

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 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

Agenda Adoption

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

New Business

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to reappoint Donna Ware to the Cherokee County Jury Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve the 2021 following Bear Paw Service District Board of Directors, as presented by the Bear Paw Homeowner's Association: Linda Hughes; Bart Hamburg; Lydia Kennedy; Jerry Pezzella; Terry Miller; David Black; and Tiffany Williams. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to accept the FY22 budget for Bear Paw Service District, as provided by the District. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools use of sales tax for an HVAC coil replacement and a new vehicle. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to go into closed session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

While in closed session, the Board discussed the pool and wellness center contract and discussed negotiations related to leasing the pool and wellness center long-term.

The Board also discussed a personnel matter within the tax office.

There being no further items, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

There was no action taking on matters discussed in closed session.

Budget Items and Discussion

The finance director presented several worksheets to the Board for review and consideration during the budget worksession. The first worksheet was an updated vote sheet for budget items which were requested by departments, but not included in the County Manager's recommended budget; items requested by individual Board members; and three additional items to be considered. The Board member items to be discussed and considered are as follows: 1) Commissioner Phillips request to construct/remodel a new EMS Station 2; and 2) Commissioner Stiles request to add two additional patrol cars, and to compensate WKRK for broadcasting board meetings via Facebook Live. The (3) three additional items to be considered are: 1) New projector for the commissioners board room; 2) Lexipol Risk Management Solution for policy management for the sheriff's office and the detention center; and 3) Countywide payroll options to begin updating the County's antiquated pay plan. The finance director said the updated vote sheets show items that the Board has already agreed to fund and shows how those changes affect the fund balance. The finance director also provided a breakdown of potential changes and how some of those items could affect the property tax rate, if approved.

Changes and additions made to the FY22 County Manager recommended budget are as follows:

- Add funding for the purchase of a new projector for the commissioner's boardroom.
- Remove the Lexipol Risk Management Solution Services for the sheriff's office and the detention center, as it was determined that this item can be paid for with ARPA funds.
- Add funding to update the county pay plan, with no COLA.
- Remove EMS Station 2 project funding, and un-designate the \$500,000 previously designated for the project.
- Remove EMS Station 1 project funding, until bids are received and total cost is known.
- Remove armory renovations project funding, until estimates are received and total cost is known.
- Add funding for the construction of a retaining wall behind the Murphy Senior Center.
- Add funding for 1,000 feet of additional fencing for the recently approved airport fence and gates project. Commissioner Stiles was opposed.

Other Action

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to increase the millage rate by 4 cents, as undesignated and for future use. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed 3-2.

Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Phillips, Westmoreland, and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Stiles and Griggs.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to remove the additional funding request by Cherokee County Schools to increase the fund balance from \$2,668,042 to \$3.5 million. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion failed 2-3. Voting against the Motion was Commissioners Phillips, Eichenbaum, and Westmoreland.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 4, 2021.