

**Cherokee County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6, 2023**

**Board members present:** Cal Stiles, Chairman; Jan Griggs, Vice-Chair; Randy Phillips, member; Ben Adams, member; and, Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member.

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

**Time:** 6:30 P.M.

**Location:** Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

**Call to Order**

**Invocation**

Invocation given by Chris Wood.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Reading of Ethics Statement by Clerk to the Board**

**Modification of Agenda** – None

**Agenda Adoption**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Forum**

The following persons spoke in public forum: Becky Wright (TVA proposed transmission line project); Penny Harrison (TVA proposed transmission line project); John Leder (Airport); Jeff Tatham (planning board and land-use); Ron Wright (TVA proposed transmission line project, DSS lawsuit settlement, airport, taxes, bid processes, budget, transparency, and three-minute public comment time).

**Budget and Finance**

a) Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision for receipt of private contribution to the sheriff's office for officer equipment and canine support. Motion passed unanimously.

**Update on Next County-Wide Revaluation**

Teresa Ricks, Cherokee County Tax Assessor, came before the board to give an overview of what is necessary for the next countywide revaluation. She said she needed direction from the board as to how they wish for her to proceed; with the scheduled 2028 revaluation, or a sooner revaluation. She also recommended to the board that the revaluation be conducted in a hybrid fashion, partially in-house and the remainder contracted. After discussion, no action was taken, but the consensus of the board was for Mrs. Ricks to begin preparing for a 2025 revaluation of properties. The board will take formal action by resolution at a future meeting.

### **Update Floodplain Ordinance**

Following discussion and explanation by Floodplain Administrator, Jon Crist, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Hiwassee Dam Tennis/Basketball Court Property Transfer**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to make a request to Cherokee County Schools to donate and transfer the tennis ball court property (.51 acres) at Hiwassee Dam School to the county for inclusion in the masterplan for the proposed park. Motion passed unanimously.

### **NCVTS – NC Vehicle Tax System Report**

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

### **Resolution Establishing a Planning Board**

After discussion, and after a read statement by Commissioner Eichenbaum, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Volunteer Proclamation – Proclaiming April as Volunteer Month in Cherokee County**

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

### **Recognize Clerk Certification**

Chairman Stiles congratulated Clerk, Maria Hass, for receiving her certified municipal clerk status from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and read the official letter of certification. Motion made by Commissioner Philips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

### **County Manager Items - None**

### **Chairman/Commissioner Items**

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to rename Marks Drive after Justin Hamby. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Phillips suggested planting a tree at Konahete park in memory of Justin Hamby.

### **Closed Session**

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (3) attorney-client privilege. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Open Session**

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

### **Adjournment**

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

**MINUTES APPROVED APRIL 17, 2023**