

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 6, 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 6th day of September, 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, 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 Sheriff Derrick Palmer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to modify the agenda to remove items "d" (Advanced Disposal) and "e" (Owle Containers) under New Business; and replace with a Sales Tax Resolution and Proposed Legislative Goal. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

Agenda Adoption:

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

Public Forum:

During public forum, a member of the public complained about the flea markets along 64 West, saying that they were impeding traffic and dangerous.

Another member of the public questioned the county fair and asked if any county tax dollars were being spent for the fair. Commissioner Eichenbaum told her that no county tax dollars will be

spent. He told her that there has already been \$30,000 raised for the fair, and more pledged.

Finance and Budget:

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$165,000 for the Towanna Roberts settlement. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed. Commissioner Eichenbaum commented, saying it is a simple dollars and cents issue, and that a bad settlement is better than a good lawsuit.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$1500.00 annually for the AWOS ground lease at the airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for electronic medical records software and equipment for the health department. This purchase is covered 100% by State funding. There is no county match required. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for the Cherokee County Fair for an amount, up to, \$16,500. Commissioner Stiles questioned the use of tax dollars and asked that the \$30,000 previously mentioned by Commissioner Eichenbaum, be spent. Commissioner Eichenbaum said that the fair committee would reimburse the county for any expenditures that the county fronts. Doug Clement said that the fair committee does not have a credit card and that there are things that need to be purchased in advance, and this is the reason for needing to expend county dollars first. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.

Budget revisions are available for public inspection, in the office of the Finance Director.

New Business:

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the 2017 State Holiday schedule. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint James Jallah to the Social Services Board to fill the position recently vacated by Julie Higdon. Mr. Jallah's term will begin effective immediately and expire June 30, 2017. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- Jonathan Hart, president of the Valley River Humane Society, came before the board to request additional funding to carry the shelter through the end of the year. Mr. Hart has projected a \$21,000 deficit, and said that the shelter will be unable to meet its financial obligations on or about January 1, 2017. Mr. Hart shared improvements and accomplishments that have been made at the shelter through new leadership. He also shared current intake numbers and a financial report. Mr. Hart would also like to discuss a revision of the VRHS and county contract in the near future. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve additional funding of \$2,500.00 a month for six months; and then meet with VRHS in December to look at the financial situation at that time. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Westmoreland, Dickey and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion

was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed.

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a resolution that he drafted, earmarking the recently approved quarter-cent sales tax dollars for education. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed. The board understands that the resolution is an act by the current sitting board, and that any future board can use the revenues for any governmental need, as deemed necessary.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve sending the following legislative goal to the NCACC, as submitted by Commissioner McKinnon: *To allow Counties to remove those employees currently covered by the State Human Resources Act per NCGS 126-5, from that system and be solely governed by each respective county's local personnel policies, procedures, and pay plans; and, to do so without the current requirement of NCGS 126-11.* Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Tax Refund Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the following NCDOT projects and their priority ranking: 1) Widen US19/129 from US 64 to Georgia State Line; 2) Modernize Roadway from Joe Brown Highway from Connahetta Street to Beaver Dam Road; and 3) Modernize NC 294 from US64/74 at Ranger to Sandy Gap Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve an NCDOT paving project at EMS Station 3, Hiwassee Dam. The full project cost of \$25,000 will be reimbursed by NCDOT. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

County Manager Items:

The county manager said that he and Commissioner Westmoreland had attended a meeting in Macon County, to participate in discussions concerning the designated wilderness areas by USFS.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner McKinnon said that he and the county manager had attended two days of meetings, concerning discussion of Corridor K.

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 7:50 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2016.