

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 20, 2012

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairman Meltz: "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 regularly scheduled meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners was held in the Meeting Room on the first floor of the Courthouse Annex Building in Murphy, North Carolina on the 20th day of February, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair; David Wood, Vice-Chairman; and Steve Jordan, Commissioner. 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.

Present from the media was Dwight Otwell of the Cherokee Scout.

The invocation was given by Randy Wiggins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by R. Scott Lindsay.

Due to the large number in attendance, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to recess meeting, and reconvene in the 2nd floor courtroom of the Cherokee County Courthouse. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After reconvening in the courtroom, the Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

Budget Items:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision to use lottery funds for debt service on Andrews High School. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision to use lottery funds for debt service on Ranger Elementary School. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for a donation from the North Carolina Community Foundation for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision for additional money from the State for the Department of Social Services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a budget revision for a received insurance settlement to replace a wrecked ambulance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for sales tax reallocation services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision for a

received insurance settlement to repair a damaged Sheriff's vehicle. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a budget revision for the Western Carolina Parallel Taxiway. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for Western Carolina Regional Airport in the amount of \$34,394 for grant revenue to cover secondary road at airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the budget revision for engineering and archaeological survey for Western Carolina Regional Airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

After discussion a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision to use Sheriff's designated fund balance to purchase smart phones and expand evidence room space. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a Department of Homeland Security Grant to be used for National Incident Management System (NIMS) training classes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for the Sheriff's Trust Account for the inmate welfare program to purchase portable defibrillators. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to allow the finance officer to apply for refinancing the Cherokee County Detention Center debt. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to allow the finance officer to apply for refinancing the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office debt. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to allow the finance officer to apply for refinancing the Cherokee County Detention Center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to allow the finance officer to apply for a modification of the debt for the Center for Applied Technology building in Marble. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to allow the finance officer to apply for modification of the Cherokee County Courthouse debt. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

Meeting Minutes:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the January 3, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

New Business:

Joan Stilwell came before the Board to give a quarterly update on the Cherokee County Scattered Sites Housing Program. Ms. Stilwell brought the Day family and the Holloway family who thanked Board members for supporting this program. Both said that they truly needed new homes, and were very appreciative.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to approve a request by the Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), requesting that the Board of Commissioners send a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) requesting that the NCDOT allow the TDA to set up a staffed table at the Andrews Rest Area in

Andrews, and that the NCDOT provide signage for the TDA site. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Population Trends and Projections for the Cherokee County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Employment Trends and Projections for the Cherokee County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to give the Cherokee County Tax Administrator authority to advertise tax liens in the local newspaper. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.

Will Roberts, Cherokee County Tax Administrator, gave an update on the property revaluation. Mr. Roberts said that the revaluation is done, and that files have been sent to South Data for printing of property tax notices.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to place Malt Beverage and Unfortified Wine, "on premises" and "off premises" on the May Primary ballot. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

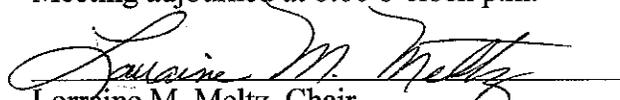
After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a resolution for placing a referendum on the May Primary ballot, to alter the structure of the Board of Commissioners. The referendum calls for five districts with no at-large seats; instead of, the current three districts with two at-large seats. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz.

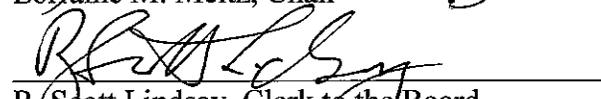
The county manager gave an update on the License Plate Agency (LPA) Bill, saying that the county does not have to take over the LPA when the new legislation becomes effective. Once effective, vehicle taxes will no longer be paid in the county tax office; but will be paid at the LPA, at the same time that registrations are renewed.

Will Roberts, Tax Administrator, Greg Martin of the North Carolina Department of Revenue, and representatives of Tax Management Associates (TMA), Inc. addressed the Board concerning the Business Personal Tax Audit being conducted by Tax Management Associates (TMA), Inc. The tax audit contract was submitted to the Board in early June 2011. The contract was approved and signed at the June 20, 2011 commissioner board meeting. Following opposition from Commissioner Jordan, the issue was brought again before the Board. There were about 200 people in attendance. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to stop the tax audit, and turn the procedure back over to the county tax department. Persons speaking in opposition to the audit were Commissioner Steve Jordan, Steven Higdon, C.B. McKinnon, Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Tom Anderson, a gentlemen from a media outlet, and Gary James. After lengthy discussion and heated debate, Commissioner Wood recanted his initial support of the audit by TMA, Inc., and seconded the Motion. Commissioner Meltz voted no.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 o'clock p.m.


Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair


R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board