

SUMMARY

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

JUNE 21, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chair called at 6:06 p.m. All members present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"Veterans of U.S. military service may proudly salute the flag while not in uniform based on a change in the governing law on 25 July 2007"

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation for **"Cherokee Amateur Radio Field Day-2011"**

Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard read and presented.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Three amendments: (1) Under the Chairman's portion – add Summary of Telephone Town Hall Meeting; (2) Under the County Manager's portion – add Request to schedule Millage Rate advertisements; (3) add Authorize debt service payment.

Bosch motion to approve; Nelms second; unanimous approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cherokee County Roads and Bridges Department announces that Epperson Road and Evans Cook Road will be closed for road reconstruction beginning Monday June 20, 2011 at 8:00 a.m., for approximately three (3) weeks. A detour will be posted during the duration of the repairs. Residents within the affected area will be provided access but delays should be expected. The closure will be between William Bobo Drive and Henson Road on Epperson Road and at Epperson Road on Evans Cook Road. Questions regarding the road closure should be directed to the Roads and Bridges Department at 770-345-5842.

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services was recently honored with an 'Above and Beyond' Award in recognition of their support to their employees who serve in the Georgia National Guard and Army Reserve. The presentation was made by the Georgia Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (GA ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office intent to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2011 in the amount of \$10,948. This money will be used for the equipment purchase of a surveyor station for accident investigation and prosecution. This grant is a non-match federal grant and funded in the full amount of \$10,948. Captain Joe Satterfield was in attendance and spoke about the need for this equipment to shorten the length of time normally used to investigate accidents and not require the time of as many deputies at the scene.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2011

Hubbard motion to approve; Johnston second; unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2011

Hubbard motion to approve; Johnston second; unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roy Taylor was the only speaker and wished to invite the board and the public to come out to downtown Canton on Saturday, June 25 for the *"Choosing Green" Festival* beginning at 8 a.m. and in conjunction with the Farmers' Market.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- (1) To adopt the Technology Ridge Urban Redevelopment Plan; to approve an application for an Opportunity Zone for the area encompassed by such redevelopment plans – Margaret Stallings/Michael Chapman

Hubbard motion to open at 6:20 p.m.; Bosch second; unanimous approval. Margaret Stallings explained the reasons behind the request to the Department of Community Affairs, saying this opportunity would, if approved by DCA, enhance the potential by providing incentives and mechanisms to promote private investment in the properties so designated. Both the cities of Canton and Ball Ground had already approved Resolutions for the adoption of the Plan.

Only one speaker had signed up, Scott Merrell, who asked if in this area, there would be more stringent development regulations put in place. Margaret answered no to the question. Two others, Mike Bray and Milton Blankenship, said the signup sheet had not been available and they would like to speak as well. The Chairman asked Mike Bray to come up. Mr. Bray said that he was also concerned with the plan and what effect it would have on adjacent property owners. He would also like to have seen more notice be given to adjacent property owners rather than just the notice of public hearing.

Mr. Blankenship came up next and said that he owned property in the area and did not want to see anything be put in place that would not benefit the property owners in the area. Margaret came back up and said she would like to speak to the last 2 comments and assure the speakers that there would not be additional regulations put on development in the area; this plan if approved would only benefit the property owners in making the area more attractive to market. Hubbard motion to close at 6:42 p.m.; Bosch second; unanimous approval.

Bosch motion to approve the adoption and the Resolution for the Technology Ridge Urban Redevelopment Plan; and also to approve the application for an Opportunity Zone for the area. Nelms second; unanimous approval.

- (2) For public review and comment concerning a referendum to allow Sunday retail sales of beer and wine to be put on an election ballot as per O.C.G.A. § 3-3-7 (2011)

Bosch motion to open at 6:44 p.m.; Hubbard second; unanimous approval. Chairman Ahrens gave a brief summary of the legislation that was passed late in the session; saying the legislators wanted to give the public the opportunity to make the decision of whether or not to sell beer and wine and/or distilled spirits in grocery stores on Sunday. There were 7 speakers, all of whom were in opposition for various reasons. Hubbard motion to close at 7:16 p.m.; Bosch second; unanimous approval. Before any discussion took place, Carolyn Cosby, one of the original 7 speakers, asked if one more person, who had not been able to get here early enough to sign up could speak. The Chairman looked to the board, received an affirmative nod from all and said yes. Hubbard motion to re-open at 7:17 p.m.; Bosch second; unanimous approval. April Stevens came up and she is also opposed to putting the question on the ballot. Hubbard motion to close at 7:19 p.m.; Bosch second; unanimous approval.

After some discussion among the board members, a motion to postpone a decision, until after further information and other public comment could be obtained, to the July 19 meeting was made by Johnston; Hubbard second; unanimous approval.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Redistricting of BOC Posts - Discussion and possible recommendation to Legislative Delegation

Johnston said there could be something concrete to review at the meeting on July 5th.

CHAIRMAN

L. B. AHRENS

AMENDMENT *Summary of telephone town hall meeting re: Transportation*

Chairman and Mayor Downey participated on Tuesday, there were 48,000 households called in Cherokee County; of those only 7,000 participated, either asking questions or answering three polling questions. Almost 1,000 stayed online for the entire hour. Good response.

COMMISSION POST 1

HARRY B. JOHNSTON

VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION POST 2

JIM HUBBARD

COMMISSION POST 3

KAREN BOSCH

COMMISSION POST 4

JASON NELMS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of BWI (Business Watch International) Memorandum of Agreement for electronic reporting of Pawn Shops, etc. to Sheriff's Office
2. Consider approval of Settlement and Release Agreement for Lenore Place Subdivision to complete the remaining public improvements from outstanding surety bonds
3. Approve contract between State Court of Cherokee County and Georgia Probation Management Services at no cost to the County

Hubbard motion to approve; Nelms second; unanimous approval.

COUNTY MANAGER

4. Consideration of approval to award design/build agreement for the design and construction of concession stand and toilet buildings at the Soccer Complex at Blalock Road at a total project cost not to exceed \$600,000. to the design/build team of Latimer Construction and JKH Architects who offered the most responsive proposal for design, schedule and fee as well as estimated construction costs

Bosch motion to approve; Nelms second; unanimous approval.

5. Approval to execute Satisfaction of Lien in the amount of \$13,923.39 for property located at Dr. John Pettit Drive (acquired by Habitat for Humanity through the HOME Program to develop affordable housing) and to seek a waiver from HUD releasing Habitat from repaying these funds; Approve Revised Recapture Provision for HOME Program agreements.

Hubbard motion to approve; Johnston second; unanimous approval.

AMENDMENT Request to tentatively set millage rate and advertise public hearings

Johnston motion to set at 5.674 General Fund, 3.195 for Fire District and .664 for the Park Bond for a total millage rate of 9.533; and to advertise 3 public hearings to take comment from the public. Hubbard second; unanimous approval.

AMENDMENT Authorize County Manager to make debt service payment in order to maintain excellent credit rating

Hubbard motion to approve; Johnston second; unanimous approval.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

ADJOURN

Hubbard motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.; Bosch second; unanimous approval.