

**CHEROKEE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Work Session**

**September 6, 2011**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Cherokee Hall**

**MINUTES**

The Chairman began at 3:08 p.m. with all members of the Board present. In lieu of the usual motivational quote, etc., in light of the anniversary of 9/11 and the recent tragic loss of Navy Seals and other military personnel, he showed slides of photos of a dog guarding the casket of his owner and asked everyone to have a moment of silence.

He then thanked our public safety for their advance warnings and preparedness for the recent storms and tornadoes that came through Cherokee County the day before.

Next, he announced Christy Black as the new County Clerk as Sheila Corbin had recently retired. He explained that Christy would also have Administrative Office Management duties as well as the role of clerk.

He called Chief Raymond Gunnin to the podium to tell about the fire that had recently occurred and the danger our firefighters were in.

He then asked Bill Echols to begin his presentation.

1. Aquatic Center design presentation – Bill Echols, Director of Capital Projects

Bill Echols began by introducing the Cooper Cary principal in charge of this project to give the presentation on the design of the Aquatic Center. He also presented the Board with two renderings of the project. Bryan Reynolds then gave remarks on the project and answered questions.

2. Economic Development update – Misti Martin

Misti Martin gave a presentation of the Existing Industry Survey and results and the prospect activity. Prospect activity for January through August 2011 included 46 projects vs. 24 projects for the same time period in 2010. She also talked about the marketing committee's work on the Cherokee 75 development and the web site re-development. Survey results indicated that employers ranked workforce exceptionally high in productivity, quality and stability. Community services rated more positively than ever before. Community planning ranked high as well as ambulance, fire and police. Fire protection had an almost perfect score. Expansion and development indicated that 57% of the 21 industries surveyed plan to expand within the next three years.

3. Discussion of Pain Clinic Ordinance – Angie Davis, County Attorney

Angie Davis introduced a draft of the Pain Clinic Resolution. She would like to debate and streamline the ordinance as it gets further along. She said that the state legislation does not allow much regulation, but what we can do is during the application phase is to request an additional submittal of information such as where these places are located, what doctors are housed there, whether they intend to dispense or just prescribe, if it's a pharmacy type operation or if they are truly a walk in walk out with pills operation. Beyond that, it would get into the legislation that the state will not allow. Commissioner Bosch asked who would approve these applications. Ms. Davis responded that it would follow the same process as the current occupational tax certificate does. Her recommendation is to set a Public Hearing for October 4, 2011. She will get with Jeff Watkins again and will try to get a new draft out by the end of this week. Commissioner Bosch asked who is typically speaking at the public hearings on this ordinance. She responded that she really wasn't expecting to see a big opposition group showing up for this but that she is not certain what groups may attend.

4. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

The Chairman asked Mr. Cooper if he wanted to talk about any reorganization. Mr. Cooper responded that as a result of reorganization and the selective retirement incentive, the fire department has shown a savings of approximately \$700,000. Sheriff Garrison has agreed to eliminate four positions due to retirement for a savings of approximately \$250,000 annually. He said we are looking at around \$1.25 million and \$1.5 million annual savings for 2012. Commissioner Johnston mentioned that this looks like it will enable us to close the gap left after the millage rate increase.

The Chairman then said he'd like to talk about the City of Canton and the Commerce Boulevard project as it builds out from Hwy. 20 to Hwy. 140. The project involves several entities including the City of Canton, the

hospital, GDOT and the County. The project would involve about a mile. He said he has a draft to hand out in Executive Session and would like to amend the agenda to discuss in the regular meeting. The reason for bringing this up is that he, Mr. Cooper and Geoff Morton have a meeting tomorrow with GDOT and our board member representative Brandon Beach to see what part GDOT will play in this, but he is expecting them to cover about half of the cost. We already have a MOU with the City of Canton in place that will allow us to do this. Commissioner Bosch asked what we are committing to and if our in-kind would count towards our part? The Chairman responded that Mr. Cooper would work out those details. Commissioner Hubbard commented that he trusts Geoff Morton's office to have the authority to handle the project. Commissioner Bosch then mentioned that the agreement didn't specifically mention a cost but the term sponsorship sounds like it could be money in addition to committing County staff to working with these entities. She asked again, does this time and effort by County staff count towards our in-kind? Commissioner Hubbard said he'd like to see the County get involved as soon as possible to help get the bridge permitted and built.

The Chairman then brought up agenda item # 5 "Public Meeting scheduled for September 19". The meeting is being hosted by the Atlanta Regional Commission regarding the Transportation Investment Act. He and Mayor Downing of Holly Springs will be attending the meeting.

The Chairman brought up the evening's Public Hearings and Mr. Cooper briefly went through them.

The Chairman said that on his section, he was prepared to make an appointment to the Board of Ethics to fill the vacancy. He also commented that he would like to move forward on revising the Ethics Ordinance after reviewing the ACCG draft and would discuss in Work Session in October or November.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Cooper to please skip discussion of Consent Agenda and to talk about the 12 items under his section.

The Chairman then asked if there was anything else. Hearing none, Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:16 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session.

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Executive Session to Follow