

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2021
6:00 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

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to add a budget revision for use of Home Care Community Block Grant (HCCBG) funds and a budget revision for use of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to add a privileged and confidential matter to closed session discussion. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

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

MAPS Group Presentation

Becky Veazey of the MAPS Group came before the Board to present the proposed classification and pay study. Mrs. Veazey shared a PowerPoint presentation and answered Board member questions.

Budget Items and Discussion

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of Home Care Community Block Grant (HCCBG) funds for DSS adult protective services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously. There is no county match required for use of these funds.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for use of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to purchase computers and electronic devices for the Board of Election. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously. There is no county match required for use of these funds.

During budget discussion, the finance director polled the board on several additional budget items to be considered during budget adoption. After discussion, A Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to approve increasing the county's property and liability insurance coverage to six (6) million dollars per occurrence, at an additional cost of \$30,415. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board also discussed the following budget items and budget requests to be considered, which were not in the County Manager's recommended budget:

- An increase of \$12,300 in the Board's professional services line.
- Cherokee County Schools additional funding request in the amount of \$965,083.35 for a 3% teacher supplement, bus driver raises and benefits, school nutrition building, cyber liability insurance, and an additional charter school appropriation. Received majority consensus. Commissioners Stiles and Griggs did not support the request.
- Detention Center Full body security screening system at a cost of \$147,823.
- Funding for the Cherokee County Arts Council in the amount of \$4,500. Received majority consensus. Commissioners Eichenbaum and Westmoreland did not support the request.
- An increase in annual funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Logan's Run Animal Rescue. This item received unanimous support.
- Peachtree Volunteer Fire Department's request for a one (1) cent increase to fire tax rate. Received majority support. Commissioner Stiles and Phillips did not support the request.
- Discussion of remodeling of EMS Station 2 versus new construction at a different location.
- Commissioner Stiles request to pay WKRC for broadcasting commissioner meetings on Facebook. Received majority consensus. Commissioners Phillips and Westmoreland did not support paying for broadcasting.
- Commissioner Stiles request to add additional funds for new seating at the health department.
- Discussion of adding two (2) additional deputies, two (2) additional patrol vehicles, and the cost for equipping the deputies and for outfitting their vehicles. Received unanimous consensus.
- Discussion of upgrading and relocating the courthouse security desk for safety reasons.
- Commissioner Stiles and Commissioner Griggs questioned the proposed four (4) cent tax increase.
- Discussion of need for a retaining wall at the senior center.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to schedule a tentative budget worksession for June 21st at 6:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further budget discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to go into closed session following a five minute break. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. 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.

During closed session, there was direct contact with members of the Board of Directors of the county's insurance pool and with NCACC. Upon the topic being broached by the county manager, the county attorney advised all present of RPC 119. The county attorney read RPC 119 (attached herein) and advised that he could not be present, and could not have communication with any of the parties present. At that time, the county attorney then left the room.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

After returning to open session, there was no action taken.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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