

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 19, 2012

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairwoman Meltz: "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 Meeting Room on the first floor boardroom of the Courthouse Annex Building in Murphy, North Carolina on the 19th day of March, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Lorraine M. Meltz, Chairwoman; 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, 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.

The Chairman presided and the Clerk kept the Minutes.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to open the Public Hearing, pursuant to §160A-20, for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning the proposed refinancing of the Cherokee County Sheriff's office and Detention Center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Candy Roberts, county finance officer said that the proposed refinancing was for \$5,700,000 through PNC Bank, at a rate of 1.99%. There were no public comments. Commissioner Jordan thanked Ms. Roberts for all of her hard work. A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revisions/Finance Items:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the Refinancing Terms and Conditions between PNC Bank and Cherokee County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the resolution for refinancing of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for increased funding from the State to the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$22,681.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Roberts presented the Smoky Mountain Center Quarterly Report to the Board. No action was required.

Approval of Minutes:

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the following minutes: January 12, 2012; January 17, 2012; February 17, 2012; and, February 20, 2012. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Dr. Stephen Lane, Superintendent of Cherokee County Schools, came before the Board to discuss the fiscal year 2013-2014 shortfall of Small County Supplemental Funding; and the Low Wealth Supplemental Funding that was lost in fiscal year 2009-2010, due to the county tax rate adjustment. After a lengthy presentation, Dr. Lane asked the Board to consider these budgetary issues when setting the 2012-2013 property tax rates.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve a Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) for various school projects as presented by Dr. Stephen Lane. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed **unanimously**.
- Larry Gramm, Ranger PTA president came before the Board to request partial funding for an HVAC unit for the Ranger Elementary/Middle School Gymnasium. Mr. Gramm said that the PTA has held numerous fundraisers over the last few years, and has raised a little over \$20,000 of the estimated \$35,000 needed. A Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to give the Ranger PTA the remaining amount needed, not to exceed \$15,000. Mr. Gramm was told to get three bids for the HVAC project. Gary Wright said that he would write a spec sheet for the project. Dr. Lane said the school would be responsible for the upkeep, repairs, and maintenance of the HVAC system. Commissioner Jordan seconded the Motion. Motion passed **unanimously**. Several parents in attendance expressed their appreciation. Commissioner Jordan said that he would really like for Hiwassee Dam to get a new ball field.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Richard McPherson to the Cherokee County Board of Equalization and Review for a one-year term, effective March 19, 2012. Commissioner Wood seconded the Motion. Motion passed **unanimously**. Letters of interest were also received from Barbara Vicknair and Robert Stephenson.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the granting of a right-of-way to Duke Power for county property in Topton. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed **unanimously**.

County Manager Items:

During County Manager Items, Mr. Wiggins told the Board that the NCACC would like county board of commissioner to meet with their senators and representatives to discuss legislative issues that North Carolina counties are facing. Mr. Wiggins said that Senator Davis would be attending the next board meeting to discuss the issues with the Board. Representative West will be unable to attend.

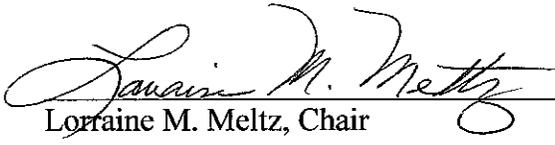
Mr. Wiggins also discussed the issue of Mr. Bob Allen, who lives in the caretaker's house at the Mountain Folk Center. Mr. Allen has lived in the house since 2005; although no formal agreement was entered. Commissioner Wood said that Mr. Allen serves as the guard for the property, and opens and closes the gate each day; so he doesn't believe that Mr. Allen should have to pay rent on the house. Mr. Wiggins said that he had talked to Mr. Allen and told him that he needed to be responsible for future electric bills and also carry liability insurance on the property in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Wiggins said that the counties insurance carrier has suggested that Mr. Allen also carry insurance, as long as he is dwelling in the house. Someone asked if Mr. Allen was a county employee, and Mr. Wiggins said that he is not. Mr. Wiggins said that the county attorney is drawing up a lease agreement for Mr. Allen. Mr. Wiggins said that Mr. Allen has paid his most recent electric bill.

Public Forum:

There were no comments from the public.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood. The Motion passed **unanimously**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair

R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board