

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Budget Work Session
May 19, 2021
5:30 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: WKRK Radio, Local TV4 and Cherokee Scout.

Call to order and ethics statement by Chairman.

Invocation and Pledge

Chairman statement concerning recent jury verdict on Hogan case

Chairman Eichenbaum said the Board was aware of, and disappointed in, the recent jury verdict. He said due to ongoing legal issues, the Board could make no further comment. He said the Board will continue working with its legal counsel, and will keep the citizens updated, as additional and factual information is made available.

Agenda Adoption

There being no modifications to the agenda, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Assessor Items

Tax Assessor, Eddie Allen, along with the Assistant Assessor, Dana Allen, came before the Board to update the Board on the department's decision to utilize South Data Systems to streamline the electronic listing and submission process for taxpayers and the tax department. Mr. Allen also discussed a resolution for extending the deadline for electronic listings and discussed the tax office records retention schedule. Both the resolution and the retention schedule will be presented for consideration at the next meeting. Board members asked about current collection and foreclosure procedures. Following discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to begin foreclosure proceedings after a property has been delinquent for three years. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Discussion

- Commissioner Griggs shared concerns over Cherokee County Schools budget request, and shared a breakdown of use of local funds and related statistics.
- Chairman Eichenbaum commented on Commissioner Griggs overview and said there should be opportunity for explanations, before saying funds are being mismanaged.
- Commissioner Phillips and Chairman Eichenbaum discussed loss of school funding due to a decrease in student population.

Other Discussion

- Need for an additional 911 dispatcher, due to increased call volume.
- The county manager shared the need to hire a Human Resources (HR) Manager, effective July 1, due to the upcoming retirement of the current HR Director.
- The Board reviewed the budget worksheets and departmental requests. The finance Director said
- The county manager asked the Board to allow him to go ahead and advertise for the position, so the new manager could train under the retiring director. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve hiring a new HR Manager. Motion failed 2-3. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Phillips, Westmoreland and Eichenbaum.
- Commissioner Stiles said he would like added to the budget vote sheet for the next meeting, paying WKRRK for recording and live streaming board meetings on Facebook.
- The county manager shared capital needs requests of various departments.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON AUGUST 2, 2021.