

**Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Worksession Minutes
May 23, 2023**

Board members present: Cal Stiles, Chairman; Jan Griggs, Vice-Chair; Randy Phillips, member; and Ben Adams, member. Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member, arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney. Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board was absent.

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Ethics Statement

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to add the naming of Unaka convenience site. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add a brief closed session. Motion passed 4-0.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Harold Ashe – Request for Refund of \$100 Banks Fees Due to Bank Garnishment for Delinquent Taxes

After hearing from Mr. Ashe, and understanding that the county cannot refund a fee from a third party, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to authorize sending a letter to the bank on behalf of Mr. Ashe asking the bank to refund the \$100 fee he incurred from the garnishment. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the tax refund for Mr. Ashe. Motion passed 4-0.

Budget Revision for Cherokee County Schools Request for Use of Article 40/42 Sales Tax for Various School Projects

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve.
Motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Eichenbaum arrived to the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Budget Revision for Cherokee County Schools Request for Use of Article 46 Sales Tax to Hire Athletic Trainers

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

Update to Code Enforcement Fees

Jon Crist, Code Enforcement Director, came before the board to request and update to the code enforcement fee schedule. Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the updated fee schedule and to make it effective June 7, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to set the date of June 6th to update the system with the new building code fees, and for the new fees to be effective June 7th. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Crist will develop a policy relating to fee waivers for the county, towns, churches and VFD's, and bring it back before the Board for consideration.

Southern Health Partners Contract for FY 24 (Detention Center)

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

Pre-order Med-Unit Remounts

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve.
Motion passed unanimously.

Naming of Unaka Convenience Site

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to name the new Unaka convenience site, Joe Brown Highway Convenience Site. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to Waive Permit Fees for Bellview VFD

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the waiver. Motion passed unanimously.

ANKR Mining Comment

Commissioner Adams shared information from ANKR Mining, saying that the company would be shutting down its big fans on Monday and adding smaller fans to the back unit. He said the company said the front units should not be operational anymore.

Budget Discussion

Commissioner Stiles said the county manager and finance officer has done an excellent job in developing the recommended budget and suggested not adding any additional costs to the budget. He suggested approving the recommended budget, as presented.

Discussion included:

- Sheriff's request for increase in professional services budget
- Cost of Living Allowance
- Personnel pay grade changes
- Software support funding
- Washing machine for detention center
- Teacher supplements
- Ferebee Park project funding request was not included in the recommended budget
- Heritage Park trail paving project was not included in the recommended budget
- Health Department floor repairs
- Library funding request
- Move the Forest Service office to the Sheriff's Firing Range Facility to free up the property at TCCC for a new performing arts center

Additional Business

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to accept the county managers recommended budget, as presented and to cancel the May 30th budget worksession. Motion passed unanimously. The Board will adopt the annual budget ordinance at their June 26th meeting.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11(a) (6). Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board discussed hiring Darryl Brown as the full-time county attorney.

Open Session

After returning to open session, no action was taken on the matter discussed in closed session.

Adjournment

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