Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2023
6:30 P.M.

I. Call to Order -Clerk to Board

II. Ethics Statement read by Clerk to the Board

"Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act".

III. Invocation

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Call for Nominations of New Board Chair by the Clerk to the Board

The Clerk called for nominations to elect a new Chairperson for the ensuing year. Motion made by Commissioner Adams to nominate Commissioner Griggs as Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. The Clerk then called for any additional nominations. Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to nominate Commissioner Phillips as Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. The Clerk called for any additional nominations, and hearing none moved on to election of Chair.

VI. Election of Chair

The Clerk called for a vote on the first nominee, Commissioner Griggs. Motion failed 2-3. The Clerk then called for a vote on the second nominee, Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed 4-1. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Griggs. The Clerk to the Board passed the gavel and procedural rules to Commissioner Randy Phillips, the newly elected Chairman.

VII. Call for Nominations of New Vice-Chair

The Chairman called for nominations to elect a new Vice-Chair for the ensuing year. Motion made by Chairman Phillips to nominate Commissioner Eichenbaum as Vice-Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. The Chairman then called for any additional nominations. Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to nominate Commissioner Adams as Vice-Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Adams. The Chairman called for any additional nominations, and hearing none moved on to election of Vice-Chair.

VIII. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chairman called for a vote on the first nominee for Vice-Chair, Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed 3-2. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Griggs and Commissioner Adams. Commissioner Eichenbaum is elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

IX. Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Armory Project Design Proposal; and 2) PARTF Grant for Hiwassee Dam Park. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Adopt Agenda

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

XI. Public Comment Period (Pursuant to § 153A 52.1) There were no public comments.

XII. Finance and Budget

a) Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of contingency in the amount of $162,284 for the increase to Cherokee County Schools local current expense budget due to state mandated raises and required benefit increases. The Board will review for the upcoming fiscal year. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Eichenbaum said the school board needs to come up with a plan to meet teacher shortfalls.

b) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision in the amount of $1,188,700.00 for Cherokee County Schools request for use of Public-School Building Funds to replace the roof at Andrews Middle School.

c) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for Sheriff Smith's funding request for various expenditures in the amount of $88,852.90.

d) Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the reclassification of job description for a Community Social Services Assistant to a Community Social Services Tech and move the pay grade from a 55 to a pay grade 58, and to add to the current county pay plan, a Temporary Full-time BSW Intern position at a pay grade 59, and at $14.97/hour wage, as requested by DSS Director McGee. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. New Business

a) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a request from Brandon West to use the County Shooting Range for Cherokee County School Students Shooting Team, contingent upon Mr. West having the County added as an additional insured on the Shooting Teams insurance policy. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the Tax Releases, Tax Refunds and NCVTS Report. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to accept and approve the following: 1) Tax Collector's Settlement Statement Report; 2) Sworn Statement of Tax Collector; 3) Annual Settlement Report for 2022 Real and Personal Property; 4) Annual Settlement Report/Write-Offs for 2013-2022 Delinquent Taxes; and 5) Insolvent Releases/Uncollectable Accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to charge the Tax Collector with Collection of 2023 Taxes. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to accept a late application for tax exemption for Hanging Dog Volunteer Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to decline **r**evisions to the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Ordinance, as submitted by Cherokee County Soil and Water Board. Commissioner Eichenbaum said at some time in the future he would like to review and consider the current VAD Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Fain Mountain Communications Tower Lease and Right of Way Agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

h) Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the Armory Design Proposal, as submitted by Masters Architecture, PLLC. Motion passed unanimously.

i) Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) agreement for a proposed park in the Hiwassee Dam community. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. County Manager Items

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to move the January 2nd board meeting to January 8th, and to move the January 16th board meeting to January 22nd. Motion passed unanimously.

XV. Chairman/Commissioner Items

- Chairman Phillips congratulated Peachtree VFD for lowering their insurance rating from a 9 to a 5.

- Chairman Phillips praised the NCFS, USFS, Robin Caldwell and Sam Davis of Cherokee County Emergency Management, local fire departments and community members for their services during the Collett Ridge Fire event.

- Chairman Phillips announced the recent move of EMS into the new EMS Station 1 at the intersection of Peachtree Street and Jackson Street.

Vice-Chairman Eichenbaum announce there would be a ribbon cutting for EMS Station 1 on December 20th at 4 p.m.

- Chairman Phillips announced that Senator Kevin Corbin and Representative Carl Gillespie will be in town on December 20th to present a check to the County for a new Senior and Veterans Services building.

XVI. Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams 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. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board met with EDC Director Paul Worley and Korey Eller, CFO of Tri-County Community College to discuss an expansion request of a local business.

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

XVII. Open Session

After returning to open session, no action was taken on the matter discussed in closed session.

Commissioners discussed having only one meeting in February. Motion made by Chairman Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to move the February 5th meeting to February 12th and to cancel the February 19th meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. Adjourn

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JANUARY 8, 2024.