

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Work Session**

**June 5, 2012**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Cherokee Hall**

### **MINUTES**

The Chairman began at 3:34 p.m. with all members of the Board present.

The Chairman called forth Jeff Watkins to present the Etowah Community Land Development Standards for the Planned Unit Development project to be developed by Newland Communities. Newland VP Patrick Clark spoke to BOC about the project and the Land Development Standards construction and application to the project.

Chief Prather then came forward to announce an accomplishment and recognize a team leader in his department. The fire department took over Safe Kids in 2003. Chad Arp has been in charge of it ever since. Chief Prather said Captain Arp asked him to join him at the Annual Safe Kids of Georgia Awards banquet where he found out Cherokee County won lead agency of the year. Chief Prather wanted to give recognition to Captain Arp for his accomplishment. Cherokee County's Safe Kids group is made up of the Sheriff's office, Marshal's office, animal shelter, health department, Woodstock Police & Fire Department's, Canton Police & Fire Department's and the school board.

Janelle Funk reviewed April 2012 YTD Financials. She said the County's cash position is very close to projections. Actual General Fund cash balance = \$21.7M vs projected \$21.1M. Janelle explained that while we have seen some positive variances – we would still expect a cash low point of \$0.3M in September 2012 because equipment maintenance costs that had been budgeted in SPLOST would be charged to Insurance Premium Fund.

Janelle explained revenues were also on target. The county is receiving more Motor Vehicle tax than budgeted. She confirmed with the Tax Commissioner that they are seeing filings on more NEW vehicles which would require a higher property value and therefore higher taxes. She said YTD this was a positive permanent variance and will continue to monitor receipts to determine if the forecast should be increased.

She explained that while Grant revenue is below budget, grant expenses were also below budget so YTD there was minimal impact to the county. She also stated this was a timing variance.

She reported SPLOST tax collections were higher than budget and YTD were equal to 2007 YTD collections which could be a sign of economic recovery.

She reported there were no surprises with expenditures. County-wide we spent \$44.0M as of April 2012 YTD, and the same was spent 2011 YTD. Workers comp costs and healthcare costs all appear to be on-target. Atlanta gas prices have come down since the peak in late March which is in line with the price peak of crude oil. She reported the County has a small risk of exceeding the fuel budget – but departments would reduce costs in other areas if required, so on a total budget basis she believes we will achieve the FY 2012 expenditure budget.

She summarized the presentation by indicating fiscal year 2012 should meet revenue, expenditure, and cash budgets. However, since we have used one-time funding sources – this will put pressure on the fiscal year 2013.

1. Discussion of Regular Agenda Items.

Mr. Cooper went over the **Chairman's** portion:

- Consider appointment to the Sequoyah Regional Library Board.
- Consider the re-appointment of Daniel Clifford to the Board of Tax Assessors for six-year term, expiring on June 30, 2018.
- Consider appointment to the Airport Authority.

Mr. Cooper went over the **Consent Agenda**:

- Consider request to surplus and transfer server purchased from Metatomix Project that is no longer meeting contractual needs from the Clerk of Courts to Habersham County who still utilizes this program.

Mr. Cooper then went over the items under the **County Manager's** portion:

- Consider approval of recommendations from the Employee Benefits Committee regarding the Pre-Retirement Death Benefit through GebCorp.

Commissioner Hubbard asked if that was unrestricted wealthy to the estate. Jerry Cooper said it would be the employees' choice. Commissioner Johnston asked if it was a pension benefit and Mr. Cooper confirmed.

- Consider approval of recommendations from the Employee Benefits Committee regarding Healthcare Plan, Healthcare Premiums and Tobacco Surcharge.
- Consider approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between Cherokee County and the Georgia Northeastern Railroad and Pilgrim's for improvements to Univeter Road rail crossings with the cost split between the three (3) entities in the amount of \$19,830.00 each.
- Consider approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Cherokee County and the City of Woodstock for reimbursement of costs associated with improvements to Ragsdale Road. The estimated project cost is \$169,582.00 with City of Woodstock's portion estimated at \$94,199.00 or 56%.
- Consider award of bid for construction of the law enforcement training facility to the low bidder, Catamount, in the amount of \$2,819,954.00. Three bids were received ranging from \$2.8 M to \$3.2 M. Approval of construction contract with Catamount is contingent upon approval of reimbursement agreement with the State of Georgia for construction/design in the amount of \$700,000.00, in addition to future reimbursement of pro-rata share of utilities / maintenance costs.

Mr. Cooper then went over the items under the **County Attorney's** portion:

- Ratification of Notice Letter related to Ball Ground Recycling Facility.
- Consider request for a Public Hearing to be held on June 19, 2012 to hear amendments to the Cherokee County Records Management Program.

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The Chairman asked if there was anything else. Hearing none, 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 Nelms seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session to Follow