



Cherokee County Board of Commissioners MINUTES

December 2, 2014
Regular Meeting
CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 PM

INVOCATION

Commissioner Poole 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 Gunnin 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 5:55 p.m.

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

PROCLAMATION

1. Proclamation for volunteer efforts in Cherokee County Youth Sports.

Commissioner Nelms read the proclamation and presented it to Jim and Amanda Arnold and their daughter Evan, thanking them for their involvement in youth sports and Cherokee County.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

1. Coming out of Work Session discussion is an action item under the County Attorney's portion: 3.1 Settlement Agreement.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Ahrens spoke about the two presentations made during Work Session.

DFCS Director Charity Kemp gave an overview of the successes and challenges of DFCS and went over some of the services they provide.

The General Manager, Charlie Brenna, gave an update on the progress of the Outlet Shoppes. There are 98 stores open - 370,000 square feet of retail space. Their growth is in line with their expectations. They will be adding an additional 35,000 square feet within the first half of 2015.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2014.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. The Board of Commissioners will hear a request by applicants Blalock and Bruce to create a Legacy Lot on their property at 767 Old Mille Circle, Ball Ground (Tax Map 03N22, Parcel 028).

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Vicki Taylor Lee gave an overview of the request where the applicant would like to give 1.22 acres of their 3.22 property to their daughter. The property is currently zoned AG.

No one had signed up to speak. The applicant's daughter, Deanna Blalock, stated that she was speaking on behalf of her mother who is recovering from surgery and unable to attend. She said the purpose of the request was to build a decent-sized house so that she could be near her mother to assist her due to health issues.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Commissioner Johnston stated that this was his district and having seen the application and heard the overview, and the fact there was no opposition to the request, he saw no reason not to approve.

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

2. The Board of Commissioners will conduct a Public Hearing regarding the abandonment of a portion of Green Drive located in Land Lot 299 of the 14th District.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Geoff Morton gave an overview of the request. No one had signed up to speak. Commissioner Johnston stated that although this was in his district, he and Commissioner Nelms, as commissioners on their way out, would be abstaining from voting as the request deals with acquisition of property.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Commissioner Gunnin stated as a motion that he sees no problem with the request, especially since the property was originally deeded to the County; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was 3-0 approval with 2 abstentions from Commissioners Johnston and Nelms.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one had signed up to speak.

ZONING CASES

None Scheduled.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN

L. B. AHRENS

- A. Re-appointment of Natalie Green to the Board of Ethics for a 7-year term. (Current terms expires January 2015)

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

- B. Re-appointment of Danny West to the Region 1 EMS Board for another 2-year term. (Current term expires January 2015)

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

VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION DISTRICT 1

HARRY B. JOHNSTON

COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

RAYMOND GUNNIN

COMMISSION DISTRICT 3

BRIAN POOLE

COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

JASON NELMS

CONSENT AGENDA

COUNTY MANAGER

2.1 Consider approval of Agreement with City of Ball Ground for the County to provide van service for the March of Toys for Toys for Tots on December 5, 2014.

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

2.2 Consider design services agreement with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. for the Canton Road Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$73,420.00.

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

2.3 Consider modification of Personnel Policies regarding retiree medical.

Mr. Cooper spoke briefly about the proposed changes to the personnel policies, specifically to add section 5.11.3 entitled Post Retirement, pertaining to the County's payment of medical premiums for employees who reach 30 + years of service. He then turned the topic over to Ms. Davis.

Ms. Davis stated that she would like to propose two additions to the draft document before the Board related to employee retirement, section 5.11.3.

1. In the Title of 5.11.3, add language so that it to reads 'Post-Retirement of 30+ year Employee'.
2. In the first sentence add language to read 'Upon retirement, an employee who has served the County for at least thirty (30) years may continue medical insurance coverage with the County at the County's

expense for employee-only medical premium costs until the employee age of 65'.

In addition, she proposed to delete the last sentence.

Below is how the policy reads with the proposed changes incorporated:

5.11.3 Post-Retirement of 30+ Year Employee – Upon retirement, an employee who has served the County for at least thirty (30) years may continue medical insurance coverage with the County at the County's expense for employee-only medical premium costs until the employee age of 65. Cherokee County's payment of premiums for post-retirement medical benefits shall be capped at the 2014 monthly employee-only medical premium costs, or as may be adjusted by the Board of Commissioners from time to time. Any future cost increases above Cherokee County's contribution level for 2014 employee-premiums shall be fully paid by the retiree or such medical coverage shall be discontinued. If the retiree obtains employment after retirement with an employer that offers medical coverage at no cost, this benefit shall immediately discontinue and the retiree shall be required to accept coverage with the new employer.

| <u>Years of Service</u> | <u>% Paid for Employee-Only Medical Premiums</u> |
|-------------------------|--|
| 30+ | 100% county/0% employee |

Ms. Davis stated that these changes were proposed to make it clear that we were only dealing here with 30+ Year Employees only.

Ms. Davis added that in Work Session there had been discussion to expand and make some reference other employees who may retire, but after further discussion, it seems that this is a little more than we are prepared to address tonight. She said that she, Mr. Cooper and HR will review that and perhaps even take it to the benefits committee to bring back something more specific at some point in the future. Or, it may be determined that the plan document speaks to that sufficiently as is.

Ms. Davis stated that another thing she would like to bring up is the policy related to voting for Commissioners going out of office prior to January 1. She stated that with this item dealing with employee benefits package, she would suggest that Commissioners Johnston and Nelms recuse themselves.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve as amended by the County Attorney; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was approval of 3-0 with 2 abstentions from Commissioners Johnston and Nelms.

2.4 Consider a four-year contract with Wells Fargo as the County's banking partner and allowing County Manager to execute three agreements required to form the relationship once approved by the County Attorney. Wells Fargo had the highest overall score of four proposals received.

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

2.5 Consider resolution naming the east park located on Hwy. 20 near Water Tank Road and Jack Page Lane 'Cherokee Veterans Park'.

Mr. Cooper advised the proposal was submitted and approved unanimously by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and this is the recommendation from staff as well.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Parks Advisory Committee, and in doing so, rescind the designation of that name for the planned future park in Keithsburg area on the parcel we acquired from the Thacker Family; Commissioner Gunnin seconded. Commissioner Johnston added for clarification that the Thacker property we bought knowing that it would be many years before it would be approved. We had a request to name that future park Cherokee Veterans Park, but it makes more sense to designate that name to a park that we are actively moving forward on. He added that the people who initially requested that name for the Thacker site are agreeable. The Chairman recalled the motion and second, the resulting vote was for unanimous approval.

2.6 Consider Professional Services Agreement with Ten-8 in the amount of \$1,677,779.00 for the purchase of ten (10) Ten-8/Osage Ambulances over the next four years and authorize budget amendment from Fire SPLOST reserves in the amount of \$61,416.00.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded. Commissioner Johnston stated that this was another recusal item

due to the acquisition of property. The vote was for approval 3-0 with 2 abstentions from Commissioners Johnston and Nelms.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Amendment:

3.1 Consideration of settlement agreement.

Ms. Davis stated that coming out of Executive Session discussion comes before the Board a proposed settlement agreement related to the separation of an employee from the Solicitor General's office. It includes the separation and release agreement with the County as well as the Solicitor's Office. She stated that if it meets with the Board's approval, we simply need authorization for the Chairman to execute the agreement.

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

ADJOURN

Chairman Ahrens asked if there was anything else to come before the Board. Commissioner Nelms said he wanted to thank Commissioner-Elect Scott Gordon for attending the Work Session, Executive Session and Regular meeting.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 6:33 p.m.; Commissioner Poole seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.