

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 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/Clerk to the Board; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Also present: WKRC Radio, Local TV4 and Cherokee Scout.

Call to order and ethics statement by Chairman.

Invocation and Pledge

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to add discussion concerning Commissioner Griggs 5-year plan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to add a budget revision for development of the new Texana convenience site. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

There were no comments during public forum.

Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve the meeting minutes of February 22nd and March 15th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Budget

- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for contract mowing at Ranger Community Center ballfield. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve a budget revision to receive CARES and Family First grant funds for the Senior Center. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously. There was no county match required.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the amended audit contract, due to delays within the audit firm. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision to begin development of the new Texana convenience site. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to adopt the 2021 Senior Games and Silver Arts Proclamation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion and presentation by Peachtree VFD Chief, Jordan Messer, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to add the Departments request of a one cent increase to the Peachtree fire tax rate to the upcoming budget discussion for consideration. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to re-appoint Dana Jones to the Board of Equalization and Review from an alternate position to a regular position. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the Cherokee County Transit Face Mask Policy, per TSA directive. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to appointment Commissioner Griggs to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council in an ex officio position. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to appoint Commissioner Stiles to the DOT Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve tax releases, tax refunds, and NCVTS report, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs to amend the Cherokee County Solid Waste Ordinance by removing newspaper recycling from the ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Sheriff Palmer and animal control officer, Rebekah Snyder, came before the Board to discuss the current Animal Control Ordinance and the difficulties with enforcement, as it is written. No action was taken.
- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to incorporate Commissioner Griggs 5-year plan in the upcoming budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Westmoreland told the board that he had been approached by some soccer moms asking to utilize the fields in Bealtown on forest service property. The county manager said he would reach out to Andy Gaston, local forester, to ask if it is possible.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the county manager notified the Board that earlier in the day he had accepted the resignation of EMS Director Doug Mills, effective immediately. He said the county would be seeking a new EMS Director.

Open Session

After returning to open session, the county manager and the Board discussed the restructuring of emergency services. The county manager said that this is a plan that has been discussed over the years and he feels now is a good time to make the transition. He said the plan would move Emergency Management and Emergency Medical Services under one department, which would be called Cherokee County Emergency Services. He asked the Board to approve creating the new department and to create the new position of Emergency Services Director. He said he has talked to Emergency Management Coordinator, Robin Caldwell, and she is willing to accept the director position, if the Board approves the position. The county manager said that the county would still be seeking an EMS Director, but that department would now fall under Emergency Services. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to create the department of Cherokee County Emergency Services and the position of Emergency Services Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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