

CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Pre-meeting Work Session

June 7, 2011

3:00 p.m.

Cherokee Hall

Minutes

Chairman Ahrens began at 3:08 p.m., quoting Helen Keller first and then said the message today is "walking a mile in their shoes". He read from Mac Anderson's book "The Essence of Leadership" speaking about General Earl Hailston and his interview with Charles Gibson of *Good Morning, America* on March 5, 2003. The interview showed the General as a humble and caring man who really empathized with his men, as he had come up through the ranks as an enlisted man himself. His hobby was taking photos of the men and sending them to their families, telling the families how proud he was to serve with the men. All members were present with Paul Dzikowski in for Angie Davis.

1. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

The Chairman began saying that this was a straightforward agenda and there were no special topics, except one which he would start with. He reminded everyone at the last Work Session there were some very general discussions about the upcoming budget. He mentioned the letter he had sent out to all county employees and how pleased he was with the response he had gotten to the challenge in his letter of coming up with different ideas of how to save money. He said he had given copies of what he had received to the other board members and Mr. Cooper.

Chairman Ahrens began the review of the agenda asking about the 2 public hearings. Vicki Taylor Lee said the first one would be handled by Paul Dzikowski, as it was the case that had been remanded back to the board and a settlement had been reached through the attorneys. On the second one, she had a copy of a letter from the Corps of Engineers stating they had no problem with the encroachment into the buffer that was requested to install a pool, pool deck and landscaping.

On the next items, labeled as Requests, Vicki said the first one was for the Overlook at Sixes, originally zoned in 2005 with a condition of mandatory elevators in each unit;

however the developer, Province Development, Inc. had requested that this be an option only. Commissioner Hubbard asked why this had been made a condition and Commissioner Bosch said she had requested the condition at the time because of the targeted market and the wish by the developers to make these townhomes more high-end.

Margaret Stallings came forward for the second request, saying that the topic had been before the Board previously just to get all on the same page, as far as working together. This request was to set a public hearing to go over the application which was ready to be submitted to DCA (Department of Community Affairs). Chairman Ahrens asked about the jurisdictions who were participating; Margaret said that each of them would be holding their own public hearings.

Margaret gave the board a map showing the areas that were being requested to be designated as Redevelopment/Opportunity Zones. Commissioner Johnston noted that this designation does not change the Land Use Plan. Margaret said there would be a bound copy of the final document she would present to the board at the public hearing with the map included.

Next the Chairman went over the items on his portion of the agenda, beginning with the statement that the 2010 Transportation Investment Act unconstrained list of projects had gone to the Executive Committee from GDOT Transportation Planning Director Todd Long. All Cherokee County projects were included and he had even added one, the piece of Hwy. 20 West from I-575 to Hwy. 108, a \$110 million dollar project. Both Bartow and Forsyth counties have their portions of Hwy. 20 in their project lists, that was probably why it was added.

Chairman Ahrens said next Tuesday night, June 14th, there would be a "telephone town hall meeting" arranged by ARC; he and Tim Downing would be there at 6 p.m. for one hour to take questions about transportation. Different counties would be represented on 3 nights that week and 3 nights the next week for two sessions per night.

On the item regarding the ARC citizen member appointment, the Chairman said it was just for information currently. He asked Commissioner Johnston about the item on his portion. Commissioner Johnston said that this was an amendment to the agenda, hopefully to be approved, he thought necessary to act on even though there had presently been no response from the Postal Service regarding Mr. Cooper's proposal.

Then Mr. Cooper reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda, including an amendment. On item #2, Commissioner Johnston said he would make a statement the low bidder was his son's company and he would recuse himself from voting on this. It was decided to move this item to the County Manager's portion by amendment.

On the third item, Commissioner Bosch had some questions and Geoff Morton spoke from his seat.

Mr. Cooper said the item for amendment was a documentary being filmed as a follow-up to the movie that a portion of was made at the Arts Center, named "The Odd Life of Timothy Greene". This production company would begin on Friday, June 10 through Sunday, June 12th in the same locations.

When Mr. Cooper went to the items on his portion, he explained that #4 was a settlement and release agreement prepared by Jarrard and Davis in conjunction with the maintenance bond for Belmont Trace Subdivision. After explaining that the FDIC had dissolved the bank holding the letters of credit for this subdivision, Mr. Cooper said the original developer had agreed to deed the last two lots he still owned to the County to settle the claim against the outstanding bonds for this subdivision. The proceeds from the sale of these lots will be used to complete the asphalt surface course in this development.

On item#6, this was explained as a modification to the current County agreement with Tri-Scapes that the Bridgemill Community Association has agreed to pay costs up to \$20,000 for landscape maintenance for the Sixes Road ROW and the Bells Ferry Road ROW; to be added to our agreement for a period of one year beginning on June 1, 2011. Commissioner Bosch said this agreement had been a long time in coming and she was glad an agreement had been reached on this public/private partnership. She was encouraged that it might work for other neighborhoods as well.

There was some discussion regarding item#8 with the consensus being that this would be a beneficial service to storm victims or victims of other disasters.

When the Chairman asked if there was anything else, hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:08 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Johnston seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.

These Minutes were approved at the regular meeting on June 21, 2011.