

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2014, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chairman Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this February 3, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, February 3, 2014  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for February 3, 2014, Meeting  
Motion on Minutes for January 27, 2014, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Wendy Williams – E-911/Mapping Coordinator
1. Present information regarding new road name; Jonahs Lane.
  2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed new road name. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
  3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed road name
  4. Mapping/E-911 Annual Report
- 6:50 B. Rita Miller – Tax Administrator
1. Tax Collector Report of Unpaid Taxes (current Fiscal Year) – Action Requested – Vote on acceptance of the report.
  2. Date for Advertisement of Tax Liens – Action Requested - Vote to set the date on when to advertise 2013 unpaid taxes.
  3. 2014 Insolvents – Action Requested – Vote on releasing the insolvents.
  4. Tax Office Annual Report
- 7:05 C. General Business
1. Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care  
Debbie Bare has indicated her willingness to be appointed to a one-year term to serve on the Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Action Requested – Vote on the appointment.
  2. Cooperative Extension Van Transfer Request  
Cooperative Extension is requesting that a 1998 Dodge Van be moved to surplus and a 2007 Ford Van be transferred from Alleghany in Motion to Cooperative Extension. Action Requested – Vote on the requests to surplus the 1998 Dodge Van and transfer the 2007 to Cooperative Extension.
  3. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Appointment  
Jean Irwin has been nominated to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Action Requested – Vote on the appointment.
  4. Purple Heart County Proclamation  
Request to adopt a proclamation that proclaims Alleghany County as a Purple Heart County. The purpose is increase awareness of military personnel sacrifices. Action Requested – Vote on the proclamation.
  5. Alleghany Community Television (ACTV) Update  
Alleghany County currently contracts with ACTV to operate the County's PEG channels. Currently ACTV operates Channel 98 (Alleghany Cablevision) and Channel 21 (Skyline). ACTV is now ready to take on an additional channel. Skyline is ready to give an additional PEG Channel (22) to Alleghany County. Under our current contract, ACTV would operate this new channel. Action Requested – Vote to accept this new PEG channel (22) from Skyline.
  6. Mike Fenley, Senator Richard Burr's Field Representative Visit  
Mike Fenley will be in the Commissioners' Meeting Room on Wednesday, March 19, to meet with constituents to offer assistance in dealing with Federal Government topics. Appointments can be made by calling (336) 251-8156. No action requested.
  7. Other Funds Budget Amendments

These budget amendments are to budget for an adjustment in the budget to reflect the audited fund balance in those funds. These budget amendments are reductions to those funds.

A. Tourism Development Authority Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of (\$2,573).

B. Register of Deeds Technology Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of (\$1,607).

C. Revaluation Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of (\$77).

Action Requested – Vote on each of the budget amendments.

D. Commissioner Comments

E. Public Comments—30 minutes

F. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.1 (a) (6)—personnel

G. Adjourn

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 27, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper, presented one road name for the Board's approval; Jonahs Lane. She explained the location of the road.

Chair Cox declared the public hearing open at 6:32pm regarding the E-911 proposed road name. He asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:33pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the road name as presented. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Wendy Williams presented the annual report for the E-911/Mapping office. She reviewed a breakdown of the two departments and their duties in each department. She presented the E-911 Department's statistics for 2013. She talked about the CAD system at dispatch. She presented the Mapping Department's statistics including information about the online mapping website, which had 67,000 hits last week.

Commissioner Leys and Wendy Williams talked about the only information they can provide on the location of the hits is that the majority of them are hits from Skyline.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, explained that in February each year, the Tax Collector must report to the Commissioners the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year and the Commissioners must order the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens. She explained that the unpaid 2013 taxes as of January 28, 2014, is \$807,955.15 for a collection rate of 89.88%.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about the collection rate and how it compares to last year.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller asked about an advertising date to advertise the tax liens. She recommended the week of April 23, 2014, which is the same week as the previous two years.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to advertise the tax liens the week of April 23, 2014. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller said that the affected property owners will receive a letter at least 30 days prior to that advertisement. She presented the 2014 real and personal property insolvents in the amount of \$7,566.20. She explained the description of the properties listed on the report.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about one of the listings for a business that cannot be found and the business appeared to be a leasing company.

Commissioner Leys mentioned that she recognizes some names on this list. Rita Miller listed out all of the ways that have been tried to collect the taxes. They talked about maybe a personal phone call would help.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about some of these businesses are no longer in operation, these are 10 years old and collection attempts have been made during that time. Rita Miller talked about two manufactured homes that aren't even in the county anymore.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller talked about businesses.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the Tax Office goes back 10 years to check to see if taxes have been paid before deeds are transferred.

Commissioner Leys asked if some of these are under protest. Rita Miller said that they haven't received any information.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the 2014 insolvents for real and personal property \$7,566.20. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the motor vehicle insolvent list for 2014 in the amount of \$12,384.75. She explained that these taxes are older than 10 years old and cannot be collected.

Commissioner Smith, Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about tax/tag program, collection rate should be near 100% and this is the reason the County pushed for it.

Commissioner Leys talked about there are 7½ pages of names and such irresponsibility on people's part for such small amounts.

Rita Miller talked about this is \$6,000 less than last year, and they did send out a 2<sup>nd</sup> notice. She explained once a vehicle is gone it is harder to collect.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller talked about they sent letters out 2 years ago and the amount to send was more than what was collected.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the insolvent list. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the Tax Office's annual report. She reviewed the highlights from her report including their 2013 activities for the NC Tag & Tax Together program, delinquent tax collections, revaluation, and the various tax relief programs.

Commissioner Leys asked about the time lapse between adjustments on vehicle bills concerning tag/tax. Rita Miller explained the timeline concerning adjustments.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter regarding Debbie Bare to be appointed to the Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. He stated that there are more slots to be filled if anyone has any recommendations. He reminded everyone what the committee does.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about there are four vacancies.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to appoint Debbie Bare to a one-year term on the Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys said she would like to work on this and bring it back.

Chair Cox encouraged everyone to work on this and put it back on the agenda.

County Manager Don Adams discussed a letter from Amy Lucas about declaring surplus their 1998 Dodge van due to its condition and transfer the 2007 van from Alleghany in Motion to Extension Service.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to declare the 1998 van surplus. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to transfer the 2007 van. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained he hasn't decided how to sell the vans and he will come back within the next couple of months about how to dispose of these vans.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Kay Luffman requesting that Jean Irwin be appointed to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC).

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the appointment of Jean Irwin to serve on the JCPC. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about a request that Alleghany County be declared a Purple Heart County. He read the letter about the purpose is to increase awareness of the sacrifices military personnel have made for our country and that they are never forgotten. He read the proposed proclamation.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about Alleghany Community Television (ACTV) including that the County contracts with ACTV to operate the County's PEG channel. He explained that ACTV is ready to take on an additional channel, which Skyline is ready to provide. He further explained that the new channel would be a government channel. He talked about their long-term goal is to spilt off the public content also. He reviewed the government content and the need to build more content. He reminded everyone that this channel broadcasts in multiple counties, and one goal is to communicate to other counties to see if they have an interest to use ACTV. He reviewed the County's current agreement where the PEG channel revenues are funneled through Alleghany County to ACTV. He talked about the PEG channel requirements. He reviewed the new proposed logo for the government channel. He explained the request is to accept the new PEG channel.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the 90 days prior to July 15<sup>th</sup> requirement to have an operating PEG channel in order to receive PEG revenues. County Manager Don Adams explained that they are going to start in mid February. They discussed the proposed content and building up more content on the current channel to fill the gap from taking the government portion off.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about currently having some footage canned that would be available, and they are looking at expanding.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the investment that ACTV made in adding this additional channel.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the new PEG channel. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about Mike Fenley, Senator Richard Burr's field representative, will be in the Commissioners' Meeting Room on Wednesday, March 19, to meet with constituents to offer assistance in dealing with Federal Government topics. He explained that appointments are preferred, and he provided a phone number to call.

County Manager Don Adams presented Budget Amendment Tourism Development Authority #1 in the amount of (\$2,573), Register of Deeds Technology Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of (\$1,607), and Revaluation Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of (\$77). He explained that these are to budget for an adjustment in the budget to reflect the audited fund balance numbers.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the budget amendments are all reductions.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Tourism Development Authority #1 in the amount of (\$2,573). Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Register of Deeds Technology Fund #1 in the amount of (\$1,607). Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Revaluation Fund #1 in the amount of (\$77). Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams clarified that this is not taking money from the Tourism Development Authority; it's only adjusting the budget to where it should be.

Commissioner Leys talked about she attended a Social Services meeting earlier today and learned of a possible additional expense to the County. She explained that social services agencies statewide have until February 10 to get caught up on the backlog with the NC FAST program, how much money Alleghany County could lose monthly in administration costs and the number of Social Services employees in Alleghany County versus the surrounding counties. She stated that our employees do a tremendous job and appreciate their work. She talked about the new billboard on Highway 21 South right outside of Sparta advertising the Health Department. She wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Chair Cox opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for comments.

Kinglesy Booth talked about having the high school students more involved in ACTV and having a TV station for everyone. He further talked the need to respect each other.

Jerry Brooks read a letter from Brandon Hawks.

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

Commissioner Leys made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 7:43pm. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn closed session at 7:54pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated that no decisions were made in closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 7:56pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Larry Cox  
Chairman