

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Cherokee County Courthouse

Members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman; Jan Griggs, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Randy Phillips, member; and Gary Westmoreland, member.

Staff present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Also present: WKRC Radio, Local TV4 and Cherokee Scout.

Call to order and ethics statement by Chairman.

Invocation and Pledge

Modification of Agenda

Chairman Eichenbaum announced that Sapphire Cove Road has been removed from the public hearing for road names and will not be considered at this time.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Health Department Fees for birth control and COVID vaccine; 2) Steve and Sue Jordan Request for Tax Office to Issue a Letter of Release to the Town of Andrews; 3) Additional Funding for Andrews Playground Equipment for ADA upgrades; 4) Additional closed session item to consult with the county attorney; and 5) Vertical roof on batting cage at HDHS. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing on Proposed Road Names (Rose Hill Road, Rhododendron Lane, and Pakuna Trail)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to open the floor to public comments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments on the proposed road names.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to adopt Rose Hill Road, Rhododendron Lane, and Pakuna Trail as official road names. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum-There were no public comments.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve the meeting minutes of April 19, 2021 and May 3, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Budget

- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$3,600 to purchase gravel for the Heritage Park in Andrews. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for use of state COVID funds in the amount of \$3,200 to purchase a new vaccine refrigerator for the health department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the health department's fee of \$40 each for administering the 1st and 2nd dose of the COVID vaccine. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve the health department's fee schedule for various birth control methods. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve funding for vertical roofs on the batting cages at Hiwassee Dam High School and Andrews High School. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget revisions are available for inspection in the office of the County Finance Officer.

New Business

- After discussion and a request from Sue Jordan, of Steve's Stone and Contracting, a Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to allow the Tax Assessor to send a letter to the Town of Andrews on behalf of Mrs. Jordan, requesting the release of FY19 and FY20 town taxes, due to the business personal property being located outside of town limits. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve funds in the amount of \$10,000 to match Town funds for the purpose of adding ADA accessible equipment at the Andrews playground. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to limit use of the Sheriff's shooting range to governmental agencies only. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the tax releases and refunds, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Board discussed renovating or relocating and constructing a new Station 2 in Andrews. After much discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to seek a cost comparison for renovating the current EMS Station, to include adding an additional bay, versus purchasing IOI property and constructing a new facility. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to schedule a public hearing during the June 7th commission meeting for the FY21-22 budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Item

1) The county manager presented the FY 21-22 budget with the following notable highlights:

- No increase in the property tax millage rate of 46 cents
- No increase in fees
- An increase in budgeted sales tax proceeds of 65% or approximately \$3,807,871 over FY21 approved budget
- No use of general fund balance is needed
- 76% of the general fund expenditures are allocated to the following functions:
 - Public Safety
 - Human Services
 - Education
- Provides for acquisition and replacement of critical and essential vehicles and equipment across various departments – of note are:
 - Mitel Phone System – Current Shoretel system is no longer supported
 - Fleet replacement and acquisition across numerous departments to include Sheriff, Code Enforcement, Public Health, IT, Cooperative Extension and Central Services
 - Power Load stretcher system in all front line and backup ambulances
 - Oven, range and warmer cabinet replacements for Detention kitchen

- Forklift acquisition for Public Buildings & Maintenance

2) The county manager told the board that EMS Station 1 bids are due on June 7th.

Commissioner Item

- Commissioner Westmoreland said he would like to see the courthouse security desk moved to the center of the rotunda, facing the front entrance.
- Commissioner Griggs read a statement concerning Cherokee County School's expenditures of local funds.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to go into closed session to consult with legal counsel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the board discussed two separate items: 1) discussion with county attorney, Darryl Brown, concerning the ongoing opioid litigation, and 2) discussion with the county's insurance pool attorney, Sean Perrin (via Zoom) to discuss the Hogan case ruling; and discussion with county's coverage counsel, Richard Daniels (via Zoom) to discuss legal options related to insurance coverage.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adopt a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State of North Carolina and local governments on proceeds relating to the settlement of opioid litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve the MOA resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 7, 2021.