

# CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Second Quarterly 2023, Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 27, 2023

**Meeting Location:** Cherokee County Admin Complex, 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, GA 30114  
Ground Floor Business Center Conference Room

## Board Directors:

Stephen Divine, Director	Absent	Carolyn Kissiah, Director	Present
Phil Dodge, Director	Present	Larry Mrozinski, Chair	Present
Natalie Green Hosea, Vice-Chair	Present	Gil Howard, Director	Present
Roy Taylor, Director	Present		

## Others Present:

Phillip Beggs, CCBBoE Attorney of Record  
Elizabeth Madson, CCBBoE Secretary  
Jeff Morton, County Manager

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- **Chair Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**
  - **According to our bylaws, Pledge of Allegiance**
  - **Recognition and Introduction of County Manager, Jeff Morton**  
Chair Mrozinski invited the Secretary to stand with Jeff by the flag and presented the Secretary with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Ethics for her time as Secretary.
  - **Public Hearing of Ethics Complaints**  
Chair Mrozinski opened the floor for public hearing/discussion. No issues were brought forward, and no one present had been made aware of any ethics complaints. Floor closed for ethics complaints.
  - **Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2023**  
The Board discussed whether the summary of the Executive Session from the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly 2023 meeting should be included in the public Minutes. The Board agreed the summary of the Executive Session should be included in the public Minutes since it reflects the record after visitors arrived back in the meeting. Director Dodge made a motion to amend the minutes to include the summary of the Executive Session in the published public minutes, seconded by Director Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Taylor made a motion to accept the Amended Minutes, seconded by Director Dodge. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Beggs informed the Board that typically there is an affidavit signed by the Chair after an Executive Session. Chair Mrozinski and Attorney Beggs plan to further discuss the logistics of signing the affidavit after the meeting.

- **New Business: Secretary Position**

Chair Mrozinski informed that Board that the Secretary would be leaving and announced that with this absence, if the Directors are aware of anyone to fill this position to please notify him.

- **Old Business: Director Divine's Appointment**

Chair Mrozinski opened the floor for any new business. Director Dodge inquired if there was an update on Director Divine's appointment to the Board of Elections discussed during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Meeting. Attorney Beggs recounted that Director Divine posed a question to the Board about whether his recent appointment presented a conflict of interest. Attorney Beggs provided a verbal opinion that based off Sections 1(a), 9(a), 2(7) and 16 of the Cherokee County Code of Ethics, the Board needs not to be dual hatted where the Board of Ethics has members on both boards. Director Howard agreed with Attorney Beggs' opinion. Chair Mrozinski made a motion that the Board accepts Attorney Beggs' oral explanation with an addendum that Attorney Beggs will follow up with written response that will be filed with public minutes, seconded by Director Howard. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Mrozinski opened discussion on how to proceed with Attorney Beggs' recommendation. The Board discussed that the next steps would be Director Divine's choice as the Board was asked a question and provided an answer.

Director Howard asked if the visitor from the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 meeting was present in relation to the Board of Elections. Chair Mrozinski disclosed that he did not want to create controversy, but that the visitor's motives were shared with a Director and that said visitor was present in relation to the Board of Election. Chair Mrozinski further disclosed that he received a telephone call and believed a group of citizens who are known to criticize the Board of Elections organized an effort to cultivate a mole in the Board of Ethics. Chair Mrozinski shared the email he received and disclosed his phone call conversation with the Board Attorney, which is now in the record.

- **Next Meeting:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting of 2023 will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 6:00p.m. at the Cherokee County Business Center at the Bluffs.

- Director Green made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Dodge. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.