

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 2, 2012

Preamble to Minutes read by Chairwoman 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 Regular Meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners was held in the boardroom of the Courthouse Annex in Murphy, North Carolina on the 2nd day of April, 2012 at 8:30 o'clock a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Lorraine Meltz, Chair; David Wood, Vice-Chairman; and Steve Jordan, Commissioner. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; and Candy Roberts, County Finance Officer; R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board was out of town; and Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Assistant 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.

Budget Revisions/Finance Items:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the budget revision for repairs to the counties mini excavator, in the amount of \$5,893.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the budget revision for advertising tax liens in the Cherokee Scout newspaper, in the amount of \$16,780.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for funds received from the State for the Communicable Disease Program at the Health Department, in the amount of \$2,110.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for USDA Grant award for home rehabilitation program, in the amount of \$36,000.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve a budget revision for courthouse furniture and supplies, in the amount of \$110,639.00. This will be paid for by the sales tax refund from courthouse construction. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the amended meeting minutes of April 4, 2011 to reflect the appointment of the Cherokee County Tourism and Development Authority. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to adopt the 2012 Senior Games and Silver Arts proclamation, declaring May 5th-19th, 2012 as the 5th annual

Cherokee County Senior Games and Silver Arts Program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan to adopt the 2012 National Day of Prayer proclamation, observing Thursday, May 3, 2012 as Cherokee County's 2012 National Day of Prayer. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was by Commissioner Wood to approve the disposition of records, as presented by Daphne Dockery, Cherokee County Register of Deeds, and in compliance with the record retention schedule. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the revised health department fee schedule, as presented by Health Director, Jim Higgins. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve the 2012-2013 Juvenile Crime and Prevention Council (JCPC) funding allocations, as presented by JCPC Chairman, Zachary Orton. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve the NCDOT Division of Aviation Vision 100 Block Grant resolution, to receive funds for the secondary driveway at Western Carolina Regional Airport. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ed Schwartzman, biologist with the N.C. Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) came before the Board to share information about the Cherokee County Natural Areas Inventory; a project that is currently taking place in Cherokee County. The Natural Heritage Program is a division within the North Carolina Department of Environmental and natural Resources. Mr. Schwartzman said that the mission is to document the most significant natural areas in the county, including areas that support rare plant or animal populations, and high quality communities. Mr. Schwartzman said that the NCNHP is conducting surveys on both public and private land in Cherokee County, and is contacting select landowners to request permission to survey their property. He said that the NCNHP is conducting the surveys, in partnership with the Hiwassee Valley Land Trust. Mr. Schwartzman said he wanted to inform the Board of their activities, and request assistance in identifying significant natural areas in Cherokee County.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Meltz to approve receipt of the Community Services Block Grant application for Four Square Community Action. This was to be presented to the County Board of Commissioners for informational purposes only, and requires no expenditure of county funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.
- Eddie Adams and Jerry Pullium were on the agenda to discuss a project for the entrance of the Valley River Heritage Park in Andrews, but did not show. Mr. Wiggins presented a map of the park, and said that Mr. Pullium also wanted to address run off issues. Commissioner Wood requested that the Board table any further discussion, until Mr. Pullium and Mr. Adams could be present.
- Commissioner Jordan stated that he wanted to give money to the Town of Andrews to help with the pool. The county manager and finance officer told Commissioner Jordan that there was money budgeted for the Andrews pool in the current fiscal year, but the funds have not yet been requested by the Town of Andrews.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to table the Board Policy and Procedures for the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, until the Board gets two more commissioners in December. Motion seconded by Commissioner Meltz. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items:

The county manager shared the FY 2012-2013 departmental budget meeting calendar with the Board. The dates for the meetings are April 16th-20th and April 26th. Commissioner Jordan asked about the revaluation. The county manager explained the neutral rate, and also discussed the appeals process.

Chairman's Items:

During Chair items, Commissioner Meltz introduced Jenny Irwin, with the Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Schools. Commissioner Meltz had asked Ms. Irwin to help the county implement some tobacco-free zones around county buildings and parks. Ms. Irwin said that the coalition would help pay for signage. Also, an ordinance would have to be adopted, following a public hearing on the subject. Discussion will continue as we move forward.

Public Forum:

During public forum, a member of the public questioned the advertisement fees charged by the Cherokee Scout newspaper. The county manager said that we are required by statute to publish the delinquent tax list in a generally circulated paper within the tax jurisdiction. Mr. Wiggins said that we normally advertise in the Cherokee Sentinel, due to the cost, but they are no longer in business.

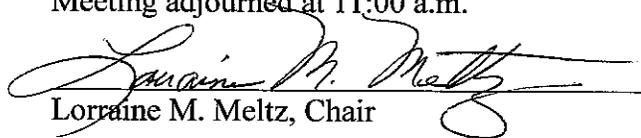
Commissioner Jordan told the other Board members that he would like to buy the remaining rock at the Mountain Folk Center. He said that some pallets were smaller than others and suggested that the cost of the pallets be reduced to \$25 for small pallets, and \$50 for large pallets. The rock was originally advertised on March 23, 2011 for sealed bids for all of the rock; however, no bids were received. The rock was then open for individual sale of \$75 a pallet. Commissioner Jordan said that since it had not all been bought, that he would like to buy it. The county manager said that he would talk to the purchasing officer to see if she still had anyone wanting to buy rock, and that he would have her verify how many pallets are left.

Senator Jim Davis arrived at 9:50 a.m. Senator Davis was invited to discuss the NCACC key legislative issues for the 2012 short session. The three main topics discussed, were the State budget—Increase County Lottery Funds and Restore Mental Health Funding; Allow Human Services Administrative Flexibility; and Authorize County Broadband Public/Private Partnerships. The county manager asked Senator Davis if he felt like the State would try, once again, to pass down to counties, the cost of yellow school bus program and the secondary road program. Senator Davis said that he doesn't see that happening anytime soon. Also discussed by Senator Davis was the extension of unemployment benefits, the need for serious cost-cuts in the Medicaid program, the State Employees Health Plan, retiree healthcare, out of control spending and debt; infrastructure needs, yellow school bus program, and secondary road program. Senator Davis said that the State should not be passing its burden on the backs of North Carolina counties. He said that promises have been made in past administrations that could not be kept. He said that it doesn't help to place blame; it just needs to be fixed. Senator Davis said that we owe it to our kids and grandkids to fix the economic mess that we are in. He said that it is going to take time to fix it, but he is encouraged that we can do it. He said that we need to lower corporate income tax, and get regulatory reform under control.

Commissioner Wood encouraged Senator Davis to support the Clean Water Trust Fund. Senator Davis thanked the Board and county administration for the invitation to come and discuss these very important issues. The county staff also expressed their appreciation to Senator Davis for coming.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.


Lorraine M. Meltz, Chair

R. Scott Lindsay, Clerk to the Board