Cherokee County Health Department BOH Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 12, 2026
6:30 p.m. – Health Department Conference Room

Members Present: Lynn Taylor, OD, Graham Raxter, PE, CB McKinnon, Grady Hester, DVM, Mike Bradberry, Verle Thompson DMD, Teresa Heavner, MD

Absent: Ben Adams, Whitney Eller, PharmD, Leslie Harris RN, Robin Sargent,

Public Present: None

Meeting Call to Order: Grady Hester called the meeting to order.

Invocation: CB McKinnon gave the invocation.

Swearing in of BOH Members: Sara Moss, Notary Public, administered the oath to Graham Raxter, PE and Teresa Heavner, MD.

Public Comments: Grady Hester opened the floor for public comments, no public comments given.

Approval of:

a) **Approval of minutes:** Members reviewed and approved the minutes for the November 11, 2025, meeting. Mike Bradberry made the motion to approve the meeting minutes; Teresa Heavner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b) **WIC Services Continuation:** The health director presented a proposal for discussion concerning the discontinuation of WIC services due to staffing and budgetary constraints. The move would enable the department to move existing staff into open positions in other departmental functions so no individuals would be eliminated, but three vacant positions would be eliminated resulting in net savings for the county. The prevailing concern from the board of health discussion was loss of access for WIC benefits and the intention is to develop a transition plan that would minimize disruptions to services. It was communicated that we would be working with the State to understand adequate steps in formulating a transition plan that would assure access to services and benefits for WIC participants. The Board took no action, as this was for discussion, and will take up the issue at the March Board of Health meeting following more information gathering from the State.

Health Director Comments:

a) The departmental reports for Clinic, Lab, FLI and Environmental Health were provided to the Board for review. There was general discussion around each departmental report.

b) The health director gave an update on the rise in Measles Cases in WNC linked to the outbreak in upstate South Carolina. We discussed the communication efforts of the

department both towards the public and with local health care providers on testing and treatment protocols.

Other Comments: NONE

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Cherokee County Health Department Conference Room.

David Badger
Health Director, Clerk to the Board

Whitney Eller
Board Chairman