

By policy, minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Commissioners at a future regular meeting.

CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Work Session
October 18, 2011
3:00 p.m.
Cherokee Hall
MINUTES

The Chairman began the meeting at 3:10 with all board members present. He started by reading several motivational quotes from *Succesories / Perseverance* by Mac Anderson.

1. Financial Update by Janelle Funk

Janelle presented the September financials review, concentrating on where we are now. She reported Development Services and Landfill fees were below budget but could be offset by Prisoner Housing Funds and Fines and Forfeitures which were higher than expected. She said that the sale of Blalock Landfill added 1.5 million added to the General Fund and that the raise in the millage rate generated more revenue than expected.

Commissioner Bosch asked if the increase in prisoner housing fees was due to state money they were expecting. Janelle replied that she did not know, but that she would follow-up with Stacey Williams with the Sheriff's Office to find out.

Chairman Ahrens asked if we were seeing a pickup in the fines and forfeitures collections. Janelle replied that we were seeing an increase in that area.

Janelle then reported that we were seeing a decrease in budgeted revenues in E-911Fund due to the decrease in land line telephones. She said that we would use

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E911 Fund reserves to cover this but that we will begin receiving revenue for the pre-paid wireless in October of next year and would be able to stop using reserves. Janelle said that population increased so we saw an increase in the Insurance Premium Tax Fund which will first be used to cover the negative balance in this fund, and then be transferred to the General Fund to help build reserves and avoid a negative cash position. She said that after careful review, it appears that the Transportation Fund will be under their revenue budget by \$111,000. This will cause the Canton bus route results to be negative. The Transportation fund was also impacted by the increase in fuel costs. She said overall it looks like we will achieve our Total County revenue budget. She went through the expenditures budget and stated that the County should meet the 2011 Total Expenditure budget despite unbudgeted increases in fuel and electricity, and the timing of worker's compensation claim payments.

Commissioner Bosch asked about the effect of the new fiscal year. Janelle replied that the fiscal year for next year will be January 1 to September 30. Janelle said that basically if every department was at 75% of their 2011 budget for 2012 that we would achieve budget.

Chairman Ahrens asked if the cause of the transportation decrease in funds was due to a drop in ridership. Janelle replied that it was partially due to a federal grant that was received in 2009, but did not exist for 2010 or 2011 as budgeted. Also, ridership revenue collected was much less than the expenses involved.

Commissioner Johnston asked if it would help to decrease the number of routes. She replied that the impact to the community must be considered, but the County is taking a look into the two fixed routes in Canton.

Commissioner Bosch asked about opportunities for public/private partnerships since it benefits the businesses. Janelle said that it was worth pursuing.

Commissioner Hubbard said that he'd like to see the routes and ridership to see what we can do.

Chairman Ahrens said that we need to sit down with the city because of the dramatic increase in the population growth headed this way.

2. Presentation by Bryce Holcomb w/Citibank – Parks Bond Update / Drawdown Options

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Bryce Holcomb gave a presentation on the balance of the park bond that included the following:

The County has \$34.2 million of the original \$90 million voter approved G.O. Bond authorization remaining. He went over projected bond proceeds with no millage cap, with 0.85 millage cap and 0.75 millage cap.

Commissioner Johnston said that if he understood correctly, that we could proceed with 2012 and 2013 without committing ourselves to raise the millage rate above 0.75 and the hard call wouldn't come until 2015 to see if we were willing to go above the 0.75.

Mr. Holcomb then covered the process of issuing new debt in 2012.

After more discussion, it was decided to try to work on issuing \$11.4 million of new debt to begin in December 2011 for BOC approval and a final close on January 17, 2012.

3. Discussion of Regular Agenda Items

Zoning Cases:

Commissioner Nelms said that one case was in his post and that he would recommend approval with a couple of revisions that he would define in the regular meeting.

Commissioner Johnston and Commissioner Hubbard reviewed the remaining cases that were in their respective posts and had no questions on any of them.

Chairman Ahrens said that he was going to add to his portion an update on the TSPLOST. He also announced the final candidate for the Executive Director of the Atlanta Regional Commission as Doug Hooker. Mr. Hooker still has to be approved by the majority of ARC so if approved, he will be announced as director at the November 5 Regional Breakfast.

Commission Johnston said that due to only getting 55% of residents wanting the all-way signs on Water Tank Road rather than the 95% they had hope for, there would be no more discussion on the issue. Brett Buchannon added that they were approved to have the Sheriff's Office run radar on that road now, so having that capability may help with the speeding.

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The Chairman asked Mr. Cooper if he had anything on the **Consent Agenda** that they needed to discuss and he replied that there was not.

Mr. Cooper then went over the five items on his section:

- Agreement with City of Ball Ground for radio equipment. He said that it was basically the same language as used with the City of Woodstock Agreement. He asked that it be approved contingent upon the review and approval of the County Attorney.
- Requesting acceptance of Home Funds Grant from the GA Urban County Consortium in the amount of \$261,884 and to issue a subrecipient grant.
- Requesting approval of continuation application for Stop VAWA Criminal Justice System Improvement Grant.
- Approval of Professional Services Agreement with CHN for the Wellness Program after finalizing language. Asking contingent approval until he can run the final agreement by the Board.

Commissioner Bosch asked if participation was results based and answer was that it was not, that it was based on participation.

Angie Davis added that the agreement was vague, particularly the guarantee. She would like to see the coaching time / services required for different risk levels more clearly defined.

Mr. Cooper suggested either postponing a decision until November 2 or approve contingent upon receiving the clarification requested.

- Consideration of amendment to the City of Nelson Fire Services Agreement to remove the 3 mill cap on the fire district rate.

County Attorney

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Angie Davis said that the pouring license application seemed to meet the criteria for approval and that she recalled the event was approved last year.

Chairman Ahrens said that early voting began on Monday and two items for Unincorporated Cherokee County were on the ballot.

Commissioner Johnston brought up setting the 2012 meeting schedule. He asked to consider shifting a couple of dates with conflicts, particularly the July 3 meeting to July 10 and the July 17 meeting to July 24. It was decided to vote on the adjustments at the next meeting.

Chairman Ahrens made the comment that we recently made two appointments to the Ethics Board. He said that he had a draft of the Cobb Ethics Board Ordinance and has since obtained a copy of ACCG's Ordinance. He would like to see the topic discussed at a Work Session at the beginning of the year or possibly at the retreat.

The Chairman asked if there was anything else. Hearing none, Vice Chair Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session to Follow