

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 15, 2016, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda for this February 15, 2016, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday February 15, 2016
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for February 15, 2016, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for January 19, 2016 Meeting
- 10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. January Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. Actions Requested – Vote on releases and refunds.
2. January Collections Report - Monthly collection rates through January 2016 as compared to 2014 and 2015 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of January 2016. No action requested.
4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
5. Set dates for 2016 Board of Equalization and Review
- 10:25 B. Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director
RE: Ambulance Bid. A summary of bids will be presented at the meeting.
Action Requested – Vote on awarding the contract to purchase.
- 10:45 C. General Business
1. Connect NC Resolution
Enclosed is a revised version of the Connect NC resolution. Action Requested – Vote on the resolution.
2. Governors Crime Commission Grant
The Sheriff's Office has received an additional \$15,000 grant for 5 radios. Enclosed is General Fund Budget Amendment #11 to put the monies in place. Action Requested – Vote on the Budget Amendment.
3. Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Appointments
Discussion about recommendations received for the appointments to the Tourism Development Authority. Action Requested – Vote on the new TDA appointments.
4. Budget Amendment - \$900 for VFW Flags
General Fund Budget Amendment #12 in the amount of \$900 to budget for the purchase of flags for the VFW. Action Requested – Vote on the Budget Amendment.
5. Part-Time Veteran Services Officer
The Alleghany Veteran Service Officer position will be vacant effective February 24, 2016. Request is to hire Sam Nichols, a former Veteran Service Officer, as a part-time Veteran Service Officer during the transition at a Grade 63, \$12.94 per hour. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
6. Wellness Drawings
Drawings for employees who have obtained 125 points, and completed Preventive Care portion of Wellness Program. Action Requested – Draw 8 employees' names for a chance to win a \$25 Chamber gift certificate. Draw 3 employees' names for a chance to win a \$100 Chamber gift certificate.
- D. Public Comments—30 minutes
E. Commissioners Comments

F. Adjourn

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016, minutes. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the January auto releases.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the January auto releases. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the January auto refunds under the vehicle tax system (VTS).

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the January VTS auto refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the January real property releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the January real property releases. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the January real property refunds.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the January real property refunds. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented information about an error on last month's report regarding an incorrect first name on 1 refund. She asked the Board to approve the name change. She stated that all of the other information is correct.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the name change. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the January 2016 reports; collection rate report, enforced collection report, payment agreement report.

Rita Miller requested the Commissioners to set the dates for the 2016 Board of Equalization and Review.

The Board talked about dates and times for the meetings. They decided on April 12 and April 19 at 6:30pm each day.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Supervisor, presented 3 bids for a new ambulance; 1) Frist Priority Ambulance \$124,825 2) Northwestern Emergency Vehicles \$131,423 and 3) Southeastern Specialty Vehicles \$131,542. She explained the low bid is not a new ambulance, which did not meet the specifics that was sent out by the state. She stated their request is to go with the next lowest bid of \$131,423 and would have to request a budget amendment in the amount of \$11,423.

Chair Smith and Linda Edwards talked about the first bid and why it could not be used since it was a remount; therefore, it did not meet the specifications.

County Manager Don Adams explained the amount in the budget of \$120,000 was off of quotes obtained this time last year, and this is for a standard ambulance. He further explained that the County has done remounts before and had to deal with the issues that came from the remount. He said he recommended not going with the remount.

Commissioner Davis and Linda Edwards talked about the current remount ambulance.

Commissioner Evans, Linda Edwards and Brandon Jones talked about the ambulance we are replacing is a 2008 with 128,000 miles.

Commissioner Leys and Linda Edwards talked about the reason for the price increase from the budgeted amount until now.

Brandon Jones explained the lift system will be mandated on the next ambulance after this purchase. Commissioner Leys and Brandon Jones talked about the one that is within the specifications and it won't take a lot to change it to make it in compliance.

County Manager Don Adams recommended buying the new one instead of the remounted one since the box has been remounted 2 times already. He explained that it increases the likelihood of something going wrong out on a call and with purchasing a new one that likelihood decreases tremendously.

Commissioner Irwin and Linda Edwards talked about all of the ambulances being 4-wheel drive with the exception of one, which is 2-wheel drive. They talked about the reason for the replacement this year because of having monitors to replace next year. County Manager Don Adams added that another ambulance will need to be purchased next year or the year after. The County Manager provided examples of why the replacement schedule is sooner than other vehicles.

Commissioner Evans and Linda Edwards talked about it taking 6 months to get the ambulance. The County Manager explained the bill won't be paid until the ambulance is received.

Commissioner Irwin asked on the next bid to try to get closer on the estimate.

Commissioner Leys asked where the money will come from. The County Manager said the General Fund.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this was part of the capital loan that was approved at the beginning of the budget year he isn't going to request the Board to borrow any extra money for the ambulance.

Commissioner Evans asked about the interest of the loan. County Manager Don Adams explained that per year it is about \$59,000.

Commissioner Evans clarified so for us to not borrow any extra money we would be save about \$59,000 worth of interest for the County.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the \$11,423 budget amendment. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys altered her motion to include and award the contract to Northwestern Emergency Vehicles. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the Connect NC resolution. He reviewed items that the Commissioners spoke about adding to the resolution.

Commissioner Evans said that the Connect NC website is a great tool for information.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information that Nick Hawks gave him about the Sheriff's Office being eligible for an additional \$15,000 Governors Crime Commission (GCC) grant to purchase 5 dual-band radios. He presented budget amendment General Fund #11 in the amount of the \$15,000.

Commissioner Evans and County Manager Don Adams talked about there is no match required for the grant money.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #11 in the amount of \$15,000. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams summarized the information for the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) of there are currently 3 open slots, 2 will be 3-year appointments and 1 will be a

1-year appointment. He read the list of all nominations for the TDA. He said that he recommends the Commissioners individually vote their top 3 and then take a brief recess to allow him time to compile the results.

Chair Smith talked about ranking the people.

The Commissioners marked their papers.

Chair Smith stated his appreciation to the people for their willingness to serve on the TDA.

Chair Smith declared a brief recess at 10:38am.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the top 3 are; Tommy Maines, Shirley Richardson and Steve Mason. He asked how the Board wants to proceed. He talked about the terms for the slots. He said that the Commissioners normally select the TDA's Chair. He stated that their next meeting is February 25, and they can select their Chair recommendation and the terms of each of them on their own, if the Board would like.

Chair Smith stated that 2 are collectors so we are covered on that specific detail, and that is his recommendation.

Commissioner Evans agreed.

County Manager Don Adams said they would be appointed with the understanding of a recommendation of the Chair and terms. Chair Smith asked is a vote needed. County Manager Don Adams informed him that yes the Board needs to vote.

Commissioner Irwin and the County Manager talked about they have their meetings during the day and the 25th meeting is their organizational meeting.

Chair Smith and the County Manager talked about what the vote needs to cover.

Chair Smith made a motion to appoint the 3 new members to the TDA with the understanding that they will be in charge of deciding recommendations for terms and for the chair appointment and then bring the information back to the Commissioners. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Bobby Irwin).

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #12 in the amount of \$900 for the previously discussed purchase of flags by the VFW.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #12 in the amount of \$900. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams told the Board that Jeramiah Hampton has resigned because he has another job, and his last day is February 23. He also explained he had talked to Sam Nichols who is willing to work on a part-time basis (Tuesday and Thursday) until the position is filled.

Commissioner Irwin and the County Manager talked about the Manager's conversations with Sam Nichols, that he will work Tuesday and Thursday and the regional people can help.

Chair Smith stated his appreciation for Sam Nichols.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation to Jeramiah Hampton and to Sam Nichols.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve these changes. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Karen Evans, Chair of the Wellness Board, explained that there are 2 drawings; one was for all employees because everyone achieved the 125 points on the wellness plan and the other drawing was for people who obtained their preventative care points. She stated there will be 8 drawn for a \$25 Chamber gift card for the 125 points and 3 drawn for a \$100 Chamber gift card for the preventative care.

Chair Smith talked about how great it is to give incentives like this to encourage employees to care for their health.

County Manager Don Adams said that it also helps save the county money. Commissioner Leys added it saved about \$69,000 last year.

The Commissioners drew the names for the first drawing: Daniel Murry, Mary Rector, Jackie Duncan, Andy Harris, Tiffany Boyer, Brian Killon, Vickie Moyer, and Amy Taylor. Chair Smith drew the names for the second drawing: Amy Taylor, Sherry Hash, and Billy Saltz.

Commissioner Leys said she appreciates the work Don Adams and Karen Evans have done with this and the leadership has been tremendous from both.

County Manager Don Adams explained it has really been an employee driven and that's why it's successful. He said we've seen people actually show a physical change in their health as well.

Chair Smith opened the floor for public comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Irwin said he has had several people ask about the study on the cell towers. He asked are there other people who do this type of service.

County Manager Don Adams explained this group is a product of his research for looking for a company to help with 911 center, experience with radios and are not a vendor. He said several entities referred him to this group, Mission Critical Partners. He further stated how impressive their experience of 911 dollars is and gave examples. He stated that any other company that he has dealt with sells the product.

Commissioner Irwin said he is sorry that Jeramiah Hampton is leaving he is a strong asset to Alleghany County. He said that while looking through the qualifications for the next Veterans Service Officer, the job description was done in 2005, don't know if we need to look at it because technology has changed. He stated this is another example of Alleghany County losing an employee because of the salary scale.

Commissioner Leys said that Jennifer Swenk posted a blog on Facebook about the Connect NC bond, very encouraging, went above and beyond. She stated she had some very accurate information on both the Connect NC Bond and the 1/4¢ sales tax. She encouraged everyone that early voting starts on March 3 and ends the Saturday before the election on March 15th.

Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone that we will meet at the Sparta Town Chambers for the March 7th meeting.

Commissioner Evans talked about federal dollars being used for a study. He explained that this is a fact-finding mission and it will be valuable information to the County.

Being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn at 11:19am. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair

Minutes Prepared By:

Lauren Linker
Administrative Assistant

Tom Smith

The following names have been submitted for the Tourism Development Authority (TDA).

Tommy Maines, Olde Beau 1

submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

COLLECTOR

Shirley Richardson, United Country/Foxfire Realty

submitted by a County Commissioner

COLLECTOR

Iboya Pasley—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

GENERAL

Steve Mason, Wellness Center—submitted by Chamber of Commerce 2

GENERAL

Robin Cater, Cater Pots—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee

GENERAL

Ginger Collins—submitted by a County Commissioner 3

GENERAL

Bobby Ann

The following names have been submitted for the Tourism Development Authority (TDA).

1 Tommy Maines, Olde Beau
submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

COLLECTOR

2 Shirley Richardson, United Country/Foxfire Realty
submitted by a County Commissioner

COLLECTOR

Iboya Pasley—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of
Commerce.

GENERAL

Steve Mason, Wellness Center—submitted by Chamber of Commerce

GENERAL

Robin Cater, Cater Pots—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee

GENERAL

3 Ginger Collins—submitted by a County Commissioner

GENERAL

The following names have been submitted for the Tourism Development Authority (TDA).

Lanny Davin

/ Tommy Maines, Olde Beau
submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

COLLECTOR

2 Shirley Richardson, United Country/Foxfire Realty
submitted by a County Commissioner

COLLECTOR

Iboya Pasley—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of
Commerce.

GENERAL

Steve Mason, Wellness Center—submitted by Chamber of Commerce

GENERAL

Robin Cater, Cater Pots—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee

GENERAL

3 Ginger Collins—submitted by a County Commissioner

GENERAL

Karen Seay

The following names have been submitted for the Tourism Development Authority (TDA).

1

Tommy Maines, Olde Beau

submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

COLLECTOR

Shirley Richardson, United Country/Foxfire Realty

submitted by a County Commissioner

COLLECTOR

Iboya Pasley—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

GENERAL

2
Steve Mason, Wellness Center—submitted by Chamber of Commerce

GENERAL

3
Robin Cater, Cater Pots—submitted by Sparta Revitalization Committee

GENERAL

Ginger Collins—submitted by a County Commissioner

GENERAL

Mark Evans

① Shirley Richardson

② Tommy Maines

③ Steve Mason