



# Cherokee County Board of Commissioners WORK SESSION MINUTES

**March 4, 2014**

**3:00 p.m. | Cherokee Hall**

The Chairman began at 3:07 p.m. with all Commissioners present.

1. Mountain Goat Assault at Garland Mountain by Lisa Randal.

Mr. Reynolds introduced Ms. Randal of Mountain Goat Adventures. Ms. Randal stated they do trail running, mountain bike races, and off-road duathlons. Mr. Reynolds said they have been doing this for several years with SORBA at Blankets Creek and this is the first opportunity they've had to go to Garland Mountain. Ms. Randal gave a little background about herself. She is a former civil engineer. She is an athlete and has a passion for the outdoors. She started out as a volunteer with SORBA-Woodstock and had their first event in 2008. They currently have four events they co-host. Last year they raised about \$18,000 for SORBA-Woodstock and some other non-profit organizations throughout the County. The event at Garland Mountain is their season opener. It will be a trail run. They have a 4-mile and 9.6-mile option. Ms. Randal stated this type of race is beginner-friendly. They are partnering with the Cherokee Saddle Club and this race will be a small fundraiser for them. She added the Saddle Club has gotten together volunteers to help and that they have been great to work with. Ms. Randal asked if anyone had any questions about the event. Commissioner Johnston asked what the normal time was for the 9-mile option. Ms. Randal replied that the fastest runner would complete it in about an hour and a half. Commissioner Johnston asked how they got the message out and if they had a mailing list. Ms. Randal said they have a database of past event participants and they use Facebook as much as possible. They try to use as much free or low-cost advertising methods as possible. She added that normal forms of media like newspapers don't necessarily reach the intended audience. They put up posters in various locations in the County such as other parks and bike shops. The Chairman asked what would be a good turnout. Ms. Randal said since it is the first event they will have at Garland Mountain she estimates about 250 participants will come out. She said the largest trail run last year was 360 people and that was at Boling Park. She said the largest event with SORBA was a 6 hour mountain bike race at Blankets Creek and they had over 300 to participate. Commissioner Nelms asked if they had adventure-type races where the participants stop and do other activities for the 9.6 mile

course or if it is a straight 9.6 miles. Ms. Randal replied that it is a straight 9.6 miles but they add optional prizes along the way that pull people off the trail. The Chairman stated that he looks forward to seeing pictures from the event and thanked Ms. Randal.

The Chairman asked Chief Robinson to give a recap of the Fire Explorers' recent competition. Chief Robinson stated that every year the Fire Explorers go to Gatlinburg to participate in the Southeast Regional Championship. This year they were very successful, bringing home five trophies. The Fire Department will recognize them during the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Johnston commented that it was impressive because for five years they've had outstanding success, commenting that each year is a different group. Chief Robinson stated they had a very young team this year and they didn't think they would do as well as they did. Commissioner Johnston added that it shows the strength of the program and the leadership. Chief Robinson recognized the members of the Fire Department and how they stepped up to be advisors for the program and he thanked the Commissioners for their support.

2. Presentation on the Capital Improvement Element by Bill Ross and Margaret Stallings.

Ms. Stallings began by saying the presentation is to bring the Commissioners up to speed on the Capital Improvement Element and that they are at the point they are ready to adopt it. She gave a brief background of three documents. The first is the Capital Improvement/Short Term Work Plan (CIE/STWP) which is their yearly report to the State about financials and progress on projects. Secondly, the CIE Amendment provides an updated study of projects and calculation of costs and serves as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The third document is the Methodology Report which has most of the content of the Capital Improvement Element and goes into more detail as to how the fees are calculated. It's for information only and is the basis for setting the impact fees schedule. Ms. Stallings went over highlights of the CIE. The CIE includes population, housing, and employment projections; a list of capital projects for each category; current levels of service (LOS); and the total of the capital costs. She stated the program began in 2000. They collected a lot of feedback about the fees, process, and about the impact on economic development. One of the two changes made is the Bells Ferry Road project, when updated the CIE in 2007, they used the GDOT cost estimates. The total cost for the project dropped \$10 Million. The other change is they removed the Bells Ferry Bridge project because it could not be included in the impact fee program. Ms.

Stallings stated the CIE is ready to be adopted and recalled the Public Hearing for the CIE in August 2013. She also reiterated that it does not have an impact on the impact fee schedule. Ms. Stallings stated that going forward they are suggesting that possibly at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to discuss the Methodology Report and setting the fees as well as the rest of the changes they would like to make to the impact fee program. Ms. Stallings opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Johnston confirmed that they would not actually be setting the fees yet but that this is a step towards that process. Commissioner Gunnin asked when the Bells Ferry Bridge would be tackled. Mr. Bill Ross said it will be up for bidding in 2018.

3. Discussion of Regular Agenda Items.

**CHAIRMAN**

**L. B. AHRENS**

A. Consider Appointment to the Ethics Board.

The Chairman stated he had spoken with the individual he intended to nominate in the Regular Meeting and referred to the summary included in the Agenda. He offered his appreciation for their help in going through the list of applicants.

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

- 1.1 Consider approval of budget amendment allocating insurance recovery monies and purchase replacement patrol unit for the Sheriff's Office.
- 1.2 Consider approval of 2014 budget amendment to reduce the Parks Bond FY2014 Budget to only appropriate the remaining reserves.

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

- 2.1 Consider adoption of the updated Cherokee County Capital Improvement Element as approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Atlanta Regional Commission.
- 2.2 Consider adoption of resolution designating the County's Open Records Officers.
- 2.3 Consider approval to execute MOU with Cherokee County, Georgia (Animal Shelter) and the Stanton Foundation to accept grant monies in the amount of \$201,300.00 and authorize a budget amendment to allocate the funds.

Mr. Cooper stated the Animal Shelter has 2.5 animals per capita in intake so we need to evaluate best practices to provide outreach and get people to adopt as well as to reduce the intake. The Chairman asked if this is the first time we have considered this type of grant. Mr. Cooper replied it is.

- 2.4 Consider approval of an Annual Traffic Striping and Pavement Marking Services Contract with Parker Traffic Markings, Inc., to perform traffic striping countywide as needed. Budget totals \$75,000.00.
- 2.5 Consider approval of Purchase Order in the amount of \$80,750.00 to the low bidder, Reynolds-Warren Equipment Company, for the acquisition of a roller machine for Roads and Bridges with budgeted SPLOST V Program monies.
- 2.6 Consider approval of Purchase Order in the amount of \$27,894.00 to the low bidder, Vigil Ford-Lincoln, Inc., for the purchase of a 2015 Ford F-350 for Roads and Bridges with budgeted SPLOST V Program monies.
- 2.7 Consider approval of submission of continuation application for Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Criminal Justice System Improvement (CJSI) Grant in the amount of \$70,000.00 with a required match of \$23,333.00 satisfied with existing personnel. Match will not require any new County Funds.
- 2.8 Consider approval of 2013 Post-Audit Budget amendment to recognize expenditures that were legitimately incurred in excess of the budget to conduct necessary county operations. Revenues sufficient to cover budget amendment. Total spend under budget \$14.7 Million.

Commissioner Poole asked about the project kick-off for Patriots Park. Mr. Cooper responded that he will bring back before the Board a funding plan which will be about September or October of this year.

- 2.9 Consider approval of FY2015 GDOT grant application in the amount of \$563,580.00 in operating expenses and \$188,828.00 in capital costs associated with the CATS 5311 Rural Public Transportation program. Cherokee County's obligation will be \$281,790.00 in operating expenses and \$18,883.00 in capital costs.
  - 2.10 Consider resolution to rename a portion of Old Rope Mill Road to Ridgewalk Parkway.
  - 2.11 Consider authorizing approval to purchase one (1) Chevrolet Tahoe with SSP package from low bidder, AutoNation in the amount of \$36,488.00.
  - 2.12 Consider one-time payment of \$25,000.00 to Cherokee Office of Economic Development (COED) to enhance marketing efforts.
  - 2.13 Consider awarding Purchase Order to highest ranked proposer, Flint Equipment Company, in the amount of \$141,116.00 for the acquisition of an Excavator machine for Roads and Bridges and authorize the trade of a County-owned Excavator. Funding is from budgeted SPLOST V Program monies.
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Ms. Davis went over the one item under the **County Attorney** portion:

- 3.1 Annexation Notice from City of Woodstock for 8.13 acres of property located at 294 Rope Mill Road.

Ms. Davis began by stating the property is owned by James Queen and is currently zoned as an R-40 property. The proposed rezoning would be SL-C which is Senior Living and proposed use is a 96-unit campus-style assisted living facility. It appears to be an appropriate use. It would not be a material increase or burden on the County from a land use perspective. Ms. Davis mentioned that Engineering did have some good comments relating to how the development of the entrance would have to be accomplished particularly if Rope Mill Road is still under County maintenance. It would be our recommendation to convey the comments concerning the development of the entrance from Mr. Morton to the City of Woodstock. Since the portion of Rope Mill Road is still under County maintenance, the entrance development would have to adhere to the current County development codes, however, if the City of Woodstock assumes maintenance of Rope Mill Road. Ms. Davis stated if there are no objections, they can consider it at

the Regular Session and ask staff to send a letter providing notice on the engineering requirements. The Chairman asked about how it would work for the City to assume responsibility for that portion of Rope Mill Road. Ms. Davis said there is no legal impetus for that to occur as a matter of law unless they see these requirements and maybe something they seek to discuss and if they will consider, it will require an intergovernmental agreement for us to decide they will maintain that portion of the road. In the absence of some other agreement, it would be the County codes.

The Chairman mentioned there will be a special called joint meeting with RRDA and the Commissioners at 4:30 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Commissioner Johnston made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 3:52 p.m. to discuss personnel, land acquisition or disposal, and/or pending or threatened litigation; Commissioner Nelms seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.