

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2021
6:30 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; 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

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to accept the expanded budget revision under Budget and Finance, item "a"; and to remove item "b" (Senior Center COVID concerns) under New Business. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to remove item "d" (Discuss airport fence location) from New Business and move it to Closed Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Forum

Mr. Barry Fry, of Hiwassee Dam, spoke against the high school consolidation plan. Mr. Fry also shared with the Board that the National DAV is claiming 2/3 ownership of the local veteran associations building, which was given to the local DAV, VFW, and American Legion in 2007. He said the National DAV has filed a petition to sell the building. He said he has filed an answer to the petition, and he asked that the commissioners back the local veteran's organizations in their efforts to stop this action.

Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve the meeting minutes of June 7, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Budget

- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for schools use of sales tax for various school projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a resolution designating official depositories for public funds, pursuant to §159-31. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget revisions are available for inspection in the office of the County Finance Officer.

New Business

- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to increase Valley River Humane Society's budget by 5%, to match the percentage increase provided to VRHS by Clay County and Graham County for the new fiscal year. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve the tax releases, tax refunds, and NCVTS report, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to transfer management of Andrews Recreation Park back over to the Town of Andrews. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously. The county manager recommended providing operational funding to the town at the level currently budgeted. The County agreed to provide operational funding, and to continue to share in the cost of parks and recreation projects at 50%. The County will retain the newly purchased truck, and Andrews will maintain the finish mower and all other equipment and property improvements.
- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to instruct the county manager to discuss the transfer of Heritage Park with the Town of Andrews. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Board discussed options for landscaping around the front of the courthouse. No action was taken at this time.

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Griggs announced a 9/11 commemorative ceremony on September 11th at the Cherokee County Courthouse at noon.

Commissioner Eichenbaum shared his thoughts on the current events taking place in Afghanistan and asked for prayers for the troops that still remain there. He also announced the 9th Annual Benghazi Twin Towers Memorial Ride and Veterans Appreciation Event, which will take place on September 25th, beginning in Hiawassee, Georgia, and ending here in Cherokee County.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to go into closed session to discuss a contractual matter

with the county attorney. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the board discussed easement concerns, related to the location of the airport gate and fencing project at the main entrance of the airport.

Open Session

After returning to open session, the Board instructed the county manager to engage with a surveyor to confirm Cherokee County, NCDOT and Wood Farms, LLC property lines from the main entrance of airport, down to the tarmac and across to the terminal building and west end hangars.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 18, 2021.