

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
20 January 2026

Present were Commissioner Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman Cal Stiles, Commissioner Mark Stiles, Commissioner Ben Adams, Chairman Alan Bryant, County Manager Randy Wiggins, CFO Candy Anderson, Ralph Robinson of Local TV4, and County Attorney and acting Clerk to the Board, Darryl Brown.

At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was called to Order by Chairman Alan Bryant in the Commissioners Board Room of the Cherokee County Courthouse.

The invocation was offered by Commissioner Mark Stiles.

The acting Clerk read the ethics statement.

The Chairman led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

After modification, Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to adopt the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and was adopted unanimously.

Public Comment Period was opened by the Chairman. Henry Saludes, Robin Gouin, Elmer Roush and Ron Wright spoke in the public comment period.

Commissioner Ben Adams made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 17, 2025 and December 1, 2025, and the organizational meeting minutes of December 1, 2025. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum and passed unanimously.

BUDGET & FINANCE MATTERS

- a. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve the Use of Article 46 Sales Tax fund balance to complete a roof project at Tri-County Community College (\$114,306.90). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum and passed unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Mark Stiles made a motion to approve a budget revision for the use of contingency to purchase a new commercial washing machine for the Cherokee County Detention Center (\$18,547). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryant and passed unanimously.

- c. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve new fees for Cherokee County Health Department SPIKEVAX vaccinations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously.
- d. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve a proposal by PBI, Inc. for furnishing the new Senior/VA facility (\$344,906.23). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously. CFO Anderson added it was expected that sales tax refunds and interest on the project funds were likely to cover the costs of the furnishings.
- e. Commissioner Eichenbaum made a motion to approve a budget revision for additional funds to facilitate scope changes at the EMS Station 2 project (\$18,188.41). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles and passed unanimously.
- f. Commissioner Adams made a motion to adopt a Capital Project Ordinance for a project to replace the roof at Andrews Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously.
- g. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve an engineering services agreement with REI Engineers for the project to replace the roof at Andrews Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously.
- h. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve reinstatement of an Administrative Assistant position (pay grade 62) at EMS due to restructuring after the retirement of the Emergency Services Director Robin Caldwell. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryant and passed unanimously. County Manager Randy Wiggins explained the restructuring would be a cost savings to the County.
- i. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve a budget revision for the use of contingency to renovate the old first-floor courtroom to office space. (\$16,000). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously. The County Manager explained the immediate renovation is to hopefully facilitate moving Juvenile Justice and Guardian ad Litem into permanent offices in the Courthouse.
- j. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve a budget revision for the use of contingency to replace a freezer at the Cherokee County Detention Center (\$31,320). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve Beverly White to the Community Care Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously.

- b. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the use of rescue funds in the amount of \$7500 for a 50/50 grant match for the Peachtree VFD. The grant is for compressed air cylinders to operate pneumatic tools, air bags, and pneumatic hammers. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- c. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve use of rescue funds in the amount of \$15,350 for the replacement/upgrading of rescue equipment inherited from the Cherokee County Rescue Squad by the Hiwassee Dam VFD. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum and passed unanimously.
- d. Commissioner Eichenbaum made a motion to approve a resolution to approve a loan taken by the Hiwassee Dam VFD from First Citizens Bank in the amount of \$573,843.18 for a new pumper truck. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and was approved unanimously. (Clerk is authorized to sign on behalf of the Board)
- e. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve Jessica Hays to serve on the Wolf Creek Fireman's Relief Fund Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles and passed unanimously.
- f. Commissioner Mark Stiles made a motion to approve grant applications for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department for respective grants for accreditation and overtime funds (no county match). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams and passed unanimously.
- g. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve a resolution to convey the old armory property to Tri-County Community College. Commissioner Eichenbaum seconded approval of the resolution. The resolution was approved by a vote of 4 to 1. Commissioner Adams opposed.
- h. Commissioner Eichenbaum made a motion to approve a resolution establishing a Special Board of Equalization and Review for 2026. Commissioner Cal Stiles seconded the approval of the resolution which was approved unanimously.
- i. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve the Tax Releases, Tax Refunds and NCVTS report as presented. Commissioner Eichenbaum seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.
- j. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to approve an easement to Duke Power for lines across County property in Marble near the old landfill. The County Manager explained the Solid Waste Director and the engineering consultant met with Duke representatives. Duke has agreed to do significant tree trimming and to replace needed power poles. Commissioner Mark Stiles seconded the motion that passed unanimously.
- k. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to appoint Commissioner Alan Bryant to the VAYA Health Regional Advisory Board.

Commissioner Bryant accepted the nomination. Commissioner Eichenbaum seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- l. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to reschedule the March 16, 2026 meeting to March 9, 2026. Commissioner Eichenbaum seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- m. Commissioner Adams brought for discussion the issue of using the Cherokee County Courthouse for a GOP debate on February 5, 2026. The County Attorney expressed concerns about using a county facility for a partisan political event and the use of County funds to provide necessary security for the facility. GOP representatives indicated they would cover the costs involved and would submit the fee and security deposit required by the County Facility Use Policy. Commissioner Adams made a motion to allow the use of the Courthouse for the 2/5/26 event. Commissioner Alan Bryant seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- n. Commissioner Adams brought a motion to rescind the Petition for Redress of Grievances passed unanimously by the Board on April 23, 2025 regarding US Forest Service Property near Hiwassee and Appalachia Lakes. Commissioner Mark Stiles seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- o. Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion for a petition to the US Forest Service for title to the Hanging Dog Campground to be utilized for a State Park. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and such passed unanimously. County Staff was tasked with putting the motion into writing to send to the USFS.

County Manager Randy Wiggins updated the Board on the EMS Station 2 and Senior/VA construction projects.

The Board by acclamation approved advertisement of foreclosure property on Angel Mountain for \$7500.

Commissioner Cal Stiles made a motion to waive county building fees for Peachtree VFD in their construction project in Brasstown. Commissioner Mark Stiles seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bryant made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

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