

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

**Work Session**

**MINUTES**

**October 4, 2011**

The Chairman began the meeting at 3:07 with all board members present. He started by reading several motivational quotes and proverbs.

**1. Resolution Request in support of Ed SPLOST**

The Chairman stated that he recently received a request and that they may or may not want to consider amending the agenda to add the topic. He said he received communication in reference to the Ed SPLOST asking if the Board of Commissioners would sign a resolution of support of that renewal. He said that in his opinion, and he did seek the advice of one of our ACCG members, the request is much more in the tone of advocating rather than educating people about it. He also said that they were being asked to do this in a public forum in their rolls as commissioners on county time as opposed to being out at a location where they may individually have a point of view. He said it was purposely not put on the agenda because of just receiving the request.

Angie Davis said to the extent that ACCG offered that advice, and that it is grounded in that there is a prohibition against the use of tax payer funds to market or advance a particular ballot initiative, she agreed.

Commissioner Johnston asked that if the law is stating we can't use county resources, would that necessarily preclude us from signing a resolution of support since that is not requiring county resources.

Angie Davis advised that since a state-wide organization offered advice against it that she has to agree because it is a thin line between advocating

for the renewal and being informative and that each commissioner can speak individually. She also stated that while we aren't spending money, we are sitting at a tax payer funded forum.

Commissioner Bosch stated that we are actually showing support by voting on it and that she agrees that it's a really close line.

Commissioner Johnston asked that if he or any of the other commissioners were at a location speaking, would they be precluded from promoting it in that capacity? Angie responded that as long as it was not a county funded event and not using county resources for materials, flyers, etc. that in her opinion it should be fine.

The Chairman stated that it could actually be deemed using county resources to vote on it and Commissioner Bosch used the example of 'county building, county lights'.

## 2. **Amendment for Early Voting Announcement**

Chairman Ahrens asked to amend the agenda to make the announcement that early voting begins the date of our next meeting, October 18 to to October 31. Commissioner Bosch mentioned that she learned yesterday at ACCG that qualifying has been moved to May 23.

## 3. **Amendment to add a Proclamation to the Agenda for Red Ribbon Week**

The Chairman said that we received a request for an additional proclamation from the Young Marine Corp League requesting to designate October 23 through October 31 as Red Ribbon Week against illicit drug use.

## 4. **Public Hearing – Pain Clinic Ordinance**

Angie Davis said that in the materials tonight they received a clean copy of the revised Pain Clinic Ordinance draft. She noted that the changes since the last draft were mostly for clarity such as establishing more clearly who the applicant is and who they intend to maintain the DEA number and the License number. She mentioned that the biggest hurdle is that state law does not allow us to regulate the clinics so the only monitoring we can do is through the Occupation Tax Permit by asking for addition information on the application.

Chairman Ahrens asked if we've seen a lot of jurisdictions stepping up to address pain clinics.

Commissioner Bosch asked if any cities besides Holly Springs were working on addressing the pain clinics. The Chairman responded that Woodstock is.

## 5. **Public Hearing – Amusement Activity Ordinance (Special Events)**

Jeff Watkins presented a slide show outlining the need for updating the ordinance to provide better customer service. The current process is that people will go to various departments for approval of an event. The new process would allow customers to come to one place, The DSC and the application would then go through the workflow for proper approval and notification to appropriate departments.

Commissioner Bosch mentioned the discrepancy between the handout stating \$30 and the slideshow says \$50 for the permit fee. Jeff Watkins said that the fee is \$50 per the recently approved fee increase.

Commissioner Bosch also asked did the ordinance address parking on highways, etc. interrupting the normal flow of traffic. Jeff Watkins said that there may be instances where more services are needed such as Sheriff's Office for traffic control.

Jeff Watkins summarized by saying this ordinance would codify what they are basically doing now, but with consistency and speeding up the process.

Commissioner Bosch read the line from the brochure "...or any activity which does not comply with normal use of public streets, sidewalks or right-of-way". She stated that the line should be included as a disclaimer in the ordinance.

Commissioner Johnston said that parking may have to be addressed outside of this ordinance by using the framework of the state law and adopting a more detailed parking policy.

## 6. **Chairman Ahrens**

Chairman Ahrens recognized Misti Martin of the Cherokee Office of Economic Development for being elected as 2012 Chairperson for the state-wide Organization, Georgia Economic Developer's Association. She is also on the cover of Georgia Trend's annual "Georgia's Best 40 under 40". He added that this was another Unique Selling Point for Cherokee County.

Chairman Ahrens also commented on the Airport Authority's runway extension ribbon cutting ceremony the night before. He said the Airport was named "Airport Project of the Year" by Georgia Airports Association. He added that this is yet another Unique Selling Point for Cherokee County.

## 7. **Discussion of Regular Agenda Items**

Mr. Cooper discussed the request to ratify his approval of the contract with FlexCorp in the amount of \$17,628 which was the low bid out of five bids.

Mr. Cooper also discussed the request of approval for the Transportation Enhancement Memorandum of Understanding between Cherokee County and Georgia DOT for ST 92 and Robin Road Enhancement. The county has budgeted one million dollars over the next couple of years for this project. GDOT through this agreement has agreed to provide \$300,000. The county will also be applying for LCI funds to further save costs.

## 8. **County Manager**

Mr. Cooper discussed the request to approve the proposal from NOVA Engineering and Environment to provide testing for the Aquatic Center Project. Commissioner Johnston asked would this agreement bind us to these services if the Aquatic Center got delayed or not built. Mr. Cooper stated that the contract was contingent upon the Aquatic Center being constructed.

Mr. Cooper then discussed the request to set a public hearing on November 1, 2011 for the renewal of the franchise agreement for Comcast cable. He stated that he is currently working with Comcast to have services provided to government buildings, particular Public Safety. If an agreement is met regarding that particular issue prior to the public hearing date, then there will be no need for the public hearing.

Commissioner Johnston asked if Comcast was paying the county. Mr. Cooper said that they paid the standard utility franchise fee of 5%.

Mr. Cooper gave a brief introduction to the Benefits Committee Recommendations which included the Benefits Healthcare plan, and the adoption of the CHN wellness program, the \$100 charge per pay period for non-participants and the \$20 per pay period surcharge for tobacco use. He then turned the topic over to Scott Parker for a presentation and to answer any questions. Scott went over the financial information and reminded everyone that our benefits program is partially self-funded which means our costs are directly related to employee claims.

He went on to say that the best way to control costs is to lower the demand for health services by improving the health of employees by changing their

behaviors

Jackie Warren, President of CHN, said that what makes CHN unique is the onsite coaching and worksite visits they provide.

Mr. Parker reminded the Board that CHN has guaranteed to reimburse the county half of the fees if our costs are not lowered as a result of the program. (Costs \$336 per employee and they will reimburse \$168) Commissioner Johnston asked if this guarantee was based on actual costs or projected costs. It was determined to be the projected costs based on 6% trend of increase.

9. **Amendment to Add City of Canton Annexation**

The Chairman said that an amendment would be made to the agenda to add the City of Canton Annexation that Angie Davis's office just received.

The Chairman asked if there was anything else. Hearing none, Vice Chair Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:19 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Executive Session to Follow