

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 3, 2008, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

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 reviewed the agenda changes; delete David Higgins, Larry Adams, closed session and add deed of trust release and secondary road public hearing dates.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this March 3, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, March 3, 2008
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order
Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for March 3, 2008, meeting
Motion on Minutes for February 18, 2008, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. David Higgins (deleted)
RE: Fire Departments
C. Junior Waddell
RE: Personnel
D. John Kilmartin
RE: Razor Edge Skate Park
E. Mary Walker
RE: Board of E&R/Tax Advertising/Tax Office Annual Report
F. Register of Deeds Annual Report
G. Arts Council Annual Report
H. Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report (deleted)
I. County Business
1. PEG Grant Budget Amendment
2. Tag Office Update
3. Non-Smoking Policy
4. Budget Work Session
5. Deed of Trust Release (added)
6. Secondary Road Public Hearing Dates (added)
7. Other Business
8. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel (deleted)
9. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 18, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

John Kilmartin came before the Board to request a one-time allocation for the Skateboard Park. He talked about the huge increase in concrete prices. He explained that their current shortfall is \$4,400. He further explained that they are asking the

County to become involved as a partner on this project. He talked about funds they currently have and the different revenue sources. He stated that the total raised is \$16,400.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and John Kilmartin discussed the \$4,400 shortfall is on phase 1. John Kilmartin explained that phase 2 is all through private donations.

Commissioner Warren Taylor asked about the timeline for the project and could it wait until budget time.

John Kilmartin explained that the park should be completed in May.

Kathy Murphy stated that they hope to complete the park in May and have a grand opening on June 21. She explained what has been done so far.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and John Kilmartin discussed the Town's participation.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked about the recreation department providing \$2,000.

John Kilmartin stated that was a misunderstanding of prior funds and now understands that those funds aren't available.

County Manager Don Adams explained that those funds were Recreation Commission funds and were not earmarked for the skate park; therefore they were used on the ropes course.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the money would come from the fund balance.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the request for the skate park. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated his appreciation to Coalbey Murphy for his hard work on this project.

Lizabeth Roupe, Register of Deeds, presented the annual report for the Register of Deeds office. She discussed the total collections for the calendar year, real property recording fees, number of real property documents handled, amount collected in excise tax, number of certified vital records, marriage licenses issued, death certificates filed and the number of plats recorded. She talked about the total revenue transactions. She stated that it the office was self-supporting for another year. She talked about goals achieved for the office.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Lizabeth Roupe talked about all of the land records are now online.

Lizabeth Roupe explained that electronic recording will be coming soon.

Chair Ken Richardson thanked Mrs. Roupe for her report.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came to present her annual report for the Tax Office. She reviewed the activities of the Tax Office including billing and collections, audits performed, revaluation and the Board of E&R and online property records. She talked about special projects including billing/collections software. She explained that Fred Sides developed software that they just began using. She stated that the Tax Office will begin collecting taxes for the Town of Sparta. She explained that she hopes to start using the debt set-off program, begin accepting credit cards and would like to have access online to pay taxes. She explained what the collection rates are for real property and vehicles.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that the Tax Office does a good job and a lot of hard work.

County Manager Don Adams and Mary Walker discussed that the software costs \$35,000. They also discussed that the prior software package was in excess of \$280,000.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Mary Walker discussed that the data is backed up daily.

Chair Ken Richardson asked the Commissioners for dates for the Board of E&R.

Mary Walker reminded the Commissioners of the rules for the Board of E&R.

The Board discussed dates for the meetings. They decided on April 8, 22, 29.

Mary Walker talked about the date for advertising tax delinquents. She explained why she picked the middle of May. She talked about the process to get to the actual advertising. She explained that letters will be going out on March 17 and the ad will run on May 8.

County Manager Don Adams talked about reasons to have this in early May.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to grant permission for Mary Walker to run the ad on May 8. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Genia George presented the annual report for the Arts Council. She stated their appreciation to the Board for their continued support. She talked about the programs they offered during the last year including activities for the students and the community as well as upcoming summer activities. She expressed their appreciation for all of the help that the Commissioners give them.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated his appreciation for all they do with the programming.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #24 in the amount of \$50,000 to budget for the PEG grant that goes towards Channel 50. He explained the breakdown of the revenues, and this budget amendment is for equipment for Channel 50 and this conference room.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #24 in the amount of \$50,000. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board regarding the status of having a license plate agency in Alleghany County. He stated that it is the intentions of DMV to open a tag office here. He explained that they have accepted applications, reviewed them and conducted interviews. He further explained that a decision should be made soon. He stated that once an applicant is selected they will have six weeks of training and time associated with getting the lines in place.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he invited the Sheriff back for this next discussion, but the Sheriff declined the invitation stating that he would comply with the Commissioners' decision. He reiterated that the Commissioners have made all facilities smoke-free with the exception of the Law Enforcement Center and the small area behind the court room.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he thinks the entire courthouse should be made smoke-free.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked didn't the Board discuss the Law Enforcement Center's public areas.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed conversations with the Sheriff regarding the Law Enforcement Center.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that the complaints she receives are about the public area.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to include the courthouse and the public areas of the Law Enforcement Center as smoke-free.

County Manager Don Adams asked for clarification on what are public areas in the Law Enforcement Center. He further asked are we talking about the lobby area and the hallway to DMV or everywhere to the secured areas. He stated that currently there are no smoke-free areas in the Law Enforcement Center.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about making the public areas excluding the Jail area as smoke-free.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and County Manager Don Adams talked about the new law allows the Board of Commissioners to make facilities smoke-free.

Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about scheduling a budget planning session.

The Board and the County Manager discussed dates for the meeting. They decided on March 19 at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Department of Transportation is requesting dates to schedule the secondary road public hearing. He explained what the meeting is.

Clerk to the Board Karen Evans reviewed dates available for the meeting.

The Board discussed the dates and decided on April 16 at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the economic development deal with Charleston Forge having two deeds of trust and their purposes. He talked about one deed of trust was satisfied in 2006 and now the second one has been satisfied. He stated that the County Attorney will file papers to release the second deed of trust.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 7:26pm. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman