

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
February 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, Randy Phillips, and Cal Stiles.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order and Ethics Statement

Members were advised of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act.

Invocation

Invocation given by Randy Wiggins.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to remove item “c”, “Hiwassee Dam VFD and HD Rec League Request”, under new business; and to add the following two items: Hanging Dog Campground resolution and Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum No comments

Budget and Finance

a) Budget Revision for psychological evaluation contract – an unfunded mandate
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Budget Revision to replace flagpole at DSS
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Budget Revision for Cherokee County School's use of sales tax
Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Budget Revision for county contribution of \$10,000 to county fair

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve \$10,000 contribution. After discussion, Commissioner Eichenbaum withdrew his Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a county contribution of \$5,000 at this time and to revisit at a later date, if additional dollars are needed. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a) Appoint Code Enforcement Director as Watershed Administrator

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Jon Crist, Code Enforcement Director, as Cherokee County Watershed Administrator. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Discussion of Watershed Review Board

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to re-activate the Cherokee County Watershed Review Board, with the following membership structure: Mayor of Murphy, Mayor of Andrews, GIS employee, a Real Estate agent and a County Commissioner. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Hiwassee Dam VFD and HD Rec League Request – Removed during agenda modification.

d) Amended Cellco Land Lease for Cherokee County Fairgrounds Site

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve an amendment to the Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless land lease, and granting signing authority to the Chairman of the Board. Motion passed unanimously. The most notable changes included: an increase in the monthly rental amount, now \$1,100; a one-time \$20,000 bonus to be paid within thirty (30) days of lease execution; a 15% rent escalation every five (5) years; a 25% revenue share; and, three (3) additional five-year terms, with lease now expiring 2047.

e) Tax Releases Report and Tax Refund Report

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve all tax items. Motion passed unanimously.

f) HOME Consortium Agreement and Resolution

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a multi-governmental agreement to access federal block grant funds for implementation of local housing strategies designed to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities for low income individuals; and to approve the corresponding resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Resolution Requesting the Reopening of Hanging Dog Campground

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair/Commissioner Items

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to give the

sheriff's office \$500 for their drone course. Chief Deputy Joe Wood spoke of the benefits of having a drone for law enforcement use. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to go into closed session to consult with the county attorney on a privileged matter and a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board received legal counsel from the county attorney, and received an update on the H.R. Director position and applicants.

Open Session

After returning to open session, the Board discussed the need for a new K-9 for the sheriff's department. Chief Deputy Joe Wood said that the funds, previously appropriated for K-9 insurance would be moved to special funds to cover the purchase the new k-9. Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for the purchase of a new K-9. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.