Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2026

Board members present: Alan Bryant, Chairman; Ben Adams, Vice-Chairman; Mark Stiles, member; Dr. Jeana Conley, member; and Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford, member.

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

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Note: Meetings are live streamed by Local TV4 and posted on the Local TV 4 Facebook page. A DVD is also available for check-out in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, until such time meeting minutes are drafted and posted.

Call to Order by Chairman

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement read by Clerk to the Board "Members of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners are reminded and advised of their duties under state law and the Cherokee County Code of Ethics Resolution, as such may pertain of their personal actions and actions of the board".

Modification of Agenda

- Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to add a resolution authorizing the spending of opioid settlement funds. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to add a closed session to consult with the county attorney regarding liability and risk concerns of several agenda items. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to add a legal representation agreement with Teague Cambell for FY27. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to add a resolution to fly flags at half-staff in honor and memory of late Detention Officer Francisco Flattes. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and second by Commissioner Ledford to go into closed session, pursuant to §143-318.11 (3) **t**o consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the attorney advised the board on contracts and resolutions that were on the agenda.

Open Session

No action was taken after returning to open session.

Public Comment Period

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to approve the year-end Budget Revision, as presented by the CFO. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adopt the FY27 Budget Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to approve an amended Grant Project Ordinance for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program at Detention Center. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve a legal representation agreement between Cherokee County and Teague, Campbell, Dennis & Gorham, LLP for FY 27. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Conley to appoint the following persons to the Bear Paw Service District Board of Directors: Andrea Folkertsma, Mike Stubblefield, Juliet Reising, Stacey Galloway, David Black, Henry Green, and John Stockard. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Abby Kilpatrick to the Cherokee County Board of Health to serve in the Registered Nurse position. Motion passed unanimously.

Greg Huskins came before the board to give an update on the Mountain Youth Livestock Market. Mr. Huskins shared of the program success and youth involvement.

Dr. Corey Richardson of Integrated Care of Greater Hickory (ICGH) and Judge Donna Forga came before the board to discuss a grant opportunity to fund an adult drug court. There was no request for county funding, only support of applying for the Dogwood Foundation Grant and program concept. Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to support the application. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Corey Richardson gave an update on ICGH services provided in Cherokee County during Phase 1 of a 3-year plan, using opioid settlement funding. Dr. Richardson also discussed Phase 2.

After discussion, and reporting from Dr. Richardson, a Motion was made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Phase 2 and year 2 opioid settlement funding in the amount of $656,396.00. Motion passed unanimously.

David Ott, Parks and Recreation Director, came before the board to present a proposal to update playground equipment. The project cost is $45,514.53. If approved, Cherokee County Community Connections would provide a $25,000 grant, leaving a balance of $20,514.53 to be covered by Cherokee County. After discussion, the board instructed the grant specialist to search for grant funding and come back to the board.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to approve a transportation contract with DSS for client transportation services. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Ledford to approve a transportation contract with IOI for client transportation services. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve a transportation contract with Murphy Rehabilitation for patient transportation services. Motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken concerning the request from OpCo LLC d/b/a Valley View Care and Rehabilitation Center for contracted transportation services.

Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a 30-day contract between Cherokee County and Peachtree VFD for fire protection services for the Brasstown Fire District. This will allow the county attorneys time to review the proposed contract. Services will begin at midnight on June 30th. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the proposed contract from Valley River Humane Society. The contract cost is $250,000, to be disbursed monthly at $20,833.33. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Ledford, Stiles, Conley and Bryant. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Adams. Motion passed 4-1.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to table a late Property Tax Exemption Application from Wilderness Lake Rd. Association, Inc., pending further legal review. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Conley to approve a Penny Shortage Policy for the Tax Collection office. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to accept the high bid of $7,500 from Robert Stanzoni for real property known as Highlander Ridge Trail, Lot 36. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ledford and seconded by Commissioner Conley to accept revised bids for surplus transit vans. Motion passed unanimously.
Note: The revised bid is due to two vans not having wheelchair lifts, as advertised. The revised bid is $3,000 less than original bid. Since these vans were purchased with grant funds, we must remit 80% of the sale price to NCDOT. The county's net from the sale of the 3 vans will be $30,000.

No action was taken on the proposed resolution "Resolution Expressing the Will of the People to Protect Public Lands". Following legal review, the resolution will be presented at the next meeting.

Proposed Departmental Productivity & Performance Management Policy – The board asked the county manager to work with individual to develop criteria and key performance measures and metrics for outcomes.

Commissioner Ledford said she would like the board to schedule future meetings with town officials of Murphy and Andrews. The board instructed the Clerk to poll the board for available dates and to then coordinate with each town.

The board discussed researching options for a new county seal and instructed the Clerk to post on the county's website for draft submissions and commentary.

Sheriff Chris Wood came before the board to read a resolution for lowering flags at all county facilities beginning at sunrise and until sundown on June 30, 2026, in honor and memory of the late Francisco Flattes, who died in the line of duty one year ago. After the reading and comments by Sheriff Wood, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the resolution as read. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items

- The county manager updated the board on the High Impact Ordinance draft and said it is turned over to the planning board, and a planning board meeting can now be scheduled. The board determined the planning board would meet on July 14th at 5:30 PM**.**

Chairman/Commissioner Items

- Chairman Bryant announced that he was stepping down as Chairman and made a Motion to appoint Commissioner Adams as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Conley seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Conley and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to nominate Commissioner Ledford as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2026.