

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
June 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, and Cal Stiles. Commissioner Phillips participated remotely via phone conference.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; 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 Randy Wiggins.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to remove New Business Item “g” “Graham County Detainee Contract”. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Comments concerning crypto mine noise, power usage and location, and airport funding.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to go into closed session to discuss the current DSS lawsuit. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the county attorney updated the Board on the current DSS lawsuit and negotiation efforts, and shared details of a proposed settlement agreement.

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

Open Session

After returning to open session, the Chairman asked the County Manager to read a statement concerning the settlement agreement. The statement will be published on the county website immediately.

Reluctantly, a Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to approve a Memorandum of Settlement for the DSS lawsuit. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve a Memorandum of Agreement for the DSS lawsuit settlement. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

a) Approve Year-End Budget Revision

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Chairman Eichenbaum to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Amend ARPA Grant Project Ordinance (Salaries & benefits)

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Adopt FY 22-23 Budget Ordinance

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the FY 2022-2023 budget ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously. Ordinance attached as Appendix A.

Old Business

a) EMS Revised Fee Schedule

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the revised EMS Fee Schedule. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Stiles, Westmoreland, Eichenbaum and Phillips. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed 4-1. The schedule is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

New Business

a) Tri-County Community College Board of Trustees Applicant Introduction

No action taken.

b) Nantahala Regional Library Board of Trustees Appointment

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to reappoint Denise Bowden for a six-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Bear Paw Service District Board of Directors

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve the following bear Paw Service District Board of Directors for 2022, as presented by the Bear Paw Homeowner's Association: Linda Hughes; Bart Hamburg; Bob Cowdrick; David Elliott; Terry Miller; Stan Wise; and Tiffany Williams.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Fuel Emergency Policy and Fuel Emergency Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)
Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the Fuel Emergency Policy and SOG, Tier 1 level, effective July 1, 2022. Motion passed unanimously. A copy of the policy is attached to these minutes as Appendix C.

e) Tax Releases, Tax Refund Report, and NCVTS Report
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve all tax items. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Sink Hole at Horse Arena
Commissioner Griggs and the county manager shared information about the recently discovered sink hole at Nora Starks Arena. The county will work with the saddle club and seek grant funds for repair.

g) Response Letter to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Regarding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Requirement
Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a letter to DHHS in response to the legislative requirement for DSS agencies to sign a MOU with DHHS. The MOU is specific to county DSS agencies' responsibility to meet state and federal performance measures. Motion passed unanimously. A copy of the MOU is attached to these minutes as Appendix D.

Adjourn

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