

**Cherokee County Board of Commissioners**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**May 21, 2024**

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

**Others present:** Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to Board; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

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

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

**Call to Order by Chairman Phillips**

**Invocation**

**Pledge**

**Ethics Statement** “Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act and should 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 as may be allowed by law”.

**The following departments/organizations presented their budget requests:**

- **Public Health**  
**Items discussed:**
  - Challenges with recruitment and retention of qualified personnel
  - Difficulty hiring RN’s and Processing Assistants (no applicants)
  - Frustration with County’s current pay scale
  - 4-day work week would make positions more desirable
  - Need for a new facility
  
- **Town of Andrews – Presented by Ethan McCubbin, Finance Officer**  
**Items discussed:**
  - Previously approved three-year interlocal agreement expires 6/30/2024
  - Request annual appropriation of \$125,000 for recreation operational expenses and \$50,000 for recreation capital expenses over next three budget years (\$175,000 annual request)
  - Currently 3 employees in recreation department
  - States Town’s current fund balance is \$2,000,000
  - If the Board of Commissioners approve any annual appropriation during the FY25 budget, the Town will be required to submit a quarterly report of the expenditures of the budgeted county

funds

- **Nantahala Regional Library – Presented by Franklin Shook, Director**

**Items discussed:**

- Requesting \$230,560.52 (This is a \$37,915.52 increase over the FY24 approved budget)
- Salaries expenses totaling \$145,510.52 and other expenses totaling \$85,050
- Commissioner Eichenbaum suggested the library increase its user fees to generate the additional revenue

**Closed Session**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to enter into closed session pursuant to §143-318.11 (3) to consult with the county attorney in order to preserve the attorney client privilege. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board discussed property owned by the county, located at 911 Andrews Road and consulted with the county attorney about designating the property for public safety functions and the process for doing so. Since Cherokee County Schools currently occupies the county's property for use as its Central Office, the Board discussed offering the county's interest in real property at 118 James A. Mulkey Drive to the Board of Education in fee simple absolute, as an option for relocating Cherokee County Schools Central Office. The Board instructed the county attorney to draft a letter to Cherokee County Schools Superintendent and Chair of the Cherokee County Board of Education for surrender of the county's property at 911 Andrews Road. The Board will review the draft at its meeting on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in a closed session to be held at the beginning of the meeting.

**Open Session**

After returning to open session, no other business was discussed.

**Adjournment**

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

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JULY 15, 2024.**