

Cherokee County Press Release

February 13, 2020

The State of Georgia requires that each county and its municipalities negotiate service delivery strategies every ten (10) years. Cherokee County and the cities of Canton, Woodstock, Holly Springs, Waleska, and Mountain Park have unfortunately reached an impasse in this 18-month process.

The Board of Commissioners has attempted to work with the Cities to adopt a mutually acceptable Service Delivery Agreement. The County has done so through the methods prescribed by the Georgia General Assembly, including a comprehensive two-stage dispute resolution process, which was previously agreed to by all parties. In addition, the County has proposed multiple offers in compromise that would require the County to make certain concessions that go beyond what is required by law. However, the Cities have not responded on the substantial points of the offers. The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners has respectfully declined the Cities' directive to participate in their process and, instead, encourages the Cities to continue through the statutorily mandated dispute resolution process that they previously agreed to.

Accordingly, by way of a resolution passed on February 13, 2020, which provides details of the County's efforts, the Board of Commissioners requests that the pre-litigation mediation, as presided over by Justice Fletcher, be resumed. The County urges agreement to resume participation by the cities of Canton, Woodstock, Holly Springs, Waleska, and Mountain Park. The Board of Commissioners strongly believes that the continuation of the statutory dispute resolution process, as designed by the Georgia General Assembly and previously agreed to by the parties, is the only viable process through which a cooperative resolution of the Service Delivery dispute can be achieved.

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