

CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

June 4, 2013

3:00 p.m.

Cherokee Hall

MINUTES

The Chairman began at 3:07 p.m. with all Commissioners present. He read various quotes from the book "776 Stupidest Things Ever Said."

1. Discussion of Regular Agenda Items.

The Chairman stated that about an hour ago he received notification from Jason Bearden, the CEO of Highland Rivers, that he had a candidate to suggest for the vacancy on the Highland Rivers Board, Ms. Chantel Adams. He added that if no one else had any candidates in mind that they may want to consider voting on it at the regular meeting.

The Chairman then asked Jeff Watkins to give a presentation on the Public Hearing on amendments to Article 11, Signs.

Mr. Watkins gave a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the suggested changes. He said that what they are basically asking for tonight is to set parameters and better define terms regarding electronic signs and flag and flag poles. Commissioner Johnston stated he would just like to see them be as tasteful as possible. County Attorney, Angie Davis, suggested a slight change in wording under Section F to clarify who is responsible for paying for the certification of brightness.

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

- Approve increase in Animal Shelter Budget for additional funding received from the Mary Jean Payne Charitable Trust in the amount of \$10,000.00.

The Chairman mentioned that with one item under Consent, did we want to consider moving the item to the County Manager's portion.

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

- Consider purchase of 1.86 +/- acres located at N. Industrial Way south of Univeter Road in the amount of \$125,000.00.

Discussion ensued as to whether it was more cost effective to purchase the property experiencing runoff from adjoining County owned property and let the property function as a natural retention, or to build a retaining structure. Commissioner Johnston stated that although he knows Mr. Roach and his family, he does not feel the need to recuse himself from voting tonight because he is satisfied that he would make the same decision regardless of the property owner. Commissioner Poole asked if it might be advantageous to get a third appraisal due to the range of the two we have. It was decided that it would probably be fair to say that the value is somewhere in the middle of the two, around \$110,000. Other scenarios were discussed and it was determined that legal fees incurred in other than purchasing the property would likely exceed the cost to purchase the property. Commissioner Nelms asked if Mr. Roach would consider selling the property for \$110, 000. Commissioner Johnston replied that he had spoken to Mr. Roach and he would not take less than \$125,000.

- Approve the creation of a new position and budget amendment for PT Case Management Position which is fully funded by ARC Grant Funds.
- Consider approval of Automatic Aid Agreement between Cherokee County and Pickens County to render supplemental fire suppression and protection to other party in the event of fire or other local emergencies and take part in joint training.
- Award purchase order to low bidder, Contech Engineering Solutions, in the amount of \$35,046.00 for the acquisition and delivery of 284 LF of corrugated aluminum alloy pipe for the road work on Roscoe Collett Road.
- Approval to issue a Letter of Intent to provide funding in the amount of \$225,000.00 from the Senior Home Repair Program to Canton Limited, LP for the development of a 74-Unit Seniors 55 years of age and older affordable rental housing complex.

Chairman Ahrens asked where the property was located. Mr. Cooper replied that it was SE of Canton Elementary and along the river. Commissioner Johnston asked what the time frame was for spending the grant funds. Marianne Pieper replied that a plan must be submitted to Cobb County prior to June 14. Commissioner Johnston asked would it be reasonable to make it a condition of building the complex to have the City of Canton commit to building a walking trail at the easement. Ms. Pieper replied back after Work Session that Canton would be willing to meet that condition.

The Chairman brought up for conversation rules of procedure, referencing a copy that Angie Davis had given him some time ago. He said that these were simpler to read and follow than Robert's Rules. Commissioner Johnston stated that he is hesitant in fixing something that isn't broken. The Chairman made the suggestion that they take the copy of procedures of Forsyth County or Barrow County that Angie had sent them and discuss any changes recommended at the Work Session on July 3. Ms. Davis stated that if we did want to go that route, that particular area can be changed under local law, but there are certain things we can't touch. To make any changes to affect Home Rules over this procedure would require a Public Hearing, two Readings within 60 days. The Chairman said he would meet with the Ethics Board and see what their thoughts are on the procedures.

The Chairman asked if there was anything else, hearing none, a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Nelms to adjourn the Work Session at 4:14 p.m. Commissioner Gunnin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session followed.