

MINUTES

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 REGULAR MEETING CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Nelms gave the invocation

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Those present include Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Vice Chair/Commissioner Jim Hubbard; Commissioner Karen Bosch; Commissioner Jason Nelms; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Paul Dzikowski; County Clerk Christy Black. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media; and the public.

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 Read for the Record Day presented to Debby Pinion, Cherokee County Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy.

The Chairman read the proclamation and presented it to Debby Pinion. Debby accepted the proclamation and thanked the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. North Georgia Health District's Drive-by flu clinic for Cherokee County is on Friday, October 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Conference Center at Bluffs Parkway. The cost is \$20 for the regular flu shot and \$52 for the high-dose vaccine. More information can be found at www.nghd.org. "The best protection against influenza is a flu shot".
2. Cherokee Friends of Recovery is hosting their 2nd annual 5K fun run (Twilight Run F.O.R. Cherokee) at Hobgood Park on Saturday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m. The event is to promote public awareness of the DUI/Drug Treatment Court which helps rehabilitate habitual drunk drivers. Proceeds to benefit Cherokee Friends of Recovery Foundation, Inc.
3. The Georgia Department of Transportation announces that Water Tank Road will be closed to through traffic at the western intersection with SR 20 from September 5 to October 20, 2011, for intersection reconstruction and realignment associated with the SR 20 improvement project. Questions

regarding the detour should be directed to the Georgia Department of Transportation at 770-387-3680.

4. **Electronics Recycling Day is coming!** On Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cherokee County Administration Building located at 1130 Bluffs Parkway. This event is made possible by Cherokee County, RecycleTronics, and Waste Management. For more information, please call (404) 394-9601.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES FROM AUGUST 16, 2011

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Hubbard seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 16, 2011

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Hubbard seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Nelms seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve the minutes with a change under the amendment, referencing early use of Soccer Fields, to note that she did not approve and that the vote was 4-1. Commissioner Nelms seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Waleska Mayor Marguerite Cline had signed up to speak about the Splash Pad at Cine Park. She stated that the Splash Pad had been under construction for over five years and that during that time, when she would call to inquire status, the work would start for a while and then stop. She says that she understands now that if Georgia Power finishes their part, then it will be ready. If it is ready, she requested that Board announce a demonstration of the Splash Pad, weather permitting for Saturday, September 24 for a demo and for the media to announce the demo. She asked that if it is not finished, for the county stop all work on all other projects and give this project their immediate and full attention.

Commissioner Johnston said that he would try to find out if it was ready for a demo and if so, would try to take care of getting the announcement to the media.

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMISSION BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN

L. B. AHRENS

- A. Consider candidates for vacancy on Cemetery Preservation Committee.

Chairman Ahrens reminded the board that they needed to appoint a replacement for the Cemetery Preservation Committee member, Jim Der, who resigned. Commissioner Bosch stated that Mr. Derr had been her appointment and that she would appoint another member soon.

- B. Update on Transportation Investment Act from September 19th Public Meeting in Cherokee County.

The Chairman asked had anyone been telephoned on Sunday evening to remind them of the September 19 Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Public Meeting? No one in the audience had been called. He said that about 35 people attended the meeting in addition to himself, representatives from ARC, GDOT, GRTA, Council for Quality Growth, Mayor Downing of Holly Springs, and Mayor Hobgood of Canton. He said he felt that we had good representation there. The intention of the meeting was to a. provide information for the upcoming referendum and b. provide opportunity for public input that could be incorporated into the next three Round Table meetings where the final list of projects will be determined. The due date for the final list to be delivered to State Legislature is October 15, 2011 at midnight. Once the list is set, it cannot be changed.

- C. Presentation of agenda by 'Review and Recommendations Committee to assist County Government'.

Carolyn Cosby read the letter the group had sent to the Board and the committee's 16 item agenda. She said due to the long title of the group, they are referred to as "The Citizens Committee".

The Chairman made a motion to accept the committee's agenda as read by Ms. Cobsy. Commissioner Nelms seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Update on Shoal Creek Reservoir and Dawson County's public hearings.

Chairman Ahrens said that he wanted to make everyone aware of a large reservoir project afoot, termed the Shoal Creek Reservoir. He did not suggest the Board take a position on this yet. He said that

Cherokee Water and Sewerage Authority had not taken a position as of now.

Commissioner Hubbard commented that from his understanding, the project is an inter-basin transfer. He said the County currently puts back what water it uses and that from the analysis he's seen, the Shoal Creek Reservoir project will not do that and unless he hears something differently, he is not prepared to support it.

Commissioner Johnston agreed that it did not sound at all that it is in the best interest of this county.

Commissioner Bosch asked if there been any meetings in preliminary stages. He answered that so far there has been just one public hearing in Dawson County.

COMMISSION POST 1

HARRY B. JOHNSTON

- A. Consideration of all-way stops as speed control measures on Water Tank Road.

Commissioner Johnston gave a little background about the ongoing complaints from residents of Water Tank Road which is a cut through for East Cherokee Drive and Hwy. 20. County Engineering has advised against the all-way stops because the roads in question are close together. Commissioner Johnston proposed a petition and if met with 90% approval, then ask Roads and Bridges to proceed with a provision stating that it does not conform with County Engineering's recommendation.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion subject to the 90% approval to request all-way stops at Free Drive and Lake Drive. Commissioner Hubbard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION POST 2

JIM HUBBARD

- A. Discussion of approval for new Northside Hospital-Cherokee.

Commissioner Hubbard referenced the flyers he placed on the table out front and stated that he completely supported the project due to its location and accessibility. He asked the citizens for letters of support to be written as the project is meeting opposition.

Chairman Ahrens clarified that the opposition is not coming from residents but from WellStar. He also added that it is a huge economic development for Cherokee County - about a \$250 million

project that will bring around 2,000 to 3,000 new jobs in the medical profession to Cherokee County.

Commissioner Johnston agreed that this was probably the single biggest economic development project the County has seen and will bring in a lot of jobs.

B. Child Seat Belt Safety Week

Commissioner Hubbard invited everyone to stop by Bill Holt Chevrolet in Canton this Saturday, September 24 to have a free child safety seat check. It is recommended that child safety seats be replaced every five years due to ever changing technology.

COMMISSION POST 3

KAREN BOSCH

COMMISSION POST 4

JASON NELMS

- A. Commissioner Nelms made a comment that after the recent tornadoes he went by Dixie Speedway which received a large amount of damage to check on the business. There were about 5,000 people there to help out. He also commented that a lot of those there were giving back after the Speedway owner, Mr. Swims, had raised money to help those who received damage in Ringgold last year. Mr. Swims commented that he was grateful for the help by the County after the storms.
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CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of a resolution to accept the rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures for maintenance in **Centennial Lakes Pod 5** subdivision, including all or a part of Shaw Drive.
2. Consideration of a resolution to accept the rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures for maintenance in **Centennial Lakes Pod 10** subdivision, including all or part of Shaw Drive and Bronze Court.
3. Consideration to authorize Christy Black, County Clerk, and Greg Dodgen, Director of Procurement and Risk Management, to sign county vehicle titles.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Nelms seconded. Consent agenda approved unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER

4. Requesting approval to renew contract services to Fire One, Inc. to provide Ground ladder inspections, testing and repair services. Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve. Commissioner Johnston seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Requesting to amend the budget for State Court Technology Fees in the amount of \$14,066 for the purchase of 3 laptops, 4 desktop computers and maintenance agreement for courtroom technical equipment.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve. Commissioner Bosch seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Requesting approval for Human Resources to sign a Service Application for Leave Administration Services with UNUM to provide FMLA administration services for two years, free of charge. Upon receipt of the Service Application, UNUM will enter into A Professional Services Agreement with the County to provide FMLA services.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve. Commissioner Johnston seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Consideration to approve recommendations from the Employment Benefits Committee for the 2012 benefit plan: Health Management Program, Healthcare Plan change, Healthcare Premiums, Tobacco Surcharge and Flexible Spending Account Provider.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve. Commissioner Johnston seconded with the comment that they were approving conceptually with more specific approvals pending. Mr. Cooper agreed by stating they were approving the recommendation of the committee and that they would bring the three formalized recommendations with documentation to the next meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Requesting approval of the release of the Aquatic Center design and engineering documents for competitive bidding to the shortlisted and prequalified general, pool and mechanical contractors. (Item postponed from September 6, 2011 meeting)

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve. Commissioner Hubbard seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. A lot of discussion ensued about the need for this project to be completed.

AMENDMENT

COUNTY ATTORNEY

ADJOURN

The Chairman asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.; Nelms seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.