

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 15, 2010, 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 Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Milly Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that an open jailer position needs to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this March 15, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, March 15, 2010
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for March 15, 2010, meeting
Motion on Minutes for February 15 and March 1, 2010, meetings
Motion on February Tax Releases and Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: Community Transportation Program (CTP)
C. April Hamm
RE: Transportation Capital Budget Amendment
D. Wellness Center Annual Report
E. Senior Services Annual Report
F. County Business
1. Open Jailer Position (added)
 2. CJPP Request for Proposals
 3. CJPP Grant Application
 4. Lions Club Request
 5. Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation
 6. Budget Amendment—Insurance Proceeds
 7. Budget Amendment—DSS Child Development
 8. Home and Community Care Block Grant Lead Agency Appointment & Board Members
 9. Planning Board Appointment
 10. Joint Meeting Reminder
 11. New River Mental Health
 12. Other Business

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 15 and March 1, 2010, meetings. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real and auto releases and refunds for March. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

April Hamm, Transportation Director, came before the Board to present the FY10-11 CTP Grant Application. She reviewed the amount of the administrative application in the amount of \$150,162 with a county cost of \$22,524.30 and taking into

account the reimburse amount the actual costs to the County is around \$2,000. She reviewed the capital application in the amount of \$57,210 with a county cost of \$5,710 which comes from the operating budget and doesn't cost the County any money.

Chair Ken Richardson opened a public hearing at 3:39pm regarding the CTP grant application. He asked for public comments.

April Hamm stated that she is offering the Title VI voluntary public involvement survey regarding the CTP program. She made the surveys available by placing them in the meeting room and encouraged people to complete one.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 3:41pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the grant application. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented Transportation budget amendment #2 in the amount of \$642.

April Hamm explained the purpose of the budget amendment and the State will reimburse Alleghany County for 90% of the equipment and the match of \$64 will come out of the transportation operating budget.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve Transportation budget amendment #2 in the amount of \$642. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Debbie Wellborn and her assistant, Sherry, came before the Board to present the annual report for the Senior Services. She talked about their activities and functions for last year. She further talked about they are currently going through an evaluation of their services to see if they can expand services. She continued describing their activities during the past year. She talked about the trainings that the volunteers and employees have had. They presented information including the number of volunteers and the number of people they assist and having several on the waiting lists for both types of clients.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated her appreciation for all that is done.

County Manager Don Adams stated that there is an open jailer position at the Law Enforcement Center. He further stated that a non-certified jailer is at grade 58 of \$20,665.10 then when this person becomes certified will be at grade 60 of \$22,784.85.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a summary sheet regarding the request for proposals (RFP) for the Criminal Justice Partnership Program. He explained that two companies provided proposals; New River Behavioral Healthcare (NRBH) and Mid-Day Counseling. He reviewed the proposals including the amount of each proposal along with the services to be offered. He stated that after listening to the presentations, the CJPP Board unanimously voted to recommend to the Commissioners that CJPP services remain with NRBH. He explained the reasons why the CJPP Board voted to award the RFP for NRBH. He reviewed the CJPP Grant application for FY 2010-11.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to go with the recommendation of the CJPP Board. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the grant application. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about a recent request from the Lions Club regarding the concession stand at the Fairgrounds and the Commissioners wanted the request to be presented to the Fairgrounds Board before

the Commissioners considered the request. He stated that the Fairgrounds Board discussed the request and wanted to table the request until the request had been presented to the Lions Club rather than to the Lions Club Board of Directors.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the table recommendation of the Fairgrounds Board. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a proposed Child Abuse Prevention Month proclaiming the month of April as child abuse prevention month.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #18 in the amount of \$7,745 for the remainder of the insurance proceeds on the contents from the EMS fire.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #18 in the amount of \$7,745. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #19 in the amount of (\$41,138) for a decrease in child development.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #19 in the amount of (\$41,138). Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Janis Fender regarding the Home and Community Care Block Grant requesting that Council on Aging be appointed as the Lead Agency for the Grant and changes to the advisory board; David Isner replacing Jacquelyn Gordon, Christa Blevins replacing Eva Wooten, Tracy Wagoner replacing LeAnn Edwards, Amy Green replacing Sandra Walker, Vickie Todd replacing Wanda Shaw.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information regarding the Planning Board membership and expiration dates. He explained that Betty Stewart's term expired on March 5, 2010. He further explained that Ms. Stewart and the alternates are interested in continuing to serve on the Planning Board.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to reappoint Betty Stewart to the Planning Board. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about the Joint meeting with the Town of Sparta on Monday, March 29 at 7pm at the Sparta Town Hall.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about receiving copies of two letters and phone calls from two Commissioners regarding mental health. She said she would like to defer to the Chairman since she has just started serving on the New River Behavioral Healthcare (NRBH) board.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about a letter that he sent out regarding concerns about NRBH. He explained that he had brought up the issues at a mental health meeting and hasn't received a response so the letter was sent out addressing the concerns.

Commissioner Steve Roten talked about the problem he has is he was never made aware of anything about this, started receiving phone calls and had no knowledge of this. He said that the letter was sent on County letterhead indicating the County was in support of this letter.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Chair Ken Richardson talked about the process of sending the letter. Commissioner Steve Roten said that he thinks the Chairman owes the Board an apology.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that the Commissioners did receive a response from New River that addressed the concerns. He talked about things that he has made Mrs. Andrews aware of and those have been addressed. He stated that the Chairman did show him a letter right before it was sent out. He further stated that before a letter like this goes out, all of the Commissioners should be provided a copy.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that the real issue is that this was on county letterhead which gave the inference of the Board sending the letter. She further stated that the County Manager was involved in writing the letter.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the sequence of events leading up to mailing the letter. He stated that if someone was offended then he apologizes. He further stated that he is seeking some guidance for future letters.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he thinks the Board is talking about letters regarding an issue with an agency not all of the letters.

Commissioner Steve Roten reiterated that this letter does not represent this Board. He asked do we need to write a letter to Don East and Sarah Stevens. He stated he wants one sent on his behalf. He said that he doesn't think that the Chairman, Ken Richardson, should continue to serve on the NRBH board.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to remove Ken Richardson from the NRBH board. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion.

Chair Ken Richardson stated he isn't sure that a board member can be removed if they are appointed for a year.

Commissioner Milly Richardson reviewed the 160A interlocal agreement with NRBH talking about removal of a board member.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he doesn't want to vote on this before the Board hears from New River.

Commissioner Steve Roten talked about we should be representing the Alleghany County Board of Commissioners on these boards, not trying to run the boards.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that maybe the Board should look at Commissioners not being the chair of other boards.

Commissioner Steve Roten reiterated that he doesn't think Mr. Richardson can represent this board or the people because there is a conflict.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he doesn't have a conflict, served on the board for 11 years with 8 years being the chair. He talked about the opinions on the Board. He said that this one letter is being viewed by Commissioner Steve Roten and Commissioner Milly Richardson as a conflict rather than as a working document. He talked about addressing concerns of the citizens who came to him because he was on the Board, sending a letter was an attempt to address those concerns, took it before the NRBH board and received no response. He said that Alleghany County budgets more on a per capita basis than the other counties. He further said that he thinks that anytime there are things that need to be brought up should be addressed in other business. He talked about if he is removed from this board doesn't mean these issues go away. He stated that he will respect the wishes of the Board.

Commissioner Steve Roten asked if Mr. Richardson had these concerns why he didn't bring these concerns up until after he was no longer the chairman.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the point is that the concerns are out there. He talked about having to deal with these concerns now because when you are the chair of five counties, you are required to do what is best for all five counties, when you are no longer the chair then you can represent Alleghany County.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he should have been representing Alleghany County the whole time.

Chair Ken Richardson agreed.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated that he has listened, received numerous calls and letters about something that he didn't know anything about. He further stated that he wants what is best for Alleghany County and if the Chairman can work with them, fine; if not, then no.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked if it is still a positive relationship.

Chair Ken Richardson answered absolutely. He talked about this is a conflict of opinions. He talked about he has dedicated a lot of time to mental health.

Chair Ken Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten and Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about Mr. Richardson continuing to serve on the NRBH board.

Bruce Kaplan, attorney for NRBH, stated that NRBH has replied to Mr. Richardson's letter. He stated that his concern was that they didn't get to sit down and discuss these concerns before the letter was mailed. He talked about they addressed every concern that Mr. Richardson mentioned. He further talked about a lapse from Alleghany County for over a year regarding a board vacancy.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that the Commissioners were not aware that there was a position open.

Bruce Kaplan explained that Alleghany County has one commissioner and one at-large member slot on the NRBH.

Chair Ken Richardson and Bruce Kaplan discussed the January NRBH board meeting of NRBH.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he thinks this jeopardizes all of the boards that the Commissioners serve on. He further stated that it is unreal that a Commissioner would be challenged on something that they believe. He explained that Commissioners aren't doing our job if we amen everything. He talked about the good working relationship with the board. He further talked about working for all of the consumers in the area.

Commissioner Milly Richardson reiterated her concern that this wasn't discussed with the Board and another concern is the letter was drafted on Commissioners letterhead. She said this was improper protocol and inappropriate action.

Chair Ken Richardson and Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the meeting that they had regarding mental health. She explained that she was deferring to Ken Richardson because she wasn't familiar with NRBH and the protocol for using letterhead.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the Commissioners' duties are to be a liaison between the outside board and the County Commissioners in regards to what is happening on that board as it pertains to the County. He stated that it sounds like there are some strong issues between Mr. Richardson and NRBH.

Chair Ken Richardson reiterated that there is no conflict and this makes him a better board member. He talked about having each Commissioner to come back and report to the Board at each meeting regarding activities of the other boards.

Commissioner Steve Roten asked again why the Commissioners didn't hear

about these problems before Mr. Richardson was no longer the chairman. He said that he personally feels like Mr. Richardson got to the point that he thought he didn't have to report to the Commissioners. He talked about the lost benefits that were discussed by the Alleghany County Commissioners. He reiterated that the letter went out with all of the Commissioners' names on it like it was representing all of the Commissioners.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he will be happy to bring updates to the Commissioners after each meeting everything that happens.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Chair Ken Richardson talked about those issues didn't happen at one time.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he made a motion and there is a second.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he doesn't have a conflict, and he can be the liaison between the Commissioners and NRBH.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (Ken Richardson).

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 4:43pm. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman