

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
September 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Gary Westmoreland, Jan Griggs, Randy Phillips, and Cal Stiles.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager (via phone); Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board; 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 Chief Deputy, Chris Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools and a budget revision for the Detention Center.

Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Hearing for FY 2024 NCDOT Public Transportation Grants for Cherokee County Transit

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to open the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Transit Director, Jennifer West explained the different grants and the purpose and benefit of each grant. There were no public questions or comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Transit Grant Documents

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the Public Transportation Program Resolution and the Local Share Certification for Funding. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

During public forum, Jo Kilmer shared her concerns about the Harshaw Road data-mining center.

John Evans, Toys for Tots Coordinator, and Bruno Coltri made a plea to the community for someone to step up and volunteer as the new Toys for Tots Coordinator, as John is retiring after 25 years.

Ray Chambers shared his concerns about the recently settled DSS lawsuits and organizational oversight.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the following meeting minutes: 4/18/22; 5/2/22; 5/31/22; 6/2/22; 6/6/22 Regular Meeting; 6/6/22 Worksession; 6/13/22; 6/29/22; 8/1/22; and, 8/29/22. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

a) Budget Revision for Playground Equipment at Ranger Ball Field

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

b) Waive \$10 Fingerprinting Fee for Fire Departments, Guardian Ad Litem and Foster Parents

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

c) Budget Revision for New Desk for Clerk of Court Office

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

d) Budget Revision for Use of Contingency to Purchase Purple Heart Signs

Danna Pash and Rick Millett, Cherokee County Veteran Services Officers, presented a sign recognizing Cherokee County as a Purple Heart County. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve funding for the purchase of nine (9) 12"x 18" signs to be placed throughout Cherokee County. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Approval of Environmental Health Permit Fee

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the LSS Complete Report Permit Option fee of \$300. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Budget Revision to Cover Cost of Air Show Special Event Insurance and Funding to Assist with Air Show Advertising
Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Budget Revision for DSS Storage Building and Associated Costs
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

h) Budget Revision to Purchase New Steamer and Hot Food Table for Detention Center Kitchen
Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

i) Budget Revision for Cherokee County Schools Request for Use of Sales Tax for Multiple School Projects
Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a) Resolution Demanding Reimbursement of The Taxpayers of Cherokee County for the Failure in the Oversight and Training Duties of The State of North Carolina
Motion made by Chairman Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Joint Community Care Advisory Committee Appointment
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to reappoint Linda May to the Joint Community Care Advisory Committee for another 3-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

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

d) Renewal of Cherokee County Transit Lease
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the lease renewal. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Property Clearing at Mountain Folk Center/Cherokee County Fairgrounds
Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to accept an offer from Mr. Leon Forrister to clear the County's property line at no cost to the County. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Pickleball Licensing Agreement
Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the licensing agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Add Lieutenant Title to Detention for Pay Plan Grade 67

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

County Manager Items – N/A

Chair/Commissioner Items

Commissioner Stiles shared his appreciation to the Cherokee County Fair Committee for a successful fair.

Commissioner Griggs asked the Board to eliminate the previously-approved Citizens Assist Fee. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to eliminate the \$100 Citizen Assist Fee. Motion passed unanimously.

After further discussion, Commissioner Stiles asked the Board to consider reimbursing everyone who had already paid the new fee. Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to reimburse citizens who had paid the recently implemented fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to cancel the October 10th meeting and to move the October 24th meeting and to October 17th. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session – Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (6) to discuss a personnel matter. During closed session, the Board discussed a personnel matter involving the tax office.

Open Session

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to return to open session. After returning to open session, no action was taken on the matter discussed in closed session.

Adjourn

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