

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
March 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, and Cal Stiles. Commissioner Phillips participated remotely via Zoom.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order and Ethics Statement

Members were advised of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act.

Invocation

Invocation given by Joe Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Chairman Eichenbaum said the county would be seeking an independent sound study, as it relates to the Harshaw crypto mine noise. He said if anyone wants their location included in the sound study to send him their contact information.

During public forum, comments were made concerning the following: EMS Station 1 bid, request for re-bid; Crypto mining noise and environmental concerns related to crypto mines; and requests to revise the county's current noise ordinance to regulate crypto mining in Cherokee County.

Budget and Finance

a) Project Budget Ordinance for EMS Station 1

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the project ordinance for the previously approved EMS Station 1 project. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Eichenbaum, Westmoreland and Phillips. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Griggs and Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

b) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Ordinance for Payroll
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

c) Health Department Fee Schedule for Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Janssen, Novavax, and Moderna Vaccines – Approved by Board of Health on 3/14
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

d) PUV Extension – Jeremiah Smith late application for continued use
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

e.) Joe Wood - Patrol Vehicles – Modified request to purchase two (2) Ford Interceptor SUV's, instead of three (3) Dodge Chargers, due to current production halt
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a) Leon Forrister – Property Swap at Mountain Folk Center site – Forrister transfer to Cherokee County 0.01 acres and Cherokee County transfer to Forrister 0.02 acres
Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the land swap. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Board of Equalization and Review-Reappointment of Christie Standish
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the re-appointment of Christie Standish. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Tax Releases and Tax Refund Report
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve tax releases and tax refunds, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair/Commissioner Items

Commissioner Stiles said he would like to revisit a previous vote concerning the \$600,000 the county paid for dirt to be hauled in for the new EMS Station 1 project, and asked how many cubic yards were in that cost. Charles West was in attendance and answered, saying he did not know and that Commissioner Stiles would have to ask Chuck West.

Commissioner Griggs inquired of the cost to retain an environmental attorney. The cost is unknown at this time. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to authorize the county attorney to consult with an environmental attorney, as it relates to regulating crypto mines and enforceable noise ordinances.

Commissioner Griggs said she would like to establish a planning committee. The Board agreed to add the item to the next agenda for discussion and consideration.

Commissioner Phillips thanked everyone for their prayers and shared his health issues.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to go into closed session to consult with the county attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and to discuss matters relating to the expansion of businesses. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board received an update from the county attorney concerning the remaining DSS cases and lawsuit. The Board also heard from broadband providers and their proposed expansion of broadband.

Open Session

No action was taken on matters discussed in closed session.

Adjourn

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