



# Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

## MINUTES

June 3, 2014  
Regular Meeting  
CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 PM

### **INVOCATION**

Wesley Horne with Pastor Serve Ministries gave the invocation.

### **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"*

Commissioner Nelms led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **CHAIRMAN AHRENS**

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Those present included Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Raymond Gunnin; Commissioner Poole; Commissioner Jason Nelms; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Angie Davis; County Clerk Christy Black. 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 Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Sheriff's Office Quarterly Awards.

Chief Deputy Vic West thanked the Board for allowing the Sheriff's Office the opportunity to present the awards. He then turned the presentation over to Captain Perkins who read and presented the awards. The awards included:

Life Saving Awards-Deputy M. Rusher and Deputy R. Slover; Sheriff's Commendation Awards-Deputy George Greene, Sergeant David Barone, Deputy Cody Jones and Mr. Sid Garrard (Citizen); Sheriff's Unit Citation-Fleet Maintenance Director Mike Dupuis.

### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

1. Remove item 2.11, Employee Separation Agreement, from the agenda.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve the amended agenda; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Ahrens gave an overview of the Fire Department's presentation by Chief Robinson regarding the ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating of 3 during Work Session. He added that this was reduced from our previous rating by two full points. He commended Chief Tim Prather and Chief Robinson for their efforts in heading up this tremendous accomplishment for the entire County. He asked Chief Robinson to come to the podium and go over some highlights. Chief Robinson stated that only 68 fire departments out of 1,020 in Georgia have an ISO rating of 3. He added that we missed having an ISO rating of 2 by less than a point. He stated that according to some rough calculations he made, a homeowner whose house is valued \$150,000 would save approximately \$149 base premium and for a house valued at \$300,000, the savings would be approximately \$264 base premium. He said commercial property owners would see even more of a savings due to higher property values. Homeowners and Business owners would need to contact their insurance agents to determine if they qualify for a change in insurance rates after the new ISO ratings take effect on September 1, 2014. Chairman Ahrens once again thanked the Fire Department for their efforts and said hats off to all of them.

### **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 20, 2014.**

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

## **APPROVAL OF REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM THE JOINT RRDA/BOC MEETING ON MAY 20, 2014**

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Note: The RRDA will need to approve the minutes from this joint meeting at their next meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners will hear a request by Jeffery S. and Sharon M. Lentz to create a legacy lot at their property located at 202 Acacia Lane, Woodstock (Tax Map 21N10A, Parcel A004 C) on June 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Ms. Vicki Taylor Lee gave an overview of the request. She added information that she had received by a neighbor which is that the property has two houses on it, a main house and a guest house and the guest house was being rented out.

No one had signed up to speak.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Commissioner Poole commented that the property was located in his district.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve the applicant's zoning request; Commissioner Nelms seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Angel Rivera signed up to speak about zoning, asking the Board to allow him to operate a bicycle repair shop on property near Blanket's Creek.

## **ZONING CASES**

None Scheduled.

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## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **CHAIRMAN**

**L. B. AHRENS**

### **VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION DISTRICT 1**

**HARRY B. JOHNSTON**

### **COMMISSION DISTRICT 2**

**RAYMOND GUNNIN**

### **COMMISSION DISTRICT 3**

**BRIAN POOLE**

- A. Discussion on County's sign ordinance.

Commissioner Poole referenced the lengthy discussion during Work Session, adding that the topic of political signs was a work in progress. Ideas for taking care of signs in Right-of-ways during political seasons during Work Session discussion included a Volunteer Team as the County Marshal's offices does not have the resources for this major under-taking during political season.

- B. Drop Plan (Deferred Retirement Option Program).

Commissioner Poole referred to the discussion at Work Session, adding that Tracy Chambers had been asked to research options for those employees who reach the 30-year mark and to provide the Board an update at the June 17 Work Session.

### **COMMISSION DISTRICT 4**

**JASON NELMS**

- A. Consider approval of multi-way stop at intersection of Woodstock Road and Victory Drive per recommendations made in traffic engineering study by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Commissioner Nelms added the comments that this was an issue close to his heart. In January of 2014 Tiffany Nicole Robbins and her unborn child lost their lives at this intersection. He said the Board had made a promise to her family to do something about the intersection and this was a good step towards that.

Commissioner Nelms then made a motion to name the intersection Tiffany Nicole Robbins in her honor; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1.1 Approval of grant contract in the amount of \$40,736.00 for the DUI/Drug Treatment Court for State FY2015 (July 2014 – June 2015) and approval of Budget Amendment for County FY2014.
- 1.2 Approve grant award for State Accountability Court in the amount of \$112,693.00.
- 1.3 Approve reallocation of funds to purchase drug testing supplies in the amount of \$38,000.00.
- 1.4 Consider approval of proposal from Southeastern Engineering, Inc., to perform roadway design for Brick Mill Road under their annual engineering consulting services contract in the amount of \$39,500.00.
- 1.5 Consider acceptance of the Officer Roy Marcum Ballistic Vest Grant Program award and budget amendment in the amount of \$2,400.00 to be used to purchase ballistic vests for Animal Control Officers.
- 1.6 Consider acceptance of supplemental Sub-grant award in the amount of \$3,800.00 from the State of Georgia Accountability Court and

approve budget amendment increasing DUI/Drug Court Fund revenues and expenditures.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Nelms seconded and there was unanimous approval.

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## **COUNTY MANAGER**

2.1 Award bid in the amount of \$149,800.00 to the lowest priced proposer, Reynolds-Warren Equipment Company for the purchase of a 2014 Rosco Maximizer 2B (Asphalt Distributor) for Roads and Bridges; funding is from budgeted SPLOST V monies.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

2.2 Award bid in the amount of \$55,829.00 to the lowest priced proposer, Wade Ford, for the purchase of a 2015 Ford F-750XL Fuel/Service Truck for Roads and Bridges; funding is from budgeted SPLOST V monies.

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

2.3 Consider proposal to establish a new area for burials in Pine Knot Cemetery to preserve existing specimen trees.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Nelms seconded and there was unanimous approval.

2.4 Award County's standard Professional Services Agreement (PSA) to Kenneth Nix in the amount of \$46,147.00 for the design and construction of a 2.3 mile natural terrain Bike/Run Trail around the Roger Garrison Law Enforcement Training Center.

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

- 2.5 Approval of amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Cherokee County and DHS-USCIS enhancing the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program which allows the county to verify citizenship and immigration status information to determine eligibility for specified public benefits.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.6 Consider IGA with the City of Ball Ground for the purchase and installation of security cameras in City Parks at a cost of \$19,149.61 with Parks Bond funding.

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

- 2.7 Consider IGA with the City of Ball Ground to allow the Tax Commissioners Office to prepare the City's tax digest, assess and collect municipal ad valorem tax payments for a fee to be paid by the City in the amount of \$2 per each parcel of real estate and each personal property account. The funds will be submitted to the County for general purposes uses.

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

- 2.8 Approval to award the construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, with the most responsive bid proposal for construction of the Woodstock Trails Bridge over Noonday Creek to connect the Woodstock Dog Park to Woodstock Trails to Lewallen Construction in the amount of \$449,000.00; for acceptance of the base bid proposal amount of \$449,000.00, inclusive of unit prices for unsuitable soils and deep foundation drilled piers. No Allowances or other unit prices were requested. A contingency account (to be controlled by Cherokee County Capital projects) in the amount of \$51,000.00 is also requested. Total amount requested for approval: \$500,000.00.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

2.9 Consider sale of trolley to the Woodstock Downtown Development Authority in the amount of \$15,000.00.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

2.10 Consider request to accept Professional Services Agreement with Goshen Community Care/Goshen Valley Foundation for CHINS Coordination and Management, and Truancy Prevention for Juvenile Court.

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

2.11 Amended: Item Removed  
~~Consideration of employee separation agreement.~~

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**ADJOURN**

The Chairman asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, Commissioner Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 6:44 p.m.; Commissioner Nelms seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.