Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2023

Board members present: Cal Stiles, Chairman; Jan Griggs, Vice-Chair; Randy Phillips, member; Ben Adams, member; and, Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney/Assistant Clerk. Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board was absent.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Chairman Cal Stiles

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement read by the Clerk to the Board - "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".

Agenda Modifications
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to add a budget revision for the purchase of a refrigerator for the Hiwassee Dam Senior Center using grant funding. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the meeting minutes of August 18, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve an increase to the Sheriff's budget in the amount of $17,000 to fund the Sheriffs request for on-

call pay for investigators ($40/day and $70/day on weekend and holidays) for the remaining budget year, and to revisit the matter during the upcoming budget worksessions. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Phillips, Eichenbaum, Griggs and Adams. Commissioner Stiles opposed. Motion passed 4-1.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve a budget revision for the use of contingency in the amount of $23,404 for repairs to the Courthouse HVAC Unit. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for use of general fund in the amount of $5,334 to purchase a uFRED (micro forensic recovery of evidence device) computer. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for the use of grant funds in the amount of $750 to purchase a refrigerator for the Hiwassee Dam Senior Center. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Following presentation by Building Code Director, Jon Crist, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to terminate Cherokee County's participation in the Community Rating System. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve funding in the amount of $5,000 for the 2023 Cherokee County Fair. Motion passed unanimously. Note: The Cherokee County Fair Committee's original funding request was $10,000.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to provide funding to the Town of Andrews for Community Center repairs in the amount of $1191.00. Once repairs are complete, the Town Administrator shall submit receipts to Cherokee County Finance and shall certify repairs are complete. Cherokee County Finance will submit a check in the amount of $1191.00 to the Town of Andrews, within 30 days of completion certification. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to adopt the Cherokee County Digital Inclusion Plan, as prepared by Region A. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the tax releases, tax refund report, and NC Vehicle Tax System report, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman/Commissioner Items
Commissioner Stiles
- Announced that roundabout on 64 will not be a part of the current project. He said it will be a separate project and the project will allow for public hearings.
- Announced He and Janet have been married for 57 years today.

Commissioner Adams
- Announced the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on September 18th for the proposed Cherokee County Comprehensive Plan.
- Asked for an update on the armory project. The county manager said he and department heads are looking at a new plan and he hopes to schedule a work session with the board to talk about a higher and best use of the property.
- Asked if Station 2 renovations could be a topic at the armory work session, when scheduled.

Closed Session
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum 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.

At 7:34 p.m. County Attorney Darry Brown left the meeting and did not return.

At 7:35 p.m. the Board connected to a meeting with the county's legal counsel, Attorney Sean Perrin, via Zoom Meetings, for an update on the Bear Paw shooting incident involving J. Harley Kloepfer.

Open Session
After returning to open session, no action was taken.

Adjournment
Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISISONERS ON MAY 6, 2024.