

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
March 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, and Cal Stiles. Commissioner Phillips participated remotely via Zoom.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order and Ethics Statement

Members were advised of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act.

Invocation

Invocation given by Randy Wiggins.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to remove item “a” “Request to place a dog park at Konehete Park”. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Several persons spoke in public forum concerning planning and crypto mine issues.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the meeting minutes of October 18, 2021 and December 6, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

a) Grant Project Ordinance for DPS Enforcing the Law Grant

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

b) Budget Revision to accept a donation made to the Veterans Services Office to purchase signature pads for new software program

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

c) Budget Revision to receive additional funds for Adult Protective Services

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

New Business

a) Ellen Stephens, of Cherokee County Saddle Club presented a proposal for a multipurpose arena and stabling at Mountain Folk Center

No action taken.

b) Paul Worley, Economic Development Director, presented a revision to the previously approved Housing Needs Assessment Proposal

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the revised proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Tax Releases w/Refunds Report, Tax Refund Report, and NCVTS Report

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve all tax reports, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Request from Region A to appoint Peggy Graham to the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to appoint Peggy Graham to the Region A Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

e) EMS Station 1 Bids

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to award the EMS Station 1 bid to Wells & West, in the amount of \$2,583,365. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Eichenbaum, Westmoreland and Phillips. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Griggs and Stiles. Motion passed 3-2. The State has appropriated \$1.2 million for the project.

Chair/Commissioner Items

Commissioner Stiles asked for prayers for Commissioner Phillips, related to a health issue.

Commissioner Griggs asked the finance director for a printout of expended ARPA funds.

Commissioner Griggs questioned the enforceability of the current noise ordinance. The county attorney said the ordinance language is vague and can be interpreted many ways.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to go into

closed session to consult with the county attorney on a privileged matter and to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board received legal counsel from the county attorney and Sean Perrin concerning DSS lawsuits. The Board also discussed Emergency Management personnel.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to define full-time as 32 hours. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to increase the DSS personnel budget by \$100,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

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