

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2020  
6:30 P.M.  
Cherokee County Courthouse

Members present: Roy Dickey, Chairman; C.B. McKinnon, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member; and Gary Westmoreland, member.

Staff present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Officer; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Also present: WKRR Radio and Cherokee Scout.

The Chairman called the meeting to order, and reminded the Board of their duties under the Local Government Ethics Act.

**Invocation**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Modification of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to add a budget revision for Cherokee County School's use of sales tax. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Adoption**

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda as modified. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Forum**

Ray Frazier of Andrews Rescue Squad came before the board to express his displeasure with the board of commissioners for cancelling the rescue squad contract.

The clerk read comments submitted by Mr. Tom Bennett. Those comments are incorporated as a part of these minutes as Attachment A.

An e-mail was submitted from Mr. James McClean and is incorporated as a part of these minutes as Attachment B.

**Finance and Budget**

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools use of sales tax for various school projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a resolution requesting the N.C. Department of Transportation name bridge #69 in Marble, N.C. "In honor and memory of Judy West Brooks and Charles Wade Brooks". Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Shayn Loy, member of Andrews Rescue Squad, came before the board to ask the board not to cancel the rescue squad contract and to continue funding the rescue squad.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve joining the Southwestern N.C. Home Consortium. The Motion failed, due to lack of a second.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to transfer in fee simple, a small tract of property at the armory to Murphy Fire Department for substation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Westmoreland, and Dickey. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners McKinnon and Eichenbaum. Motion passed 3-2.

Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to delay the EMS Station 1 project and reject all EMS Station 1 bids; and additionally, delay armory renovations and all other major projects in an effort to save tax dollars, until such time as the full economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is known. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Commissioner Eichenbaum said that he was not willing to put the projects off. Commissioner McKinnon said he thinks that the county can still do the projects, and is confident that the board can do the projects without a tax increase. After further discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the tax refund report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the NCVTS report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a resolution on the revision of the Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Commissioner Items**

Commissioner Eichenbaum shared his viewpoints on the COVID-19 pandemic and also read a letter from the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons sharing those same viewpoints.

Commissioner Westmoreland said he would like the board to give him the opportunity to explore options to remove some of the sheet metal in the clock tower, so the bell could be heard better throughout the town. The board agreed and asked him to come back with solutions.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

## ATTACHMENT A

To county managers Randy Wiggins and Maria Hass, and Chairman Dickey of the board:

I courteously and respectfully ask to make with this email the following four comments for the June 1, 2020 board of commissioners' public forum:

1. Candidates' weapons and ammunition during campaign forums -  
Candidates are appearing armed in TV commercials. Hold safely at the lobby their weapons and ammo if candidate forums occur at the courthouse;
2. Resolution opposing expansion of wilderness lands --  
Members of the U.S. Congress sponsor such expansion and this U.S. Congress district has no member until Jan. 3, 2021 so you could forgo that to get made the FY budget;
3. Wrong Bill of Rights --  
This is the 55<sup>th</sup> month with the wrong Bill of Rights located by old Parker Drugs, now a party headquarters. That never-adopted Colonial-era bill has as its second amendment no mention of the right to keep and bear arms.  
*Nov. 5, 2014 Cherokee Scout*
4. Abandoned vehicles in Cherokee County yards draining engine gunk into the Mississippi River watershed –  
Please be the last commission with no ordinance stopping this pollution.

Thank you. Tom Bennett, 30-year property taxpayer

**From:** James Mclean <jmclean49@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:09 PM  
**To:** Maria Hass  
**Subject:** Taxes and schools

Really the board thinks they can close our schools and raise our taxes again , No don't close our schools or raise our taxes this is insane !!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)