

*There will be a reception at 2:30 p.m. on the patio outside Cherokee Hall for recipients of the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Outstanding Service Awards. You are invited to attend to congratulate the winners!* (The winners were Kimberly Watt-Recreation Coordinator-CRPA who received the Outstanding Service Award for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter and Kelly Boughner-Lead Communications Officer-E-911 who received the Above and Beyond Award)

## **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Pre-meeting Work Session**

**May 3, 2011**

**3:00 p.m.**

#### **Cherokee Hall**

#### **MINUTES**

The Chairman began the Work Session at 3:12 p.m. with a reading from "The Welch Way". All board members were present; Paul Dzikowski substituting for Angie Davis.

**1. 2010 CRPA Annual Report – Bryan Reynolds**

Bryan began his presentation saying that 2010 was a very productive and successful year for Cherokee Recreation and Parks despite the sagging economy. Bryan then went through PowerPoint slides showing the more than 2.38 million visitors to the Parks and facilities; the many advances made with the Park Bond funding and the staff & board changes at year end.

**2. March Financials – Janelle Funk**

Janelle said she wanted to explain to the board and the public why when you look at the figures given on cash balances, it may appear there is plenty of cash in the fund balance even while it is being said there will be a negative balance come November 2011. She presented a chart showing the General Fund Cash from 2007, 2010 and 2011. Janelle stated the General Fund balance is the one that raises the most concern because of all the departments that are included in the GF.

She showed 2007 which was the last year there was a significantly higher cash balance all year long and before the economy began the downhill slide. Janelle pointed out the significant difference in both 2010 and even more so in 2011 cash balances. She said she hoped to bring some financial literacy with the explanation.

Janelle began going through her presentation with most of the discussion regarding expenditures for Workers Comp and Insurance Benefits under total personnel costs. Janelle also said she had put together a quick chart showing gasoline prices from this time last year until now depicting the increase and showing the County spent 25% more on gasoline cost this year than in 2010.

Addition: Diane Minick gave an update on the Upper Etowah River Alliance activities in 2010 by PowerPoint presentation, thanking the board for their support.

After Diane finished, the Chairman said we would go to the agenda items next, but first he wanted to give an update on the runway extension project at the airport. He said he was unable to attend the board meeting last night but he did get some information he wanted to share. Number 1 was that the pavement will be down on the entire length of the 5,000 foot runway within the next week to 10 days. They will also finish up some overrun and grading on the parallel taxiway in July. Number 2, in the contract between the FBO and the Airport Authority, there is a clause that states if the hanger which was built is 75% leased out, and then a new hanger can be constructed, either by the FBO or Cherokee County. This is already being done by the FBO with materials ordered and with the building laid out next to the other hangar. This one should be completed by the end of June.

### **3. Discussion of Regular Agenda items**

The Chairman said he wasn't going to go over the Announcements, other than to ask Jackie McMorris a question regarding the battery recycling announcement; as to whether there would also be a depository here in the building. Jackie answered yes. He mentioned the notice for the outdoor burning ban as it was a late entry.

Chairman Ahrens said the Precious Metals Ordinance was not on the agenda this evening that a draft had been received by them on last Friday and asked if anyone had been able to read the draft. Commissioner Johnston said that he had but could not quote verbatim; he stated that it just basically follows State laws on regulating Precious Metals Dealers, still calls for a 30-day waiting period, it says that you have to do what the State already requires and you have to report to the Sheriff's Office, as the State prescribes. Commissioner Johnston said he had received a comment from a gold dealer that when they buy gold if they have to hold it for 30 days, it would put them at great risk because the price of gold could fall.

Chairman Ahrens asked Lt. Tommy Pinyan, who had returned today in case there were any action taken on the ordinance, what the State law holding period was. Lt. Pinyan said it was 7 days. He continued saying that the pawn shop ordinance the way it was drafted was such a benefit to the Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Unit and their hope had been that the Precious Metals Dealers ordinance would also be similar in nature and when passed, also be a benefit.

Commissioner Bosch asked Lt. Pinyan if he had contacted the cities about the Precious Metals ordinance, both to see if they were interested in adopting a similar one or if they already might have one. Lt. Pinyan said the City of Woodstock does have both the Pawn Shop and Precious Metals Dealers in the same ordinance. Commissioner Bosch asked if they had a required holding period, Lt. Pinyan said yes, it is 30 days. She asked if they require fingerprinting or photos, the lieutenant answered no they do not.

Then she asked if Canton had anything, Lt. Pinyan said he was not aware of a Precious Metals ordinance for Canton, but he was in conversation with the Chief of the Canton Police about him bringing the pawn ordinance to the city council and see if they are interested in adopting.

The Chairman asked Lt. Pinyan if a jeweler in Towne Lake bought scrap metal from someone whether they would have to have a special permit to do this. Lt. Pinyan said that yes, in the draft that he was sent they would have to get a special permit from the County.

After a discussion about jewelry stores that might be a family business and whether there might be some way to exempt them from some of the requirements in the ordinance, Commissioner Bosch mentioned that she had been out of town last Friday so had not had an opportunity to look at this draft yet. She said the board was still struggling with parts of the drafted ordinance and because of that she didn't think they were ready to make a decision on it tonight. Lt. Pinyan said they were aware of this and had only been in attendance to answer any questions that might come up.

Chairman Ahrens said the board would have to do some work on this ordinance and thanked Lt. Pinyan for coming, then the Chairman said let's go on to the agenda items.

After asking about the zoning case and hearing that both Commissioners Johnston and Hubbard were agreeable to allowing the applicant to withdraw, the Chairman mentioned his first item about the proposed GRTA changes and said he had spoken to Jackie McMorris about it briefly. He continued saying that he was sure they would have a link for the public to make comments, but was not aware of this yet.

He went on to the next item which was the Sunday retail alcohol sales, mentioning that the Governor had signed the legislation and the School Board would probably vote on Thursday to hold the referendum for a renewal of their SPLOST. Commissioner Hubbard said he had done a straw poll by email among some of his constituents and received about 50 responses; from these, it was 96% in favor of putting the question on the ballot.

Chairman Ahrens asked the board if they wanted to call for a public hearing to let the public make comments before a decision was made to put it on the ballot for a vote. Commissioner Bosch said she thought a comment period was necessary.

Chairman Ahrens said he would like a timeline from the Registrar's Office as to when sufficient notice of their intentions were required and then they would be able to make a determination as to a date for a public hearing, with enough advertisement to the public.

Mr. Cooper came up to go over the Consent Agenda items and then his portion of the agenda. The first questions were regarding items 4, 5, and 6 which were the changes in policies of Recreation and Parks for athletic field use, screening policies for youth coaches and finally a complete overhaul of the Youth Athletic Association Policies and Procedures Manual. All of these have been recommended by the CRPA Board.

On item 8, Commissioner Bosch said this was a good example of a public/private partnership even though the original community association had been split off into 6 organizations because of the question of who should be doing and paying to maintain the road, when the road and right-of-way is the County's.

Mr. Cooper completed his portion and the Chairman asked if there was anything else. Commissioner Bosch said she had jotted down a couple of things when she was at the ACCG Annual Conference last weekend that she would like to mention.

First she said Attorney General Sam Olens is overhauling the Open Records/Open Meetings Act; then she mentioned HB92 which is the Early Voting Act, it has been signed but has to go to the Department of Justice for clearance. It changes early voting from 45 days to 21 days with one Saturday required and that is the Saturday before the election. HB302 is signed; it changes the date of the primary to the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. HB 214 is the Department of Public Health that creates their own department. A positive note for the County is there were no cuts in that department. SB 178 was regulation of the Assisted Living communities.

SB 157 is the Solid Waste Management, and what this does is give the Counties the option of not having the annual update. We can adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan by Ordinance and not have to do the yearly updates. After mentioning a couple more involving 911, Commissioner Bosch said she had just wanted to mention those where there might be either a cost savings or revenue coming in.

When the Chairman asked if there was anything further, hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisitions. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

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These Minutes were approved at the meeting on May 17, 2011.