

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
May 31, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, Randy Phillips, and Cal Stiles.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board; 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 Ben Adams.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to add the following item to the agenda: Fund site plan for EMS Station 2, and demolish old building. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to add the following item to the agenda: Contribute \$5,000 to the Andrews County Fair. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to add the following item to the agenda: Flag poles at Freedom Memorial Plaza. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to move “Noise Ordinance Discussion” from Closed Session to Public Forum. Voting against the Motion was Chairman Eichenbaum, Commissioner Westmoreland and Commissioner Phillips. Motion failed 2-3.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to adopt the agenda as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Comments received from residents in opposition of crypto mines in Cherokee County.

Budget and Finance

a) Budget Revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of sales tax
Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Budget Revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of sales tax
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Budget Revision for Hiwassee Dam VFD Grant in the amount of \$20,000. No county match.
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Cherokee County Health Department 2022 Comprehensive LabCorp Fee Schedule
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Updated EMS Fee Schedule
Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to table. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Increase in Starting Salary for DSS Program Manager Position
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Budget Revision for Receipt of Donation to Veteran Services Office
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to accept donation. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a) Fund Site Plan for EMS Station 2, and Demolish Old Building
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to table this item, until the Board gets through the budget process and until site plan cost can be determined. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to solicit a cost estimate from McGill Associates. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Contribute \$5,000 to the Andrews County Fair
Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Provide \$387 to Andrews VFW for Flag Poles at Freedom Memorial Plaza
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Danny Clayton - Bellview VFD Request for Donation of Real Property

Mr. Clayton came before the Board to request the county donate 1.37 acres to the fire department for a new fire station. The piece of real property the VFD is requesting is on Old Bellview Road, and across from Bellview Community Center. Mr. Clayton explained that NCDOT is taking their current station for the 19/129 road project. Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to donate 1.37 acres of real property to Bellview VFD for the purpose of constructing a new fire station. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Tax Releases, Tax Refund Report, and NCVTS Report

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

f) Proposal by Bunnell Lammons Engineering for Construction Materials Testing for new EMS Station 1 - \$14,477

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Voting in favor of the Motion was Chairman Eichenbaum, Commissioner Westmoreland and Commissioner Phillips. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Griggs and Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

g) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Annual Plan and Certification

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Annual Plan and Certification. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items – Presentation of FY 22-23 County Manager Recommended Budget

Chair/Commissioner Items

Discussion of planning committee structure and terms.

Closed Session- Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to go into closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board received an update on the current DSS lawsuit, and also consulted with the county attorney regarding the legalities of the proposed noise ordinance amendment.

Open Session

After returning to open session, no action was taken from matters discussed in Closed Session.

Adjourn

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