



# Cherokee County Board of Commissioners MINUTES

November 4, 2014  
Regular Meeting  
CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 PM

## **INVOCATION**

Commissioner Gunnin 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"*

Chairman Ahrens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

## **CHAIRMAN AHRENS**

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Those present included Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Raymond Gunnin; Commissioner Poole; Commissioner Nelms; County Attorney Angie Davis; County Clerk Christy Black. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media; and the public.

Chairman Ahrens commented that the County Manager, Jerry Cooper, was recuperating from a recent surgery. He asked everyone to think about him and wish him a speedy recovery. Mr. Geoff Morton will present the Consent Agenda Items and County Manager portion.

## **RATIFY CLOSURE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Ahrens called for a motion to ratify closure of Executive Session at 5:20 p.m.

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

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

## 1. Inalfa Roof Systems, Inc. Day

Chairman Ahrens shared a couple of photos on the screen of Inalfa Roof Systems. He gave a short summary of activity that took place last week as they had their official opening. He said Cherokee County had declared October 30 as Inalfa Roof System Day. Besides the business itself, several hundred operators and that number will go up to about 400 in a year or so, it's about the process of how this all happened. He explained that this was a joint venture between a Chinese Company and Dutch Company and they make sunroofs. They are international with factories everywhere; it is about a billion dollar company. They had a deal to lease some property about a year ago but the lease fell through. They had a back date that they had to be operating from which was January 2014. Instead of moving into a leased facility, they actually decided to build this facility on Highway 92, about 2 miles from I-75. It said it was done in record time and that the County did things we didn't know we could do, and they opened on time. They have already had a 40,000 square foot expansion, and they anticipate the employee count to go to over 400 within a year. They were awarded by the State of Georgia the '2013 Deal of Year'. He added that that was a really big deal, with those kinds of performances and deliveries, it really gets you on the radar. He complimented the County staff who made it happen. He then read two pieces of the proclamation and asked the Board to ratify that proclamation.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Cherokee County Marshal's Office, Animal Control and Animal Shelter awards to recognize the staff members who spent countless hours of their time on the Puppy Mill Case.

Chief Marshal Ron Hunton thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to come before the Board to recognize the hard work of the Marshal's Office, Animal Control, Animal Shelter and the Volunteers during the puppy mill case where approximately 350 dogs and puppies were seized. He said he would be remiss if he didn't mention County Attorney Angie Davis and the Solicitor General Jessica Moss who helped them to reach a consent agreement, saving the County a lot of money.

Chief Hunton then recognized Jason Jenkins with E-911 who was instrumental in setting up equipment at the Fire Training Center and the Roger Garrison Training Facility, saving the County about \$12,000. He also

supervised the changeover of the console system at the 911 Center and because of his work, the Center continued to operate without interruptions.

Dr. Tarabula, a local veterinarian who assisted and donated his time and services to help the Animal Shelter care for the seized animals, complimented the staff, county and community for the amazing job they did during this chaotic. He said that he had been there behind the scenes and that the loving care given to the animals made his heart sing. He said that he was glad that we have the animal shelter.

Chairman Ahrens asked Animal Shelter Susan Garcia if she had any stories to tell. She pointed out Ruggles, a tiny puppy that was in attendance that had not been expected to live and is doing very well now. She commented on the outpour of the community with the successful adoption event where people were lined up for 10 to 12 hours on the hottest day of the year to select their dog or puppy. She said that rather than having disgruntled people when they finally found their pet, they were extremely happy and complimentary of the staff and there were many tears. She thanked the staff, volunteers and the vets who assisted with the puppy mill. She also mentioned that they have been asked by another County to put together a presentation for training purposes.

### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

1. Remove item 3.1 from the County Attorney's Section.

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 21, 2014.**

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

**BOC APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
FROM SPECIAL JOINT RRDA/BOC MEETING ON OCTOBER 21, 2014.**

These minutes were approved by the BOC during the Joint RRDA/BOC Meeting earlier today, so a motion was not necessary at this meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None Scheduled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one signed up to speak.

**ZONING CASES**

None Scheduled.

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**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**CHAIRMAN**

**L. B. AHRENS**

**VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION DISTRICT 1**

**HARRY B. JOHNSTON**

- A. Consider acceptance of Stonewood Trail in as-is condition for County maintenance; 0.20 miles.

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

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 2**

**RAYMOND GUNNIN**

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 3**

**BRIAN POOLE**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1.1 Consider authorization for Cherokee County Juvenile Court to apply for a non-matching grant under the Juvenile Justice Prevention and Treatment Programs administered by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and upon award, authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000.00 and authorize Chairman to execute any required grant documents.
  
- 1.2 Consider approval of Resolution authorizing County Manager to execute agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for reimbursement of funds from the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund for work performed at the Blalock Landfill in the amount of \$35,240.00.
  
- 1.3 Approval to set a Public Hearing date regarding a request by applicants Blalock and Bruce to create a legacy lot on their property at 767 Old Mill Circle, Ball Ground (Tax Map 02N22, Parcel 028).

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

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**COUNTY MANAGER**

- 2.1 Consider approval to transfer budget from Court Reporters to Salary Contingency to cover 10% raises for three Investigators in the Solicitors office in the amount of \$11,082.00.

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

2.2 Consider approval to add Case Manager Position for Drug Accountability Court with half the salary (\$16,000.00) paid by Federal Grant and the remaining half plus benefits, taxes and retirement (\$24,620.00) to be paid from DATE Monies. Salary amount is \$31,889.00 plus benefits and payroll taxes in the amount of \$8,731.00, for a total of \$40,620.00.

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

2.3 Consider approval to procure one Ariel Apparatus and four Pumper Apparatuses from FireLine, Inc. totaling \$2,419,174.00 for the Cherokee Fire & ES Department and authorization of budget amendment.

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

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## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

3.1 Amended: Removed  
~~Consider approval of Temporary Medical Hardship for Ms. India L. Hagstrom of 506 Bentwood Drive, Woodstock.~~

During Work Session Mr. Watkins said that additional information had been received on this request and that they wanted to take time to check it out.

3.2 Consider request from the City of Ball Ground to adopt a resolution consenting to the deannexation of property located at 1355 Ball Ground Road.

Angie Davis said that this case comes from the Planning Department and deferred to Ms. Vickie Taylor Lee, Zoning Administrator. Ms. Lee gave an overview of the request.

Commissioner Johnston commented that the County Attorney and planning staff has worked up a resolution which calls for us to approve this deannexation. This, of course, is subject to Ball Ground's City Council's Approval, but they require and the law requires the BOC approve it before they can consider it. The resolution includes protection for the County because with the differences between the city's R-40 zoning and the County's, technically this property would come into the County as unzoned property. So, until it can be zoned, this resolution calls for a moratorium on development of the property to be in place until it is zoned per County zoning ordinance with the exception of the applicant's intended use of the property which is to place one manufactured home on the property. This is allowed and will be consistent with the county's R-40 zoning.

Commissioner Johnston moved to approve the resolution before the Board which accepts the deannexed property back into unincorporated Cherokee with the moratorium on development of the property other than the applicant's stated proposed use for a manufactured home to be placed there; Commissioner Gunnin seconded.

Chairman asked Ms. Davis if she had any advice. Ms. Davis replied that we have protection for the county and are accomplishing what the property owner wishes to accomplish as well. Commissioner Johnston added that we expect the applicant to apply for rezoning within 30 days, but if not, we will pursue a county initiated zoning request in which case the applicant would not be liable for the usual zoning fee on the property. He said that this will insure some activity takes place within 30 days of the deannexation.

Chairman Ahrens called for the vote and there was unanimous approval.

## **ADJOURN**

The Chairman asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, Commissioner Nelms made a motion to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.