

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 3:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Doug Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that items D and E needs to be rescheduled.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this January 20, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Tuesday, January 20, 2009  
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for January 20, 2009, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for January 5 and January 7, 2009, meetings  
Motion on December Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Public Hearing  
RE: PARTF Grant—Fields  
C. Linda Edwards  
RE: EMS Bill  
D. Red Cross Annual Report (deleted)  
E. Council on Aging Annual Report (deleted)  
F. Wilkes Community College Annual Report  
G. County Business  
1. EDTAP Budget Amendment  
2. Planning Budget Amendment  
3. Planning Board Appointments  
4. Transfer Facility Disposal Contract  
5. Subcommittee Updates  
a. County Salaries  
b. School Facilities  
6. Other Business  
7. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 5 and January 7, 2009, meetings. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real refunds and releases for December. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the auto refunds and releases for December. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

David Evans, Recreation Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the PARTF grant for the open space park located across the road from Andrews Trucking. He explained the need for the facilities and the multiple uses of the area.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that this sounds like a great plan and utilization of the area.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing at 3:40pm regarding the PARTF grant. He asked for public comments.

Tommy Andrews stated that David Evans did a good job explaining everything. He talked about 12 years ago he came before the Board, and they Board helped him get the property for Andrews Trucking. He further talked about times have changed, and the guys that are leasing the property need more space. He explained that they would use the area for parking. He stated his appreciation for what the Board has done for them. He reiterated that David Evans did a good job explaining the use of the property.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, stated that from the school system's standpoint that they like seeing their fields used but there are many that are strained because of the multiple uses by the school system and the recreation programs. He explained that they support the PARTF grant, and this is a good utilization of taxpayers' money from their point of view.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Dr. Cox discussed the closing of the street between the fields that connects to Sparta Elementary School.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 3:58pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Chair Ken Richardson declared a brief recess at 3:59pm.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Supervisor, came before the Board to discuss a letter from the Law Offices of Christopher May on behalf of his client about reducing the EMS bill because this person has not been able to return to work, has no health insurance, has not been approved for Medicaid or Medicare and has no income coming into the household because her husband died in the accident that created this bill. She explained that the second page in the letter shows what is outstanding from the July 15, 2006, accident including Allegheny County's bill of \$1,120, and he is asking for a 25% reduction. She further explained that this hasn't been done since she has been with EMS. She talked about a case in 1994 and that situation where the Commissioners did forgive a portion of the bill.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about he would have a hard time looking at this one and not looking at all of the other bills.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Edwards discussed this is a difference of \$280.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Linda Edwards discussed her conversation with the attorney and whether they would pay anything if no reduction is given.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to not entertain the reduction. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams asked Linda Edwards to get with the County Attorney to contact this law office about payment and to utilize the insurance company.

Jayne Phipps-Boger with Wilkes Community College (WCC) thanked the Board for their support. She reviewed an information packet that was provided to the Board. She talked about a security door that they have just installed. She explained that they are trying to maintain security at the campus. She reviewed the number of new students, number of degree-seeking students and the number of other students that are attending WCC. She talked about the number of high school students being dually enrolled this semester. She further talked about they are presenting several different tracks instead of random classes. She listed the corroborative efforts of the College. She talked about the continuing education classes primarily the fiber optic certification program that is drawing people from Ohio and Georgia for this class. She thanked

Benita Hampton for working on this certification program. She talked about a record number of people are attending small business classes. She said that they have started the NC REAL program through the high school.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the college is continuing to do an excellent job and is touching a lot of lives.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about high school students that are dually enrolled.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board that the PARTF grant is due February 2. He said that the Board needs to decide whether or not to pursue this grant opportunity. He talked about the amount of the project is \$264,525 with the County portion being \$130,763. He talked about fundraising a portion of the money and possibly using a portion of the town's greenway planning money since the greenway is proposed to be in that area.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve submitting the grant application. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #24 in the amount of \$27,999 for a transportation grant. He explained that the grant is \$10,774 for EDTAP, \$16,629 for RGP and \$596 for Work First for use in the transportation program.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #24 in the amount of \$27,999. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #25 in the amount of \$8,674 for the road guarantee of the subdivision road installation that was discussed recently the Kathy Murphy. He stated that the guarantee was provided by a check. He explained that this budget amendment would be putting money in place for the County to pay the money back once the road has been constructed or once the County has to build the road if the business does not.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #25 in the amount of \$8,674. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information regarding the Planning Board. He talked about reappointing or appointing Planning Board members. He further talked about the information provided to the Commissioners including the list of the current Planning Board and options available to the Board. He talked about conversations with the Planning Board about the nine-member board being a large board and issues they run into. He further talked about taking the board to seven representatives with having one representative from each fire district with two at-large members. He reviewed the process to reduce the board to seven members including the wording change. He said that Kathy Murphy had conversations with the Planning Board members today, and they don't have an issue with making the Board a seven-member board.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that if the Planning Board is happy with seven then she has no problem. Commissioner Randy Miller and Commissioner Doug Murphy agreed.

Chair Ken Richardson asked the Board if the consensus of the Board is to have a public hearing and move forward.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to appoint Jason Williams and Jeffrey Wyatt to the Planning Board. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

The Board and the County Manager discussed the timing of the public hearing and agreed to have the public hearing at the first meeting in March.

County Manager Don Adams presented the transportation disposal contract. He explained the current contract, letter from Republic offering to extend the contract for one year and the fuel surcharge being changed. He explained that the County currently goes to Concord landfill which was owned by BFI then Allied now Republic, and the reasons why transportation is to Concord. He talked about now one company owns the majority of existing landfills; Republic. He further talked about there may be some opportunities to work with other county landfills but their charge at the scale rate is higher than our current rate. He said there may be one county that could be a potential. He reiterated that there is an offer on the table from Republic to extend the contract for one year with a CPI increase. He reviewed the current costs. He reminded the Board that the new fuel surcharge will not end at \$3.50 as the previous contract did. He talked about the lack of competition. He further talked about the current contract runs out in April, and if a contract is made with other counties that it won't be a month or two process.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the extension and give the County Manager the authority to pursue other avenues. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the subcommittee report on county salaries. He said that the Board has a budget planning session at the end of February. He asked does the Board wish to make this part of that discussion or schedule a special meeting.

Chair Ken Richardson asked if anyone has any problems with having it during the budget meeting.

The Board stated they didn't have any problems with that.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about this is an important issue that needs to be worked into the budget discussions.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about the school facilities planning update. He explained that the Board has the information that was presented at the last planning meeting; Allegheny County Schools Facility Needs. He further explained the general discussion of this meeting, and the group asked the Board of Education to go back and prioritize their needs with a dollar amount. He said that will be the topic of discussion at their next meeting.

Chair Ken Richardson asked does the Board have any problem to have this discussion at the budget planning session.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that this is a pressing matter, and it is important. Commissioner Randy Miller agreed.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman