

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 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.

**Call to order and ethics statement by Chairman.**

**Invocation and Pledge**

**Modification of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles modify the agenda to include the following items:

1. Add "Upset Bid Process for Pool and Wellness Center Lease" as item XIIIe
2. Remove the 4 aircraft from the tax release report
3. Add closed session to discuss personnel matters

Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Adoption**

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

**Public Hearing on Proposed Road Names** (Quiet River Rd; McDonald Farm Rd; Juniors Way; Cliff Top Trl; and Poppys Mountain Rd)

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to open the floor to public comments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments on the proposed road names.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Road Names**

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to adopt Quiet River Road, McDonald Farm Road, Juniors Way, Cliff Top Trail, and Poppys Mountain Road as official road names. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing for Transit DOT Grants**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to open the floor to public comments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments on the proposed road names.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve the following items for the NCDOT Transit grant applications: FY 2023 Public Transportation Resolution, the 5311 Designee Certification, and Local Share Certification for Funding. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Forum**-There were no public comments.

### **Finance and Budget**

- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve a budget revision for Cherokee County School's use of sales tax for various school projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for the carry forward of FY 20-21 budgeted items not fully expended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for use of CARES funding to purchase laptops for Cherokee County Transit. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget revisions are available for inspection in the office of the County Finance Officer.

### **Previously Tabled Item**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve an EMS agreement between Cherokee County and Easter Band of Cherokee Indians. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

- Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland remove the 4 aircraft from the tax release report and to approve the remaining tax releases and refunds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a joint resolution transferring Heritage Park to Town of Andrews. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Griggs to appoint Charles Guhman to Unaka Firefighters Relief Fund Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Commissioner Phillips to approve Option #1 for courthouse landscape project, which is to remove shrubs and replace them with annual planters. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

### **County Manager Item**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to publish a notice for upset bids for the pool and wellness center lease. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

The county manager shared with the Board that Valleytown VFD has shown interest in the Tipton Community Center.

### **Commissioner Item**

Commissioner Griggs asked for Volunteer of the Year nominations to be submitted no later than October 12th.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to authorize the county manager to engage with architects for combining EMS Stations 1 and 2 projects and bidding as one project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Eichenbaum shared information about the 9th Annual Benghazi Ride, which will take place on September 25th.

### **Closed Session**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to go into closed session to consult with legal counsel, Sean Perrin on the Josh Long lawsuit, consult with the county attorney on a contractual matter,

and to discuss the qualifications and recent certification of a current employee. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

The following matters were discussed in closed session:

- Chief Deputy Wood shared with the board that employee, Sport Teasdale, has been certified and is being promoted to the position of Program Administrator for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program, and asked the board to consider a \$2 an hour stipend while Mr. Teasdale is serving in that role.
- David Badger, Health Director discussed personnel concerns within his department, related to the pandemic and the need to address pay for certain employees.
- The Board also received an update on the Josh Long lawsuit from attorney Sean Perrin.

### **Open Session**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to allow Commissioner Westmoreland to find a plaster specialist to fix the plaster damage in the courthouse. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to provide a \$2 an hour stipend to Officer Sport Teasdale while he is serving as the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program Administrator for the Sherriff's Office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGIULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 18, 2021.