

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2024

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

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Chairman Phillips

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement “Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act and should avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Board of County Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict as may be allowed by law”.

Public Comment Period – No public comments

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to add a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools in the amount of \$111,227 for a new Murphy Elementary School gym floor, and to set a work session date with Cherokee County Schools. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to make the following modifications to the agenda: 1) add a closed session to discuss the recent courthouse security assessment; 2) remove “item d” - Armory Renovation Project; 3) add the NC Vehicle Tax Report (NCVTS); and 4) add a Budget Revision in the amount of \$13,934 to renovate the new Public Defender’s Office. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Shelly Foreman, of VAYA Health, came before the Board to ask for a letter of support for VAYA Health to become the statewide Administrator of NCDHHS Children and Families Specialty Plan (CFSP).

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the letter of support. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the placement of a Downtown Murphy History Tour sign in front of courthouse. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to reappoint Dr. Lynn Taylor (Optometrist) and C.B. McKinnon (general member of public) to the Board of Health for another 3-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to reschedule the Board's regular June 17th board meeting to June 24th, and to schedule the following budget work session dates: May 13th, May 15th, May 21st and May 23rd. The June 24th meeting and all budget work sessions will be at 6:30 p.m. in the commissioner's board room at the Cherokee County Courthouse. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a Budget Revision in the amount of \$13,934 to renovate the new Public Defender's Office in the courthouse. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools in the amount of \$111,227 for a new gym floor at Murphy Elementary School, and to set a joint work session date with the Board of Education for April 24th. The April 24th date is contingent upon the Board of Education's ability to attend a joint work session on that date. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comment Period

Commissioner Adams shared that this week marks the 50th anniversary of the 1974 tornado that devastated Cherokee County and claimed several lives. He also encouraged residents to sign up for the county's Nixle alert system to stay abreast of emergency situations.

County Manager Items - None

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to go into closed session pursuant to §143-318.11 (1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential. While in closed session the Board discussed the findings of the recent courthouse security assessment with Sheriff Dustin Smith and Chief Justin Jacobs.

Open Session

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

Adjournment

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON APRIL 15, 2024.