

**Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2023**

**Board members present:** Cal Stiles, Chairman; Jan Griggs, Vice-Chair; Randy Phillips, member; Ben Adams, member; and, Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member.

**Others present:** Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

**Time:** 6:30 P.M.

**Location:** Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

**Call to Order**

**Invocation**

Invocation given by Randy Wiggins.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Reading of Ethics Statement by Clerk to the Board**

**Modification of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve adding a budget revision at the end of new business to pay for closing costs related to property purchase. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Adoption**

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Forum**

The following person spoke in public forum: John Leder (new airport fence and locks and crypto-mine issue).

**Park Masterplan Presentation**

Mike Norris and Kurtis Durrant of McGill and Associates came before the board to give a presentation and provide an overview of the proposed park at Hiwassee Dam. Following the presentation, and after a lengthy discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$5,900 for the masterplan, and to authorize McGill to work with the county's grant specialist to apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Modivcare Transportation Provider Agreement –Transit Non-Emergency Medical Transportation for Medicaid Recipients**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Robin Caldwell – EMS Recognition for Pediatric Care**

Robin Caldwell, Emergency Services Director, came before the board to share an EMS story from 2021, where a three-year old had fallen and sustained a brain injury. Robin said the EMS crew on duty utilized the Handtevy system, a system that is specific to pediatric care. She said the child had a long recovery, but thanks to the life-saving efforts and expertise of EMS crew, Captain Brian King, Danny Clayton and Anthony Mariano, the child is doing well today and is in attendance with his family. Robin said Handtevy recently recognized Captain King, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Mariano by giving them challenge coins in honor of that call. She said the mother gave an impact statement last week and the child personally gave each crew member their challenge coin. Robin thanked the county manager and the Board of Commissioners for their support and for providing them with the training and life-saving equipment needed to do their jobs. Robin said it is her privilege to recognize Captain Brian King, Danny Clayton and Anthony Mariano for a job well done.

### **Tax Releases and Tax Refunds**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the tax releases and tax refund report. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Disposition of Tax Foreclosures**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to advertise the properties for bids on GovDeals for 60days, with minimum bids starting at the amount of the county's total investment to date, and for subsequent bids to be made in \$500 increments. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Board of Health Appointment**

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to reappoint Dr. Grady Hester to the Board of Health in the Veterinarian position. Motion passed unanimously.

### **DSS Appointments**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to appoint Patricia (Pat) Ivie and Dixie Carter to the Social Services Board. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Letter to NCDHHS Opposing the Proposed Statewide Medicaid Child and Families Specialty Plan**

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the letter. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Rural Transformation Grant Property- Associated Closing Costs**

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$5,669 for closing costs for the recently approved economic development site in Marble. Motion passed unanimously.

### **County Manager Items**

The county manager said the Town of Murphy would like a couple of commissioners to serve on committee with a couple of town council members to work with the Town's contracted design team to develop the outdoor performance stage at Konahete Park. Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to appoint Commissioners Griggs and Commissioner Adams as the representative board members. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to add the Hiwassee Dam Park Phase 1 Project to our legislative wish list. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to rename Marks Drive, Justin Hamby Drive. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to move the Hiwassee Dam Park Phase 1 Project as item 4 on the previously approved legislative wish list, ahead of public health facilities. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Chairman/Commissioner Items**

- Chairman Stiles shared his concern over a press release from NCDOT and the short public notice, concerning an informational session about roundabouts. He read the NCDOT release which stated that the informational session would be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, March 23rd at Murphy First Baptist Church. Board members, once again, shared their opposition to the NCDOT roundabouts planned for Murphy.

### **Recess**

At 7:30 p.m., a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to briefly recess the Board of Commissioner meeting, so the Board could step into their role as the Social Service Board. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Reconvene**

At 7:45 p.m., a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to reconvene the Board of Commissioners meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Closed Session**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (3), to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; (4), to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body; and (6), to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

While in closed session, the Board discussed the following:

- Attorney-client privileged matters
- Spoke with Paul Worley, Economic Development Director, concerning potential opportunities for industries.
- Personnel matter involving the tax assessor's office.

**Open Session**

After returning to open session, no action was taken on matters discussed in closed session.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES APPROVED APRIL 17, 2023**