

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 6, 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.

Meetings are recorded by Local TV 4 and WKRC Radio Facebook Live.

Call to Order

Ethics Statement

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to table item "e" (Armory Renovations Cost) under New Business, until the May 4th meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Forum

There were no public comments during public forum.

Finance and Budget

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision to install Lexan glass barriers with hole cut-outs at the counters in the tax office and the clerk of court's offices. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, McKinnon and Eichenbaum. Motion failed. The majority would like additional cost estimates to add microphones and speaker-type systems to the glass partitions to make communicating easier without having to put mouth and ears so close to the holes.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table the airport lighting rehabilitation project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for the upcoming June 23rd runoff election expense. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

After discussion and the reading of a statement from the Lunsford family, the County Manager read a resolution requesting NCDOT name bridge # 5 on NC HWY 141 in Marble, NC after the Reverend Fred B. Lunsford. Board members expressed their fondness and respect for Rev. Lunsford for his many years of service and contributions to Cherokee County, and the Tri-State Area. A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Chad McNabb, Chief of Hiwassee Dam VFD, came before the board to present a facility plan update for the fire department. After presentation and discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the use of property at the Hiwassee Dam School campus for construction of a new fire station, contingent upon school board approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed 4-1.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint Ralph Crisp to the Board of Equalization and Review as an alternate member. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint David O'Blenes to the Board of Equalization and Review as an alternate member. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint the following persons to the Tourism Development Authority for three-year terms: Joan Posey, Mike Sheidy, Sandra Daley, and Steve Dickey. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed 4-1.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to table the armory renovations discussion until the May 4th meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a tax policy resolution authorizing the county finance officer, county manager or county attorney to approve tax releases and refunds less than \$100. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the placement of Port-a-Johns at Konahete Park, during the Covid-19 pandemic, while facility restrooms are closed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed 4-1.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to revise the Solid Waste minimum business tipping fee for Styrofoam and other packing foams to \$2.85/CY, and charging the existing \$14.25 for the first 500 lbs. of commercial (business) waste, or \$57/ton, whichever is greater. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items

The county manager asked the board what amount of funding that they would like to set aside to address Covid-19 needs. Commissioner Westmoreland made a Motion to allot \$100,000 for county departmental Covid-19 needs. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. Covid-19 expenditures may qualify for CARES Act funding reimbursement.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a COVID-19 Personnel Policy, allowing two weeks of Covid-19 related emergency sick for all employees. Additionally, the Motion authorizes department heads to exercise discretion, based on their continuity of service needs, etc., for exempt employees requesting emergency FMLA. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Dickey thanked the board members for their support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Stiles suggested the Board hold one meeting a month, instead of two. No action was taken.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.