

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 3, 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 Commissioner Adams.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Ethics Statement by Clerk to the Board

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add the advertisement of tax liens to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

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

Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the following meeting minutes: January 3, 2023; January 23, 2023; and February 6, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

The following person spoke in public forum: John Leder (airport); Frank Hartle (Green box sites); Becky Wright (TVA); Craig Miller (Green box sites); John Mason (Green box sites); Helen Harris (Green box sites); Robert Willis (Solid Waste); Jack Albert (Trash pickup); and Ron Wright (various county issues).

Budget and Finance

a) Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for use of register of deeds revenue in the amount of \$20,626 to

contract for scanning services for old deed books and right of way maps. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision for use of insurance proceeds in the amount of \$4,000 to repair damage to the sheriff's office building that was hit by a car. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for use of fund balance in the amount of \$33,846 to cover an increase in Kania Law Firm legal fees for additional property liens and foreclosures. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of Article 40/42 sales tax in the amount of \$9,245 to replace an HVAC system at the Hiwassee Dam health center. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of Article 40/42 sales tax in the amount of \$116,471 for the rental of a chiller from Carrier at Hiwassee Dam. Motion passed unanimously. These monies will be reimbursed to Cherokee County Schools and will then be reimbursed to the county's Article 40/42 fund.

f) Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$2,300 for the rock gym security project. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the health department fee schedule for Pevnar. Motion passed unanimously.

Tourism Development Authority Appointments

Letters of interest for re-appointment were received from Joan Posey, Sandra Daley, Steve Dickey and Mike Sheidy. New applications were received from Sherry McGregor and Laura LaChance. Ms. McGregor and Ms. Lachance appeared before the Board for brief introductions.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to reappoint Joan Posey, Steve Dickey, Sandra Daley and Mike Sheidy to the Authority. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to appoint Sherry McGregor to the Authority, as the new board member. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Griggs, Adams, Phillips and Stiles. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed 4-1.

Arts are Education Proclamation (submitted by Wendy Alexander of Cherokee County Schools)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the Arts are Education proclamation recognizing March 27th as World Theatre Day. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Releases, Tax Refunds, and NCVTS Report

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the tax releases, tax refunds and NCVTS report, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

N.C. Wildlife Beaver Management Assistance Program

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the N.C. Wildlife Beaver Management Assistance Program. Motion passed unanimously. The cost to participate is \$6,000, which will be covered by a Cherokee County Soil and Water funder.

Finalize Phase 1 of the Proposed Hiwassee Dam Park Project

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to table until tomorrow's budget meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Order Tax Collector to Advertise Tax Liens

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to order Tax Collector to advertise delinquent tax liens. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items

The county manager gave an update on the Blue Ridge Mountain fiber line project on Joe Brown Highway and in the Hanging Dog area, saying as of March 29th, it is almost 100% complete.

Chairman Stiles said that the Cable Company is currently installing the infrastructure for highspeed internet around the perimeter of Andrews.

Chairman/Commissioner Items - None

Closed Session

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

While in closed session, the Board discussed a 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 Phillips to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED APRIL 17, 2023