

CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pre-meeting Work Session

January 4, 2011

3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Chairman began the Work Session at 3:15 p.m., all members were present, after the Outstanding Service Awards program in the Atrium. Alli Stori Hopkins from Planning and Land Use won the 4th Quarter award for 2010; Freda Jackson from E-911 won 4th Quarter Above and Beyond for 2010; and Irene Mumper from the Development Services Center won the 2010 Outstanding Service Annual Award. Chairman Ahrens read from John Maxwell's book on Leadership.

Employee Service Recognition- Steve McClure

43 employees reached service milestones between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. Of the 43 employees, 15 were able to be at the Work Session; Mr. McClure called all the names from each milestone and asked those present to stand for applause. All 3 with 20 years were there; 7 with 15 years and 5 with 10 years. There was one employee with 25 years, however, she had retired at the end of the year and was not in attendance.

Local Emergency Operations Plan Overview- Robby Westbrook

Robby went through his presentation fairly quickly, with very few questions.

1. Discuss lobbyist - request Steve Swindell to represent Cherokee County

Chairman Ahrens asked Jerry Cooper to come up and explain this item. Mr. Cooper said he had been contacted via e-mail by Steve Swindell, who is the Deputy Chief Appraiser for the Tax Assessors Office; Mr. Swindell, who was present, had represented GAAO (Georgia Association of Appraisers Organization) as a lobbyist last year during the legislative session. This next session, he had asked for a letter to the State Ethics Commission registering him as a lobbyist on behalf of Cherokee County related to property tax issues. Chairman Ahrens said he thought this was important enough to add to the agenda this evening. Commissioner Johnston said that it should be stated that there will be no additional compensation received by Mr. Swindell.

2. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

I apologize in advance because I did not (or do not) take a lot of notes during the Work Sessions, relying instead on my memory and more importantly, on the video afterwards to review and get the Minutes done.

As I have told you before, there was no audio recorded at all during the Work Session video because of malicious human intent with the cables and this was not discovered until afterward so I am going solely on my memory here.

Vicki Taylor Lee came forward to state that she had just opened a dialogue with a gentleman from the Wildlife Management Agency, who Commissioner Nelms had told her could assist her in obtaining additional information, especially regarding the State policies on firing ranges; she would be consulting further with this contact and asked for a postponement for 30 days on this item under Unfinished Business.

There was also a lengthy dialogue with Margaret Stallings regarding a new spreadsheet responding to Commissioner Hubbard and Johnston's concerns of the revisions to the Zoning Districts, Permitted Uses Table that was also on the agenda under Unfinished Business; with the changes that resulted from this discussion, Margaret also asked for a postponement of any action until the first meeting in February.

After this, there was discussion about additional amendments to the agenda; the rest of the agenda dialogue proceeded quickly.

At 5:28 p.m., Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel, pending litigation and property acquisition; Commissioner Johnston seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
