

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Special Called Meeting
November 1, 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; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Call to order and ethics statement by Chairman.

Invocation given by Joe Wood and Pledge led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to add Vaya Presentation under New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to remove item "b" under New Business (tax appeal) and add Preston Mashburn (request for use of MFC). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to move item "d" under New Business (Gayland Trull-Request for new tires on airport Jeep) to closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Forum

During public forum, several residents of the Harshaw Road area voiced concerns over the noise being generated by the recently constructed ANKR data mining center. Economic Development Director, Paul Worley, was in attendance and said he had reached out to the company on behalf of Cherokee County, and the company shared that they are working toward installing sound-proof walls, in an effort to mitigate the noise issue. Chairman Eichenbaum suggested that the residents reach out to Murphy Electric Power Board to address the concerns of the large amount of power consumption and the company's ability to grow in that location. The county attorney discussed the legal limitations and challenges of the County's current noise ordinance, and Board members also shared their concerns.

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of sales tax for Andrews High School boiler line replacement. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve a budget revision for playground equipment at Konehete Park. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a waiver of the Cherokee County Transit fare for vaccine transportation. Motion failed 2-3.

Preston Mashburn came before the Board to request use of Cherokee County Fairgrounds for the annual Town of Bethlehem community event. Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Shelly Foreman, of Vaya Health, came before the Board to discuss a merger of Vaya Health and Cardinal Innovations Healthcare. Mrs. Foreman explained that the consolidation came about, due to the state's transformation of Medicaid managed care. Under the consolidation, Vaya will inherit nine (9) Cardinal Innovations Healthcare counties, bringing the total number of counties served to thirty-one (31). Vaya Health is a managed care organization (MCO), which manages state funds and Medicaid funds to provide services to individuals with mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities. Mrs. Foreman explained the transition and restructuring process of the merger.

After presentation and discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to appoint Commissioner Westmoreland and DSS Director Amanda McGee to the seven (7) western counties Regional Advisory Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a request for rescue funds by Peachtree Fire and Rescue for the purchase of extrication equipment. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the tax releases, tax refunds, and the NCVTS report. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items

The county manager announced that Commissioner Stiles had won the Cherokee Scout's Reader's Choice Award for Best Elected Official. The Board congratulated Commissioner Stiles on the award.

Chairman/Commissioner Items

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to cancel the November 15th meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Griggs shared her concerns about non-aviation events occurring at the airport, and also expressed concerns that NOTAMS are not being issued. Commissioner Stiles shared his concerns about the county subsidizing the airport and competing with private businesses.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11 (3) to consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and 143-318.11 (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, and conditions of appointment of an individual public officer or employee. Motion passed unanimously.

While in closed session, the Board discussed the following:

- Vehicle leases for the FBO for two courtesy cars
- Two personnel matters (EMS; Tax Assessor Office)
- Discussion with county attorney concerning a proposed interlocal recreation contract
- Update from Attorney Sean Perrin concerning DSS CVA cases
- Review and discussion of Tax Assessor applications
- Consultation with county attorney concerning non-aviation events at airport and violations of lease agreement.
- Consultation with county attorney concerning DSS cases and insurance lawsuit

Open Session

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the following items:

- Commissioner Griggs request for an additional one-time incentive pay for EMS employees (18 month employees-\$2,000; 12 months-\$1,500; and 6 months-\$1,000) to be paid on the November 24th payday
- Interlocal recreation agreement between Cherokee County and the Town of Andrews
- Two-year appointment of Russ Worthen as Tax Assessor.

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

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