

# MINUTES

## Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

October 16, 2012      REGULAR MEETING      CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 P.M.

### INVOCATION

Commissioner Hubbard gave the invocation.

### CALL TO ORDER

### CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Those present include Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Jim Hubbard; Vice Chair/Commissioner Karen Bosch; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Angie Davis; County Clerk Christy Black. (Commissioner Nelms was out of town on an important business matter and unable to attend.) Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media; and the public.

### RATIFY CLOSURE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ahrens called for a motion to ratify the closure of Executive Session at 5:55 p.m.

Commissioner Hubbard made the motion; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### 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"*

Chairman Ahrens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PRESENTATIONS

None scheduled.

### PROCLAMATION

Proclaiming October 23 through October 31 as **Red Ribbon Week** in Cherokee County in support against illicit drug use.

Chairman Ahrens read the proclamation. Members of the Young Marine Corp were present to accept the proclamation. A brief biography was read on Enrique "KiKi" Carmarena, a drug enforcement agent who lost his life in the line of duty.

## **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

1. Under the Chairman's Portion: Upcoming vacancy on the Development Authority Board.
2. Under Consent Agenda: Remove item 1.1, Budget Transfer

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve amendments; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. OLD ORANGE MILL ROAD AND COTTON ROAD CLOSING**

The Georgia Department of Transportation announces that Old Orange Mill Road and Cotton Road will be closed to through traffic at their northerly intersection with SR 20, beginning October 24, 2012, for a period of 45 days, for intersection reconstruction associated with the SR 20 improvement project.

A posted detour will be provided during the duration of the construction. The detour route utilizes Owens Store Road and East Cherokee Drive.

The Georgia Department of Transportation appreciates the public's patience during the detour period and requests that motorists obey the detour for their safety as well as for the safety of all contractors' personnel.

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

### **2. Voting Dates, Times & Locations**

#### **Oct. 15 – Oct 26**

8:30-5:00 (M-F)

Cherokee County Elections Office

400 E. Main Street

Canton, GA 30114

Open to ALL Cherokee County registered voters!

(one location ONLY)

#### **Oct. 27**

8:30-4:00 (Saturday)

Cherokee County Elections Office

400 E. Main Street, Canton, GA 30114  
Ball Ground Public Library  
435 Old Canton Rd., Ball Ground, GA 30107  
Hickory Flat Public Library  
2740 East Cherokee Dr., Canton, GA 30115  
Rose Creek Public Library  
4476 Towne Lake Parkway, Woodstock, GA 30189  
Woodstock Public Library  
7735 Main Street, Woodstock, GA 30188  
Open to ALL Cherokee County registered voters!  
(Five locations)

**Oct. 29 – Nov. 2**

8:30–7:00 (M-F)  
Open to ALL Cherokee County registered voters!  
All Five locations – see addresses above.  
Nov. 5 (Monday) NO VOTING

**Nov. 6**

ELECTION DAY 7:00–7:00 (Tuesday)  
All county precincts are open ELECTION DAY  
You must vote at your assigned precinct.  
Check your voter precinct card or call the Elections office at 770-479-0407 for your polling location.

**3. Cherokee Friends of Recovery Fundraiser Event**

**Twilight Fun Run F.O.R. Cherokee - Saturday evening, October 27, 2012.** A 5K Run/1K Fun Run/Walk at Hobgood Park, Woodstock, Georgia. Sponsorships available and appreciated. **All proceeds support Cherokee County DUI/Drug Court.**

Registration information is available at the table outside of Cherokee Hall and online at [www.cherokeefor.com](http://www.cherokeefor.com).

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2, 2012**

As distributed by the County Manager.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

**APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2, 2012.**

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve; Commissioner Hubbard seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2, 2012.**

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Proposed 2013 Budget**

On Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Cherokee County Proposed 2013 Annual Budget was available for review on the Cherokee County web site at [www.cherokeega.com](http://www.cherokeega.com). A hard copy of the budget was also made available for review at the County Clerk's Office from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday-Friday, 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton. The Public Hearing was advertised to be held on **Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 6:00 pm in Cherokee Hall**, 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, 30114, for public may comment on the budget.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:16 p.m. Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens asked for some clarification from citizens who signed up on both the Public Comment and Public Hearing sheets to speak about the 2013 Proposed Budget. He asked that those who wished to speak about the budget to speak at the Public Hearing.

Janelle Funk began the slide presentation on the proposed 2013 Budget, adding that the full copy of the budget was located in the Clerk's office for review and also on the County's website. She said the proposed budget would be on the November 6, 2012 agenda for consideration to adopt.

During her summary, Ms. Funk remarked that due to the economy and the elimination of positions, the County is operating today with the same number of employees it had in 2008. Chairman Ahrens added that as discussed in Work Session, this is with an approximate 15% increase in population to serve. Ms. Funk added that for 2014 we may really be looking at what programs to eliminate.

Three people had signed up to speak:

1. David Hodges of Canton signed up to comment on the proposed budget and offered some suggestions. Chairman Ahrens asked Mr. Hodges if he could speak to him after the meeting to discuss some of his suggestions and concerns.

2. John Hiland of Woodstock signed up to comment about the proposed budget. He said in looking at the big picture, it appears this budget is bigger than last year's budget.
3. Carolyn Cosby of Ball Ground signed up to comment about the proposed budget and some concerns she had including the lack of reserves.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Commissioner Hubbard then commented that with the budget being considered on the next agenda, citizens should email the Commissioners with any suggestions that could impact their decision on the budget prior to the meeting to allow time for consideration.

NOTE: The Public Hearing regarding the proposed changes to Article 7, Section 7.7-15c (Zoning of Private and Parochial Schools) has been postponed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Four people had signed to speak:

1. Bill McNiff of Nelson signed up to speak about Bobo and the forensic audit. He said he felt the DA should conduct the audit.
2. Carolyn Cosby of Ball Ground signed up to speak about the forensic audit. She stated said she did not agree with the forensic audit as the first step but that the evidence of crimes committed should be prosecuted. She stated that she would be sending a letter to the DA tomorrow asking that he begin an investigation on theft by taking regarding the Bobo land purchase.
3. David Hodges of Canton signed up to speak about HOST. He opposes HOST and does not feel it is a fair tax.
4. Jack Staver of Woodstock signed up to speak about Cherokee County.

## **ZONING CASES**

None Scheduled.

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## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**CHAIRMAN**

**L. B. AHRENS**

A. Consider Board of Commissioner Meeting Schedule for 2013.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adopt the meeting schedule as presented; Commissioner Johnston seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman added that an appointment was needed on Development Authority Board due to a resignation and that there was still a vacancy of the Board of Ethics.

Chairman Ahrens asked persons interested in being appointed to the Development Authority Board to contact him as they would like to make an appointment before the first meeting in January.

The Chairman then commented on a flyer he found on his car. It contained information he thought to be about the HOST referring to a Facebook page for "Cherokee Informed Voter." He visited the page and made reference to a posting and comments regarding sales tax, foreclosures, and unemployment, stating that the figures were erroneous.

**COMMISSION POST 1**

**HARRY B. JOHNSTON**

**COMMISSION POST 2**

**JIM HUBBARD**

**VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION POST 3**

**KAREN BOSCH**

**COMMISSION POST 4**

**JASON NELMS**

As noted at the start of the meeting, Commissioner Nelms unable to attend the meeting due to a very important business engagement.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

1.1 Amended: REMOVED

~~Consider acceptance of contribution from Northside Hospital in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the purchase of cardiac monitors for Cherokee Fire and Emergency Services.~~

- 1.2 Consider approval of budget amendment for Fire Services to accept insurance monies in the amount of \$2,476.92 for repairs due to a no-fault accident involving a fire truck.
- 1.3 Consider final acceptance of all public rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures in Woodmont Subdivision Unit 12B.
- 1.4 Consider request from the Georgia Department of Transportation to execute a quit-claim deed that adds portions of Hickory Road and Batesville Road back to County maintenance now that construction of the intersection improvement of SR 140 and Hickory Road/Batesville Road has been completed and accepted.
- 1.5 Consider approval to set a public hearing for November 20, 2012 to hear proposed changes to amend Chapter 10 of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances related to the regulation of dangerous dogs and vicious dogs to conform to the changes in state law effective July 1, 2012.
- 1.6 Consider approval to surplus iPads from the Solicitor's Office.

Mr. Cooper explained that employees had purchased outdated models of iPads and received an invoice on the items. He added that the purchase price paid by the employees was comparable or higher than research of current value indicated.

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve Consent Agenda; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

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## **COUNTY MANAGER**

- 2.1 Consider approval to accept an amendment to the construction contract with Catamount for the Law Enforcement Training Center in the amount of \$85,989.00.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.2 Consider approval to extend the 2011-2012 Professional Services Agreement between the County and Communit-Y Health Network (CHN) for the continued provision of wellness services to employees for the remaining three (3) months of 2012 and renewal of the program for 2013 as recommended by the Benefit Committee.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve; Commissioner Hubbard seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.3 Consider approval of clinical contract agreement with Northside Hospital, Inc. to allow the new paramedic class to perform skills required for graduation and licensure as a paramedic in Georgia.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.4 Consider approval to renew contract with DECA, AMR Business Products, Inc. of Marietta, GA to provide software support and maintenance for the 24-hour recording equipment in the 9-1-1 Center in the amount of \$7,354.00.

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.5 Consider approval to award Professional Services Agreement to sole bidder, Georgia Fire and Rescue Supply, for firefighting helmets at an amount not to exceed \$178.25 per helmet.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.6 Consider approval to surplus existing mobile home, garage and screened porch located at 2261 Sixes Road on parcel acquired (Babb Parcel) to expand parking and amenities for Blanket's Creek Bike Trails.

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.7 Consider approval of Policies and Procedures Volunteer Handbook for Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency Volunteers as approved by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board in September 2012.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

2.8 Consider approval of Amendment One to contract dated June 21, 2004 with Schindler Elevator Corporation for an additional 60-month term for a savings of \$1,915.14 per quarter annualized at \$7,660.56 after renegotiation by the Sheriff's Office. Three competitive quotes were received and Schindler provided the lowest monthly cost.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

2.9 Consider approval of forensic audit RFP.

Mr. Cooper said that the RFP was drafted with the input of the DA, a member of the Grand Jury who is a forensic auditor and the BOC. He said the RFP was being sent to five selective firms; two that were recommended by the DA's office because those firms have worked with the GBI and three firms identified through a general search as having extensive experience and identified as top audit firms in Metro Atlanta.

Chairman Ahrens asked for one motion on two elements; Approval of a forensic audit and approval to proceed with the RFP.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve both elements; Commissioner Hubbard seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens added a comment for the record about item number 10 under the Scope of Work on the RFP. He said that it wraps up in an open-ended way with a word, conflictual. He then read number 10 from the Scope of Work:

*Note any individuals who both 1) received any of the bond funds, directly or indirectly through an entity in which they have an ownership interest or for which they have a managerial responsibility, and 2) are associated with the lessor, Cherokee County, or any of its affiliated departments or authorities, whether in an elected, appointed, or salaried position.*

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## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

## **ADJOURN**

The Chairman asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.