

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the agenda for this January 18, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Tuesday, January 18, 2011
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for January 18, 2011, meeting
Motion on Minutes for January 3, 2011, meeting
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Rita Miller
RE: December Releases and Refunds
Board of Equalization and Review
Solid Waste Appeal
- C. Dennis Smith
RE: Prayer at Meetings
- D. Dr. Jeff Cox
RE: 2010/11 Public School Facility Needs
- E. County Manager's Business
1. Retreat Discussions
2. FY 2011/12 Proposed Budget Schedule
3. Banking Options
4. Joint Meeting Reminder
5. Budget Amendment—Public Assistance
6. Glade Creek School Water/Sewer Final Plan Approval and Timeline Discussions
- F. County Commissioners' Business
1. Developing Opportunities for Youth—Commissioner Goudreau
How to proceed on developing opportunities for youth
- G. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
- H. Adjourn

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson asked for public comments.

Jerry Brooks came before the Board stating that Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Cox explained why they prefer a silent prayer, and he asked Chair Richardson to explain why he wants a silent prayer. He further asked the Board to reconsider having prayer.

Chair Richardson asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

Rita Miller, Assistant Tax Administrator, presented the December real releases and refunds and auto releases and refunds.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the December real and auto releases and refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller provided answers to questions that were asked about the November releases and refunds.

Rita Miller talked to the Board about setting the dates for the Board of Equalization and Review. She reviewed that the meetings cannot start before April 4 and no later than May 6. She explained the number of days and times of previous meetings.

The Board of Commissioners talked about dates/times for the meeting and decided on April 14 at 6:30pm.

Rita Miller presented a solid waste fee appeal for a house that doesn't have any water or electricity. She said that no one lives in the house.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about the only request before the Board is appealing the solid waste fee.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to release the solid waste fee. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller informed the Board that she will be at the February 7th meeting to present the annual tax collector's report and the annual report for the tax office. She talked about discussing dates to advertise delinquent taxes at the February 7th meeting, also.

Dennis Smith came before the Board to discuss actions at the last meeting where Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Cox shared their comments regarding prayer. He quoted their comments. He talked about biblical references to praying in public. He continued talking about the actions at the last meeting about prayer and additional biblical references regarding Jesus. He asked the Board to reconsider what was done at the last meeting regarding prayer.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, came before the Board to present the required public schools facility needs. He stated that this is a planning document and doesn't obligate any board to any action. He discussed the cost summary. He explained that Dr. Kim Mattox, Assistant Superintendent, worked with all of the principals in order to complete this needs survey. He further explained items included in the survey at the High School and at Piney Creek School. He said that each school has information in the survey about their facility needs for the next five years.

Commissioner Cox talking about there are at least three items affecting the safety of people; septic at Piney Creek School, façade at the High School and lighting at the athletic fields.

Commissioner Smith and Dr. Cox talked about the light poles are already on a schedule to be inspected periodically.

County Manager Don Adams talked about fixing the septic system isn't something that can be fixed in a month. He said that he recommends starting looking at a permanent solution.

County Manager Don Adams and Dr. Cox talked about they are currently conducting tests on the usage of New River Artisans and the Piney Creek fire department since they are on the same system as the Piney Creek School's system.

The County Manager talked about the need to start looking for planning monies. He explained the planning monies could be used to look at options available for the septic system.

Chair Richardson asked if anyone has any problems with the County Manager looking for planning grants.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about Surry County has recently passed a resolution asking the State to reinstate the lottery funds and should this Board look at doing something similar.

County Manager Don Adams agreed and said that the Board can lobby the State to reinstate the lottery funds and ask for additional funds or change the allocation. He explained that the allocation formula changed which affected our allocation some.

Commissioner Smith and the County Manager talked about the Manager didn't want to proceed looking for planning monies without having this conversation with the Board.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about a timeframe regarding planning monies.

Chair Richardson asked if anyone has any problems with the County Manager looking for planning grants. No one spoke. He stated that it sounds like the County Manager is to proceed.

Chair Richardson and Dr. Cox talked about previous conversations about a wall separating in one of the High School classrooms and professional people who have looked at it doesn't think it is a structural issue. Dr. Cox explained that this is addressed in this survey and inadequate concessions in the new gym at the High School. Dr. Cox noted the age of the core part of the High School was opened in 1967-68, long-term needs plan for 5-10 years more of good use for that portion, after that the maintenance increases greatly and 15 years out the need to look at replacement.

Chair Richardson thanked Dr. Cox for presenting this information.

County Manager Don Adams asked the Board is there an interest to have a Board retreat. He reviewed items that could be discussed. He talked about the 2011/12 budget schedule. He asked how the Board wants to proceed. He said that this schedule has been based on previous years.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the Board won't have anything to look at regarding the budget until April 18. The County Manager explained the budget timeline and actions that occur during those timeframes.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the budget schedule. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson stated that he thinks the Board needs to have both; a retreat and a budget retreat. He talked about having the retreat in February or March. He explained his ideas for the retreat mainly being an overall brain-storming meeting and to learn how all Board members feel about different topics plus his thinking is to start at 9:00am, break for lunch then come back.

Commissioner Roten and Chair Richardson talked about having the meeting at the conference room at the BDC or the Alleghany Inn conference room but not going out of town.

Commissioner Smith said he doesn't want to go out of the county either. He talked about bringing more information about the other boards/committees that each Commissioner serves on.

Commissioner Cox talked about when he first started thinking about a retreat he thought about what is our community going to look like in 5-10-25 years and what can the Board set in motion to help the citizens. He further talked about the Board needs to look at what we are now and where we are going.

Commissioner Goudreau agreed with Commissioner Cox. He talked about the need to look at economic development, and trying to get together about where we are going. He said he also agrees with Commissioner Roten about not going out of the county and there are some real important issues to discuss.

Chair Richardson talked about coming back the first meeting in February with agenda/ideas. He further talked about possibly needing to bring in a facilitator. He said he would hope that each one of the Commissioners will give the County Manager a list of topics. He further said that this is just a beginning, and the Board won't be able to get it all done in one day.

County Manager Don Adams said he is hearing different routes from visioning process to identifying specific objectives. He talked about a good starting point is providing him with the topics. He talked about the visioning process and an educational process will have two different approaches. He reiterated that he would like to get the information from the Commissioners about

what each Commissioner wants to discuss. He provided examples of why having an outside facilitator may be needed. He said that the first step is getting the information from each member.

Commissioner Goudreau said that it could be a little of both, and there are people in town that could assist with this process. He agreed that this will be a work in progress and shouldn't end after one day.

Chair Richardson talked about it is important to have the regular meetings but with three new members it is important to create a road map about where the Board is going. He reviewed how he thinks the Board could proceed by the County Manager bringing up a topic then each member state their opinion. He asked is there a consensus to move forward on some type of a retreat with emphasis put on Commissioner Roten's comments about having the retreat in the County and not be any expense to the taxpayers. No one spoke. He stated that he believes there is a consensus to move forward.

County Manager Don Adams reiterated that in the next week or so, he will get a list from each Commissioner then for the next meeting take those thoughts, summarize them and have recommendations on how to proceed.

Chair Richardson said that he would like to agree upon a date also maybe sometime in February or March then schedule a budget meeting later.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he wanted to let the Board know that he and the Finance Officer may be looking into banking options. He further explained that the checking is currently with Fifth Third. He said that the reason they haven't looked at other banks in the past was because the County wasn't being charged bank fees. He explained that the County doesn't keep all of the money there because CD's are at other banks. He stated that Fifth Third is charging transaction fees now. He said that they feel like the County should look at other banks to see what else is out there. He explained what all is involved and it could take months to totally switch over. He talked about checking to see what is available then seeing if a request for bids is needed. He said that he wanted the Board to know in case questions started being asked. He further said that they have a list of questions for the banks, examples to see if they can handle the County's account and what their fees are/costs savings and capabilities. He said that if a request for bids is need, he will bring it back to the Board.

Chair Richardson stated that he would be really surprised if any member didn't want to look into that.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about the joint meeting with the Sparta Town Council on Monday, January 31 at 7:00pm at Sparta Town Hall.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #15 in the amount of \$13,687 for public assistance. He explained that this is additional crisis funds and doesn't require any County monies.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #15 in the amount of \$13,687. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that final approval has been received for the Glade Creek School's water/sewer plans and timeline. He explained that the County has received all required permits. He reminded everyone that these are ARRA funds so there are additional requirements. He listed out all of the permits that have been obtained and approvals received. He explained some of the ARRA requirements. He reviewed the proposed timeline if Board approval is provided today and these dates are subject to final approval by USDA. He explained that the project consists of running a waterline from Cliff Phillips property to Glade Creek School, build the well house, install pump, construction of the waterline and septic field. He stated the amount of septic lines, and fed by a gravity line from the School for the septic portion.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the bid specs and drawings. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the proposed schedule. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau said what he wanted to talk about will be accomplished at the retreat in regards to opportunities for the youth.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to enter closed session at 11:22am under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn closed session at 11:43am and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

Chair Richardson made a motion to deny the appeal from Harold Wood. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to give the County Manager the authority to fill that position. Chair Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Roten made a motion to adjourn at 11:46am. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Richardson
Chairman