

**CHEROKEE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Pre-meeting Work Session**

**January 5, 2010**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Cherokee County Administration Building**

**MINUTES**

Chairman Ahrens asked for quiet at 3:10 p.m. and read from a chapter in Successories on "Customer Service".

**Presentation by Gay Grooms, Towne Lake Arts Center**

Chairman Ahrens asked Ms. Grooms to come up. She thanked the Board for allowing them to come and said that she wanted to mention "To Kill a Mockingbird" as a part of The Big Read in Cherokee County, a National Endowment for the Arts Reading Program, and is part of the Arts Center's 2009-2010 season. Ms. Grooms then said that today Ann Littrell was here with her to talk about the "Elm Street Cultural Arts Village" and she turned the podium over to Mrs. Littrell. Mrs. Littrell began by saying that this was a public participatory cultural arts center that has been worked on for approximately 8 or 9 months. They would operate under the umbrella of the Towne Lake Arts Center. This would be located on a 4 acre parcel located at 111 and 113 Elm Street in Woodstock where they would preserve, restore and develop the historic home (known as the Reeves Home") on these properties, serving as a model for historic preservation and green re-development. And they would offer a public park, gardens and green space for community use in the middle of downtown Woodstock. Mrs. Littrell said what they are envisioning is a partnership between the City, the County and the non-profit, who would serve as the labor force. When questioned about how they intended to obtain the parcels, Mrs. Littrell said that they have identified the four parcels of land that comprise the acreage, they have talked to the banks who own them and received executed Right of First Negotiation from both banks for the parcels. Presently they are working on a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of Woodstock proposing a "working relationship", which after this is approved, and then they would come to the County and propose a "working relationship". Commissioner Bosch asked if the purpose of coming to the County was to persuade the County to use Park Bond funds to purchase the properties, Mrs. Littrell answered in the affirmative.

After a somewhat lengthy discussion regarding expectations, the Chairman said that during the session of the Board coming up, one of the topics would be Parks and Green space and this could also be discussed.

## 1. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

The Chairman mentioned that there are 4 public hearings on the agenda. After Mr. Cooper said that while he would handle the first public hearing during the Work Session, Marianne Pieper, CDBG coordinator, would conduct the public hearing at the meeting. Then Mr. Cooper briefly summarized the reason for the public hearing, stating that it is a requirement of DCA; he reminded the board that they had already approved the move/change on September 15, 2009 and the hearing was merely a formality.

Next Geoff Morton came up and said that this was a public hearing to hear comments on these amendments, which were to strengthen the maintenance and performance bond guarantees, to require a yearly review of these and other changes that would reinforce the necessity for credit-worthy guarantees. Mr. Morton said that he had only one person to comment before tonight.

Chairman Ahrens asked Fire Marshal Rick Ruh to come forward for the next public hearing. The Chairman asked if the Fire Marshal had any comments from the public after the notice for the public hearing was published and he answered no, he had not. Chief Ruh said that the public hearing was a requirement to make changes to Chapter 28, Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance and bring it more into compliance with State regulations; which changes he had previously presented to the board.

Mr. Cooper came back up to review the public hearing for the proposed 2010 budget, but before he could begin, the Chairman said that at the beginning of the regular meeting, he planned to recognize the public safety team for the work done at the fire scene in downtown Canton on December 26.

Mr. Cooper began again saying that he would begin with the Power Point presentation for the proposed 2010 budget that he had also given out paper copies of that includes a cash flow analysis for 2010, as well as three documents pertaining to the Cherokee County libraries, a budget summary, a long-term revenue forecast and a preliminary sales tax report that does not include the metro counties. Mr. Cooper thanked the departments for working with him to make sure that the services required would be provided for even after more tightening of the budget purse strings, and then went over the highlights briefly.

One point Mr. Cooper wanted to make clear was that while the 2010 Revenues looked as though they would increase, it was due to the Parks Bond funds and the Resource Recovery bond funds. After a lengthy discussion among the members and Mr. Cooper regarding the budget, Mr. Cooper said that he would prefer that the adoption of the budget be done at the January 19 meeting.

Jeff Watkins next gave the facts regarding the request to hear an appeal of a denial by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chairman Ahrens gave a briefing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> item under his portion, and handed out copies of the request he had received from Mr. Sean Nicholl.

Mr. Cooper reviewed the items under his portion of the agenda, telling the board that he would like to delete item#2 because it wasn't quite ready yet to be presented to them.

Ms. Davis reviewed the annexation notification with the board and then asked Jeff Watkins or Vicki Lee to comment on the last item. Mrs. Lee said that she would be happy to provide copies to the board of the most recent changes that had come in late this afternoon; Mrs. Davis said that it was only a 3 page document that would be easy to review between meetings.

When the Chairman asked if there was anything further, hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:07 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Good seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve.

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