Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2023
6:30 P.M.

I. Call to Order by Chairman Cal Stiles

II. Invocation

III. Pledge

IV. Ethics Statement

"Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act and should avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Board of County Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict as may be allowed by law".

V. Agenda Modifications

- Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to remove Sheriff's request for on-call pay. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add a Homelessness resolution to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to add a RECESS after *Commissioner Items*, to allow the Planning Board to meet, and then to RECONVENE the Board of Commissioners meeting following adjournment of the Planning Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adoption of Agenda

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

VII. Public Forum

VIII. Needs and Solutions Advisory (NASA) Committee Report

NASA Committee Chair, Mark Kephart and Committee Secretary, Margaret Ackiss presented for the first official report of the Committee. The Committee's top three priorities are education, broadband/wireless internet, and workforce housing. Mr. Kephart said the Committee has been holding community meetings around the county to hear from citizens. He said the Committee has met in six communities already, and has six more community meetings scheduled. The Board thanked the Committee for their work and the report.

IX. Budget and Finance

a) Budget Revision for use of contingency for change order on EMS Station 1 ($15,525)

- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve

the budget revision. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Griggs and Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed 3-2.

b) Budget Revision for use of contingency for additional work on Joanna Bald Tower Reinforcement Project ($17,597)
- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Budget Revision for CCS Request for use of Article 46 Sales Tax for AED Machines ($6,626)
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Budget Revision for CCS Request for use of Article 40/42 Sales tax for Ranger Playground Repairs ($11,877)
- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Approve Updated Airport Fee Schedule (Ramp fees and landing fees)
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the updated ramp fees and new landing fees, as presented by Airport Manager, Chris Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

f) The Assistant County Manager announced that today, Western Carolina Regional Airport was awarded a $1.5 million grant for a complete airport lighting rehabilitation project. The project will replace existing runway edge lights, Runway End Identifier Lights (REILs) and Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPIs). It will also replace antiquated electrical equipment, improve safety and reduce maintenance costs.

X. New Business

a) Bert Crowe-Christian Love Ministries, DBA Renewed Hope Request for Waiver of Permit Fees
-Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to waive the permit fees for CLM reconstruction project. Motion passed unanimously.

b) John Bandy and Carl Maxwell – Request Funds for Welcome Home Event in Andrews
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to provide $2,000 funding for the 5th Annual Welcome Home Veterans Event in Andrews on September 23rd. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the Tax Releases, Tax Refunds, and NCVTS Report. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Revised Lease and Right of Way Agreement for Emergency Services Tower – Travaglino
- Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve

the lease and right of way agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

e) MFC Property Arena
- Commissioner Eichenbaum said he would like the county to develop a new arena for the Cherokee County Saddle Club on land on the other side of the old sale barn. He suggested using county staff and equipment to develop the land and minimize the cost of the project. He said he would like to know what the materials would cost, because he thinks it's important for the Saddle Club can have a place to hold events. Commissioner Griggs said the lights would need to be moved to the new location. She also mentioned looking into moving the recently built office to the proposed new location, as well as looking at the area for any potential drainage issues and to make sure there is sufficient parking. She suggested setting a date to meet on-site with the Saddle Club. Commissioner Eichenbaum suggested setting a date with the Saddle Club and work up a budget to get things moving. Saddle Club representatives will work with the county manager to determine a date to meet on-site. Commissioner Phillips suggested that Commissioner Eichenbaum and Commissioner Griggs serve as liaisons with the Saddle Club. It was determined that all Board members would meet on-site once a date is determined.

f) Discuss Roundabout on 64
– Commissioner Adams said he had reached out to Heather Millett in Congressman Edwards office and sent her the Board's resolution opposing the roundabouts in Murphy. Commissioner Adams suggested re-sending the resolution and a letter to everyone above NCDOT in Raleigh and Washington, DC. The Clerk to the Board will re-send the resolution.

g) Appoint NCACC Voting Delegate for Annual Conference Business Session
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to appoint Commissioner Adams as voting delegate for the NCACC conference. Motion passed unanimously.

h) Resolution Recognizing Homelessness in Cherokee County
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. County Manager Items

- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to reimburse the Youth Flag Football League $471.04 for the cost of league insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Chairman/Commissioner Items – None

XIII. Recess

– Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to take a brief recess. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Reconvene

– At 8:00 p.m., a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to reconvene. Motion passed unanimously.

XV. Closed Session

– Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to go into Closed Session, pursuant to §143-318.11 (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board consulted with the county attorney concerning a request to release an old Deed of Trust that was once subject to a USDA Rural Development Grant. The Board also discussed an EEOC complaint.

- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Open Session

- Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to release the Deed of Trust for Ms. Stella Coffey, who had met the 10-year grant program requirements. Motion passed unanimously.

-The Assistant County Manager notified the Board that since the airport had been awarded the $1.5 million in construction funds for the airport lighting rehabilitation project that she needed it to approve the Work Authorization and the 10% County match ($150,000). Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to accept the award and approve the Work Authorization and the 10% grant match. Motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Adjournment

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JANUARY 8, 2024.