



# Cherokee County Board of Commissioners MINUTES

October 7, 2014  
Regular Meeting  
CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 PM

## **INVOCATION**

Kendall Jones of MUST Ministries gave the invocation.

After the invocation the Chairman asked for a moment of silence in memory of Woodstock City Council Member Tessa Basford who succumbed to cancer.

## **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.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

## **CHAIRMAN AHRENS**

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Those present included Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Raymond Gunnin; Commissioner Poole; Commissioner 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 closure of Executive Session at 5:10 p.m.

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

## **PROCLAMATION**

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Day, October 8, 2014.

Commissioner Nelms read the proclamation and presented it to Ken Roberts with FCA. Mr. Roberts stated that he was accepting the proclamation on behalf of his grandson Brandon Roberts and he invited everyone to the Fields of Faith event tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

1. Add consent item 1.1, Historical Society Lease.
2. Add to announcements, early voting.
3. Add to announcements, ARC 2015 Arts Leaders.

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Creating a Regional Strategic Plan for Aging Services: October 14, 10 a.m. to noon, City Center Woodstock, 8534 Main Street.

Chairman Ahrens stated that Cherokee County has been a member of the 10 county metro ARC since July of 1993. ARC is reaching out locally for concerns and suggestions that the community may have as they look into creating a regional strategic plan for aging services.

2. Early voting for 2014 general election begins Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Election Day is November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Ahrens stated that early voting begins on Monday, October 13 and continues through October 20 at the Elections Office. There will be voting at five locations on Saturday, October 25 and advanced voting the following week at 5 locations. Voting day is November 4<sup>th</sup>.

3. ARC 2015 Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta.

Chairman Ahrens stated that the Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta was another ARC initiative to outreach to the Arts Community/Industry regarding the program that puts folks together from different counties to speak about arts

and how it fits into Economic Development. He said he wasn't sure at this time how many they take in a class or what the fee is but that information will be posted on the County's website as it becomes available.

4. Burn ban is lifted.

Chairman Ahrens stated that the burn ban has been suspended from October to May.

### **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2014.**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

None Scheduled.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one had signed up to speak.

### **ZONING CASES**

1. Consider R-80 residential subdivision planning using Conservation Design Community.

Jeff Watkins presented a summary of the case involving approximately 55 acres on the North and the South side of Lower Birmingham Road. He explained that several requirements were met in order to bring the case before the Board for consideration which includes holding a public hearing, providing a 30 day public comment period. When the public comment period expires, the next step is for the application to appear on the next available agenda of the Board of Commissioners. He said that this is what was before the Board for consideration as it conforms to Article 23.

Commission Gunnin stated that this was his district and that he had received no inquires. He said it meets the land use map and there is a lot of

greenspace built in it and he sees no reason not to approve. Chairman Ahrens commented that a lot of time and effort was put into the plan to define what this conservation design should be. He added that he is pleased to see this tool used and glad they have come forward with that as an option for the Board.

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

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## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **CHAIRMAN**

### **L. B. AHRENS**

#### A. Discussion on 2015 BOC Meeting Dates.

Chairman Ahrens said that in discussion of the 2015 BOC meeting date calendar during Work Session there didn't seem to be a need to make any changes at this time.

#### B. ARC Fees.

Chairman Ahrens remarked that the County is a member of the ARC and pays fees based on population-about \$1 per capita plus \$2,000.00, all of which is imbedded in enabling legislation. In 2014 the estimated fees to ARC was \$227,500, an increase of 1.8% from last year's estimate. He said that over the period of 2010 to 2014 the annual increase is 1.5%, the highest in metro area with the average being 1%. He said the closest to us is Henry County at 1.3%. He added that this was just a metric you don't hear about much, but we are consistently at the upper end of the population growth.

#### C. Free Home Elementary School redistricting.

Chairman Ahrens stated that for informational purposes he wanted to speak about a community issue that the Cherokee County School District is dealing with. He said that the School Board in its efforts to outreach has met twice to discuss redistricting of Free Home Elementary School students into the new Ball Ground Elementary School. Free Home is and has been for some time operating at 132% capacity. He said that he and Commissioner-Elect Scott Gordon had attended the meeting last night. He said that there are no obvious answers to the redistricting but that a lot of good suggestions. He

said the point is that this is a really good example of dealing with an ongoing concern by getting the community involved. He said he told the organizer of the meeting that he would bring it up for record as a community concern.

**VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION DISTRICT 1**

**HARRY B. JOHNSTON**

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 2**

**RAYMOND GUNNIN**

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 3**

**BRIAN POOLE**

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 4**

**JASON NELMS**

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1.1 Consider approval to surplus and recycle old workstations and printers that are in poor repair at Roads and Bridges.
- 1.2 Consider 5-year lease with the Historical Society for 3,683 square feet of space located in the Historic Courthouse.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Nelms seconded. Chairman Ahrens commented that he had mentioned to Stephanie Joyner that he would like to see at some point the traffic count on the number of visitors they get at the Historical Society. The resulting vote was unanimous approval.

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**COUNTY MANAGER**

- 2.1 Consider adoption of the FY2015 Annual Budget.

Mr. Cooper said tonight's budget for consideration is in the amount of \$195,690,800.00.

He gave an overview of the changes in the budget since the Public Hearing which is an increase of approximately \$5M. One change is \$4.8M from SPLOST for the airport taxiway project and site prep for the future maintenance hangar and private hangars. For the taxiway, the Airport Authority received a federal grant and our match is \$750,000 plus or minus. The work for the site prep is extensive, requiring about \$4M.

He said another minor change is the way Court Reporters will get paid. He said that the State Judicial Council had a hearing and made some significant changes that will save the County money both short term and long term. The Judicial Panel gave us the option that Court Reporters become County employees, rather than paying them per diem and for transcripts. This will result in savings to the DA's Office who was paying for transcripts. The transcripts will be filed with the Clerk of Courts office and available as public documents.

He added that in the DA's budget they found a 10% increase for the investigators who are certified officers. They are also looking at the Solicitor General's Budget for 10% increases for the three certified officers there. Also in the budget is \$60,000.00 for a tax mapper in the Tax Assessor's Office.

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

2.2 Approve County standard Professional Services Agreement (PSA) to Focus Counseling & Training, Inc. in the amount of \$232,000 for four (4) years (\$58,000 per year) for the continuation of grant requiring Seven Challenges Therapy for the Juvenile Court, contingent upon annual state funding.

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

2.3 Consider acceptance of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Award for the DA's Office in the amount of \$87,397.00. The required match of \$21,849.00 is satisfied with existing personnel and no new county funds are required.

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

- 2.4 Consider approval of Contribution Agreement with Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors (GACDS) in the annual amount of \$17,238.50 for the cost share of the County's Conservation Administration Office.

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

- 2.5 Authorize first renewal of Food Services Agreement to Trinity Food Services Group, Inc. for County fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015). There is no increase over last year's contract.

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

Commissioner Johnston commented that this was the best bargain we get on the jail operations, at about \$1 per meal. Commissioner Gunnin commended the Sheriff's Office for keeping the cost the same as last year.

- 2.6 Authorize second renewal of Commissary Services Agreement to A&S Commissary Services, LLC for County fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015). A&S pays the County of 34% of gross sales at the adult detention center which totals approximately \$294,818.00 per year.

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

- 2.7 Authorize second renewal of Inmate Telephone Location Agreement to Consolidated Telecom, Inc. for County fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015). Consolidated pays the County 68% commission of phone receipts by inmates and 33% of video visitation receipts.

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

2.8 Authorize first renewal of Inmate Health Services Agreement to Correct Health of Cherokee, LLC for County fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015) in the total amount of \$1,891,213 plus per diem if maximum inmate population exceeded. No increase in contract price.

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

Commissioner Johnston commented that this was one of our more expensive costs for jail operations at about \$10 per inmate per day.

2.9 Consider lease agreement to use Cherokee Charter Academy Gym for Cherokee Youth Basketball (CYB) practices and games during the 2014-2017 seasons.

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

2.10 Consider approval of Construction Services Agreements for Justice Center Renovations to Latimer Construction in the amount of \$18,408.00 and to IDS, Inc., in the amount of \$6,035.00.

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

2.11 Consider approval of changes in the activities covered under the CDBG 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 Annual Action Plans.

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

2.12 Consider three-year agreement with Project Open Hand of Atlanta in the amount of \$185,489.79 per year for the ARC Grant funded meals program at the Senior Center.

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

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

## **ADJOURN**

The Chairman asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, Commissioner Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.