

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2025
6:30 P.M.

Board members present: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman; Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman; Ben Adams, member; Alan Bryant, member; and Mark Stiles, member.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to Board; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Chairman

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement

The ethics statement was read by the Clerk to the Board.

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Add additional closed session item to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged and, 2) Add a Letter of Support for the Welcome Home Veterans Event. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adopt the agenda, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing on Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to open the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to adopt the following road names: Big Blue Mountain; Cobb Creek Point; Emry Lane; Forest Glen Road; Henrys Field; Mossy Pass Trail; Sams Way; Sparks Road; and, Trinity View Court. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the minutes of October 20, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

Action Item: Cherokee County Schools Request for Use of Sales Tax in the Amount of \$54,211.55 for Boiler Repairs at Andrews Middle School, Murphy Elementary School, and Hiwassee Dam School

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Budget Revision for Use of Contingency in the Amount of \$7,626 to Equip and Outfit a Ford Explorer for the Sheriff's Office

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve the budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Budget Revision for Use of Contingency in the Amount of \$36,000 to Upgrade the Fingerprint Machine at the Detention Center

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Budget Revision for Use of Contingency in the Amount of \$11,550, and Sale of Asset Proceeds in the Amount of \$16,500 to Purchase a New Ambulance

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Budget Revision in the amount of \$500,000 for Revaluation Contract

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the budget revision. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Vincent Valuations Contract for 2028 Reappraisal

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a contract with Vincent Valuations for the 2028 Reappraisal of Real Property. Motion passed unanimously.

Valley River Humane Society Funding

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to table this discussion until the December 1st meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Action Item: Phil Pressley – Request for use of Mountain Folk Center for Farm Bureau Youth Ag Day on April 17, 2026

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Board Resolution for Revaluation Cycle

No action taken.

Action Item: EBCI Contract for EMS Services

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the contract for Cherokee County EMS services to EBCI. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Sam Davis – Request for Use of Rescue Funds in the Amount of \$13,368.68 to Purchase a Second Drone for Emergency Management

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Sam Davis - Request for Use of Rescue Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 to purchase Hi-Vis shirts for the Search and Rescue Team

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Management Request to Apply for Two Grants

1) Hazard Mitigation Grant to Purchase Three On-Site Back-Up Generators

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

2) NC Community Foundation Grant for Three Separate \$25,000 Projects

- Project 1 is two GMRS repeaters installed on existing tower sites in Cherokee County.

- Project 2 is 15 additional VIPER handheld radios.

- Project 3 is equipment necessary to build and equip a mobile command trailer.

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Debris Removal Cooperative MOA Between N.C. Emergency Management and Cherokee County

No action taken.

Action Items: Tax Releases, Tax Refunds, and NCVTS Refund Report

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Resolution to Sell Surplus Property (1.04 acres, Lot 36 at Angel Mountain Estate)

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams Bryant to sell Lot 36 at Angel Mountain Estate with a minimum reserve of \$12,000. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bryant. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Paul Worley, Tri-County Community College - Request For 15-20 Loads of Fill Dirt from Industrial Site in Support of The TCCC Work Force Housing Project

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Letter to NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to Address Road Safety Issues

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to send a letter to NCDOT to conduct a study for a turn lane at Murphy Elementary School, and a study to reconfigure and reconstruct the intersection of Highway 64 and Spur 60. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Request for Letter of Support for Welcome Home Veterans Event

Vote: Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items

- The County Manager discussed the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Recovery Support Services Enhancement and Regional Expansion Project grant opportunity. Cherokee County, in partnership with Integrated Care of Greater Hickory (ICGH) and regional partners, would pursue a grant to expand and enhance recovery support services for individuals impacted by substance use disorder. The grant is \$1,500,000 and spread over three years. There would be no county match. After discussion, all Board members shared support of the grant and instructed the county manager to proceed.

- The County Manager gave an update on EMS Station 2.

- The County Manager notified the Board that Peachtree VFD held its meeting on October 22nd with the community, regarding Peachtree VFD taking over the Brasstown Fire District. Per Peachtree Fire Chief, Jordan Messer, there was no opposition.

Chairman/Commissioner Items

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to go into closed session, pursuant to 143-318.11 (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body; and (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board met with Economic Development Director, Paul Worley, and discussed a company proposing to build a new facility in Peachtree. The company expects to create 30 new jobs over the next five (5) years, with an annual salary of \$90,000.

The Board also consulted with Attorney Sean Perrin, on matters which are hereby privileged.

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to support a One NC Fund Grant for Project Zeus, and to approve a \$7,500 match over the next five years.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JANUARY 20, 2026.