

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Budget Worksession  
June 19, 2019  
5:00 P.M.  
Cherokee County Courthouse

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

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

The Chairman reminded the Board of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act.

Invocation given by Commissioner Dickey.

Pledge of Allegiance in unity.

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

The county manager handed out budget worksheets with items added following the commissioners last budget worksession.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve \$1,000 contribution to the NC National Guard Museum Foundation for a World War 1 Veterans Monument. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. The Foundation is seeking \$1000 from each NC County. Cherokee County commits to, and will remit, the approved contribution if the foundation is able to meet its goal.

The Board discussed the Town of Andrews request for sharing the cost of converting one of their tennis courts to two pickleball courts, and also replacing the roof over the concessions and restrooms at their pool house. All Board members were in agreement to include \$12,139 in the FY20 budget to cover half the cost of the proposed projects.

The next items of discussion was use of rescue funds to purchase extrication suits at a cost of \$6,885; a tele-lite lamp with generator at a cost of \$1,559; and a Streamlight Fire Vulcan at a cost of \$119. All board members agreed that rescue funds should be designated for these items in the FY20 budget.

The Board agreed to postpone the purchase of a Kubota SSV75P Skid Steer for the landfill, and instead purchase a McNeilus Front Loader at a cost of \$260,000. Since \$39,100 had already been budgeted for the Kubota Skid Steer and can be used toward the purchase of the Front Loader, the FY20 budgeted amount for the purchase of the Front Loader would be \$221,000.

The next item up for discussion was the request for a full body scanner at a cost of \$156,000 for the Detention Center. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table the item. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

All Board members agreed that the Detention Center request for a padded observation room at a cost of \$27,250, and an increase in supplies for fish food at the Sheriff's pond at a cost of \$500 would not be added to the FY20 budget.

All Board members agreed to increase the Sheriff's office uniform and equipment budget back to the approved FY19 amount at a cost of \$4164; and to budget for 16 body cameras for patrol deputies at a cost of \$17,333.

All Board members were in agreement that \$7,325 should be included in the FY20 budget to train and equip sheriff's department personnel, so they can better address animal control issues as required by State law.

All Board members were in agreement to include adding \$300 to the DSS budget for annual dues to the North Carolina County Board of Social Services.

Cherokee County Schools had requested an additional \$1,374,663 in employee salaries and benefits. Commissioner Westmoreland supported the request, while all other board members agreed that it should not be included in the FY20 budget.

Commissioner Westmoreland had requested that a rebuild of the tennis and pickleball courts at Konehete Park be included in the budget at a cost estimate of \$115,900. Commissioner Dickey and Commissioner Stiles agreed that it should be added to the budget. Commissioner Eichenbaum and Commissioner McKinnon did not support the rebuild project as proposed.

Commissioner McKinnon had requested that the EMS Quick Response Vehicle be removed from the County Manager's recommended budget. All board members agreed that it should be removed, until such time that it can be shown that there is truly a need for the truck.

Commissioner Stiles asked the Board to support his request for funding the Cherokee County Arts Council at a cost of \$6,500. Commissioner Westmoreland supported the request. Commissioner Dickey, Commissioner McKinnon, and Commissioner Eichenbaum did not support the request.

After discussion, Commissioner Stiles, Commissioner Dickey, and Commissioner Eichenbaum supported Ranger Volunteer Fire Department's request for a tax increase of 1.5 cents. Commissioner McKinnon and Commissioner Westmoreland did not support the increase.

All of the items discussed will be added to the FY20 budget and go before the Board for official vote and adoption of the FY20 budget ordinance at their meeting on June 24th.

After all budget discussion was complete, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON AUGUST 5, 2019.