 6, 2016.