

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 2019  
6:30 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; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; and Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Meetings can be viewed on the website of Local TV 4 and WKRK Radio's Facebook page.

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Ethics Statement**

Ethics statement read by Chairman.

**III. Invocation**

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

**V. Modification of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to add a Closed Session after Chairman/Commissioner Items, pursuant to 143-318.11 (5). Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to item "i"-Discussion of House Bill 206, under New Business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Agenda Adoption**

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

**VII. Public Forum**-There were no public comments.

**VIII. Minutes**

Motion made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the minutes of June 19, 2019. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the minutes of June 24, 2019. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. Finance and Budget**

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for additional State grant funds for the Cherokee County Health Department. No county match required. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for a Rural Communities Opioid Response Program grant for the Cherokee County Health Department. No county match required. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of Article 46 sales tax for multiple school projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

## **X. New Business**

Shannon Coleman, Cherokee County 4-H Youth Development Leader, came before the Board to introduce Miss Sydney Elliott, the 2019 NCACC Youth Delegate. Sydney is 18 year's old and will be representing Cherokee County youth at YouthVoice 2019, which will be held during the NCACC annual conference in Guilford County, N.C. on August 24th and 25th. Miss Elliott said she has been a member of the Cherokee Rider's 4-H Horse Club for 6 years, and is a youth leader on the Cherokee County Saddle Club youth committee. She shared that she has loved horses her whole life and has been riding for the last 7 years. She said that she competes locally at Cherokee County's Nora Starks Arena, as well as competing in the National Barrel Horse Association, where she was most recently a 2019 Youth World qualifier. She also participates in local and district 4-H horse events. Miss Elliott talked about agriculture programs and facilities in surrounding counties, and in the Tri-State area, saying that there are scholarship opportunities and academic programs that are available to the youth in those areas that are not available to Cherokee County youth, because of their agricultural programs and facilities. She said that there is a need for a facility in Western North Carolina that could house a youth agriculture program. She shared that her vision is of a facility that would house animal husbandry, livestock show facilities, greenhouses, classrooms, kitchens, and multi-agency classrooms and conference rooms; she went further to say that it could be also used by the County's high schools and the community college for agricultural programs/curriculum. Miss Elliott shared ideas about how constructing and/or expanding and improving facilities at the Cherokee County Fairgrounds could increase agricultural tourism in Cherokee County. The Board congratulated Miss Elliott for being chosen as this year's Youth Delegate and thanked her for attending the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve tax releases, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Resolution Creating the Cherokee County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, and appointing the following persons to serve as the Committee: Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager; Chad Simons, Murphy Town Manager; Jacqueline Hulse, Andrews Public Library; Lance Bristol, Cherokee County Schools; Tim Radford, WKRK Radio; David Brown, Cherokee Scout Newspaper; Ruth Limon, Cherokee County Veterans Services; and, Paul Worley, Tri-County Community College and Workforce Development. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the 2020 Census Partnership Resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to reappoint Larry Kernea to the Tri-County Community College Board of Trustees for a four-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint the Clay County Board of Commissioners designee, Jackie Sellers, to the Tri-County Community College Board of Trustees for a four-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$446.00 for 2019 membership dues for the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the purchase of a N.C. flag set and a U.S. flag set to be displayed in the rotunda of the Courthouse. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to allow the county manager to draft a resolution opposing the repeal of Session Law 2016-94, and requesting removal of Section 4.5 of House Bill 206 to allow time for the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners to meet with legislators and representatives of the NCDOT Rail Division, to ensure that private property owner interests and the rail are protected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

The county manager said that Senator Davis will be scheduling a town hall meeting with NCDOT officials to answer questions from the public.

## **XI. County Manager Items**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a request by Rodney Morris, Lessee of the pool and wellness center, to remove several trees on County property along Konehete Street. This will allow for brighter lighting and safety, now that the facility is operating on a 24-hour schedule. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, the Board took no action concerning a proposal for add-on of terrorism insurance to the county's airport policy.

The assistant county manager announced that Cherokee County would be partnering with the NCFS, USFS, TCCC, NC Co-op, and NCRC&D to hold a Wildfire Preparedness Day event on September 21st from 9AM to 2PM at 150 Campus Circle, Murphy. The event is being held in the Peachtree Community, because Peachtree is a recognized Firewise community. Mrs. Hass said that this is an educational, family-friendly event and encouraged everyone to come out and bring their family members. She added that because Title III funds will be used to fund the project that a 45 day public comment period has been advertised and is now open for comments from members of the public.

## **XII. Closed Session**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11 (5) to instruct county staff of the Board's position to be taken concerning negotiating the terms of a contract for acquisition of real property by exchange, option, or lease. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

While in closed session, the Board discussed the Martin's Creek School Property and how its future sale could affect the Martin's Creek Community Center, as far as access to adjacent parking and access to the shared well and shared septic system, and community use of the ballfield. The Board discussed looking at options of a property exchange, or at minimum, securing a legal easement of shared access.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

After returning to open session, the Board instructed the county manager to work with Cherokee County Schools to quickly secure deeded access to Cherokee County in support of the Martin's Creek Community Center for the following: access to the shared well; access to the shared septic system; access to a repair area for the septic system; and, dedicated space to support parking for community center events.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON AUGUST 19, 2019.