

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 16, 2015, 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 Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

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

Chair Smith stated that F. needs to be deleted from the agenda.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this March 16, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, March 16, 2015
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for March 16, 2015, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for March 2, 2015, and March 4, 2015, Meetings
- 10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. February 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. February Collections Report - Monthly 2015 collection rates through February as compared to 2014 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of January 2015. No action requested
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
 5. Residential Solid Waste Fee Release Requests
Action Requested – Vote on the requests.
 6. Tax Office Annual Report -- No action requested.
- 10:25 B. Joy Hines, Finance Officer
Re: FY 2015/16 Audit Contract – Audit Contract with Martin Starnes and Associates for the 2015/16 in the amount of \$44,975.
Action Requested – Vote on the audit contract.
- 10:40 C. April Hamm, Transportation Director
1. Updates to Title VI Plan (Civil Rights / Non-Discrimination) – Updates needed to comply with State/Federal laws for Alleghany in Motion.
Action Requested – Vote on the Title VI Plan.
 2. Alleghany in Motion Annual Report -- No action requested.
- 11:00 D. Travis Dalton, Planner
RE: Wireless Communication Tower Ordinance Research – Information will be presented about proposed changes to the Ordinance. Action Requested – Vote to schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed changes if the Board is considering changes to the Ordinance.
- 11:25 E. Fred Pfaender
RE: Alleghany County Science Expo. Information will be presented about the upcoming Science Expo. No action requested.
- 11:35 F. Genia George (deleted)
RE: Arts Council's Annual Report. No action requested.
- G. General Business
1. Joint Meeting Reminder
Reminder of the Joint Meeting with the Sparta Town Council on Monday, March 30 at 7:00pm in the Town Council Chambers. No action requested.
 2. Budget Amendments

Budget Amendments for the School Capital Project Fund, Soil and Water Fund, Tourism Development Authority Fund, Fairgrounds. These budget amendments are to budget for a decrease in their fund balances per the audit.

Action Requested – Vote on each budget amendment.

3. EMS Debt Set-Off Refund

Refund Request to an individual from the EMS Debt Set-Off Program.

The monies collected were from a person with the same name but has not used EMS services. Action Requested – Vote on the Refund.

4. Mutual Assistance with Other Law Enforcement Agencies Resolution

Resolution authorizing the Sheriff to enter into mutual assistance agreements with other law enforcement agencies. Action Requested – Vote on the Resolution.

5. Sheriff's Office Vehicles

The Sheriff is requesting three vehicles to be declared surplus. These vehicles are a 2014 Ford F-150, a 2012 Ford F-150 and a 2011 Ford F-150. All of these vehicles were purchased with Drug Enforcement seized funds. The Sheriff plans on disposing these vehicles and replacing them with higher mpg all-wheel drive vehicles (i.e. Explorer, Taurus or Edge). These vehicles will be purchased with Drug Enforcement seized funds. Action Requested – Vote on the request.

H. Public Comments—30 minutes

I. Commissioners Comments

J. Adjourn

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, and March 4, meetings. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the February auto releases. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the February auto refunds.

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

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

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

Rita Miller presented the February real property releases.

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

Rita Miller presented the February real property refunds.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the February real property refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the February 2015 reports; collections' report, enforced collection report, payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented three solid waste fee release requests from David Church on rental properties that have been vacant, and he does not intent to rent them out anymore. She explained that he is aware if he renovates the properties he must notify the Tax Office. She reviewed the first release request; 33 Cody Drive. She said the power has been turned off and the taxes are paid.

Chair Smith confirmed that this is her recommendation to release this. Rita Miller agreed.

The County Manager and Rita Miller talked about the second request where the power was turned off in December 2014 and the property was being used up to December 2014. She clarified that she is asking for the release of the solid waste fees for 2015, which will be sent out later this year.

Commissioner Evans and Rita Miller discussed if the electricity is turned back on it will be picked up through the Building Inspection permits.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to release the solid waste fee at 33 Cody Drive. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith and Rita Miller talked about all of the requests from this individual have the taxes paid.

Rita Miller presented the solid waste fee release request for 12 Washburn Lane. She said this property actually had a fire in 2014, and is unlivable at this time.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to release the solid waste fee at 12 Washburn Lane effective 1/1/15. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the solid waste fee release request for 96 Washburn Lane. She explained that it hasn't been occupied since 2011 and the power was disconnected in 2011.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to release the solid waste fee at 96 Washburn Lane. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller explained that the next two solid waste fee release requests are where the property owner didn't realize they were still paying a solid waste fee on these properties because no one has lived at these properties for many years. She said that the taxes are paid and the owner is only asking for 2015 forward. She presented the first request for property located at 645 New Hope Church Road.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the solid waste fee release request for 645 New Hope Church Road. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the solid waste fee release request for 554 New Hope Church Road. She stated that the property owner said it has been 40 years since someone lived on this property.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the solid waste fee release request for 554 New Hope Church Road. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the Tax Office's annual report including the number of staff members, the Tax Office responsibilities and an update on the 2015 revaluation. She explained one thing that was discovered during the hearing process was manufactured mobile homes were over-assessed and adjustments were made. She reviewed the next step for people who disagree with their property values to go to the Board of Equalization and Review.

Chair Smith and Rita Miller talked about those dates have already been set in May.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller discussed the over valuing of manufactured mobile homes just occurred in this process.

Rita Miller continued with her annual report by presenting information about property assessment activities along with statistics, collections statistics and activities. She explained tasks that they now complete for the NC Tax & Tag program. She said that they are always looking for better ways to serve the citizens.

Chair Smith thanked Rita Miller for her report.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation to the Tax Office for their work.

Chair Smith and Rita Miller talked about antique vehicles and the criteria for establishing a vehicle as an antique is 35 years old.

Joy Hines, Finance Officer, came before the Board regarding the 2014/15 audit, and it will be paid during FY 2015/16. She reviewed the audit contract with Martin, Starnes and Associates in the amount of \$44,975 for the County's audit and the Tourism Development Authority's audit.

Commissioner Leys and Joy Hines talked about the price increase.

Commissioner Irwin and Joy Hines talked about the number of years they have done the audit.

Commissioner Irwin and Commissioner Leys talked about it is a good procedure to switch auditors. Commissioner Leys mentioned the need to take bids for next year's audit contract. Joy Hines stated that she has been working on it.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the audit contract. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, came before the Board to present updates needed for the Allegheny County/Allegheny in Motion Title VI Plan. She explained that these changes are required from her recent transportation audit. She reviewed all of the changes in the Plan.

Commissioner Irwin and April Hamm talked about the makeup on the Transportation Advisory Board. She explained that they have agencies on the board that represents the Hispanic population.

Chair Smith and April Hamm talked about the complaint procedures and Language Assistance Plan (LAP). They talked about not having complaints on civil rights.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about resources available to them for translation.

April Hamm explained the process for someone filling a complaint.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the changes to the Title VI Plan. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm presented Allegheny in Motion's annual report. She reviewed their staff and how they are funded along with their drivers. She talked about all of their trainings throughout the year. She presented their statistics for miles/hours traveled and trips provided. She reviewed their current grants along with the amounts. She talked about their budgets including the County's match of \$9,000 for the administrative budget and the CTSP in the operating budget will not be spent this year. She talked about the recent audit in February and the changes that came from that audit.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about the total amount of her budgets.

Commissioner Irwin asked for a copy of the report.

Travis Dalton, Planner, presented the Wireless Tower Ordinance update. He stated that the following changes were approved by the Planning Board. He presented the changes; a new section about local government access, application fee to \$1,500, tower height to 195 feet, temporary wireless community facility, and co-location within 2 miles.

Commissioner Leys asked about the temporary wireless community facility. Travis Dalton explained that is new language, not a change to the existing language.

Commissioner Irwin and Travis Dalton talked about there is no fee for temporary towers because they will pay for the new tower. They further talked about the costs of installing a tower and the tower permit fee. Commissioner Irwin said he would like to see the permit fee at \$2,000.

Commissioner Leys and Travis Dalton talked about the surrounding areas' tower permit fees. She asked what is the County's costs for each tower. He explained the number of hours him and Vickie spend working on towers.

County Manager Don Adams asked Travis Dalton to explain all of the fees. Travis Dalton explained three different permits that must be obtained and their fees.

Commissioner Leys and Travis Dalton talked about the amount that it would take to cover staff's time.

County Manager Don Adams restated the question; \$500 doesn't cover the costs, \$1,500 would in most cases and \$2,000 would ensure that costs would be covered. Travis Dalton agreed.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to amend the fees to \$2,000.

Chair Smith talked about the need for a public hearing on this matter prior to taking any action.

County Manager Don Adams explained the purpose of the public hearing and procedures for the public hearing.

Commissioner Irwin and the County Manager talked about the Commissioners have the opportunity to change the fees after the public hearing.

Commissioner Irwin withdrew his motion.

Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about scheduling the public hearing for April 6 at 6:30pm. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to schedule the public hearing on April 6 and let the public know that changes could be made to the ordinance. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Travis Dalton said he will bring staff costs' figures to the next meeting.

Commissioner Leys asked about the two miles limit. County Manager Don Adams and Travis Dalton talked about the two miles limit.

Fred Pfaender with the Wellness Center presented information about an upcoming Allegheny Science Expo. He reviewed the Expo and the activities. He talked about how they are getting the word out to people. He said that they have sponsors, radio station will air the entire thing and hopefully WXII will be here.

Commissioner Evans and Fred Pfaender talked about the food tasting portion.

Commissioner Leys and Fred Pfaender talked about the wintergreen luminescence. They further talked about this is a free event for families.

Fred Pfaender encouraged the Board to come by during the event to see what is occurring.

Chair Smith declared a brief recess at 11:11am.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about the Joint meeting with Sparta Town Council on Monday, March 30 at 7:00pm at the Sparta Town Hall.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment School Capital Project Fund #1 in the amount of (\$7,017). He explained all of these budget amendments are to accurately reflect the audited fund balance numbers.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve budget amendment School Capital Project Fund #1 in the amount of (\$7,017). Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Soil and Water Fund #1 in the amount of (\$2,830).

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve budget amendment Soil and Water Fund #1 in the amount of (\$2,830). Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Tourism Development Authority #1 in the amount of (\$4,784).

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve budget amendment Tourism Development Authority #1 in the amount of (\$4,784). Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Fairgrounds Fund #1 in the amount of (\$2,477).

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment Fairgrounds Fund #1 in the amount of (\$2,477). Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented an EMS debt set-off refund. He explained there are two people with the same name and same birth month/same year which resulted in monies being withheld from the wrong individual. He said that the refund is for Anthony Brooks for \$277.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the refund. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a resolution for mutual assistance with other law enforcement agencies.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented information that the Sheriff is requesting three vehicles to be declared surplus; a 2014 Ford F-150, a 2012 Ford F-150 and a 2011 Ford F-150, which were all purchased with drug enforcement seized funds. He explained the Sheriff plans on disposing these vehicles and replacing them with higher miles per gallon all-wheel drive vehicles and will be purchased with drug enforcement seized funds. He said that all of the details aren't in place at this point. He gave an example of the 2014 F-150 being sold to another local government. He reiterated what the Sheriff is looking to do.

Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about these are all 4-wheel drive.

Commissioner Davis and County Manager Don Adams talked about he is going to keep some of the pickups. The County Manager explained the Sheriff's intent to purchase two more vehicles for the grant positions and is going to keep some of them.

Commissioner Leys said she understands the main goal is to save money on gasoline. The County Manager agreed. He reviewed the mileage for the 2011 pickup and gave an example on how much money it would save to have higher miles per gallon vehicles.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to surplus these three vehicles. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Commissioner Leys reminded everyone about when she and Chair Smith met with the County Commissioners' Association the #1 priority of the group was about Medicaid. She explained why it's an important goal. She urged the Commissioners to contact our representatives regarding this legislation.

Commissioner Leys said she missed the last meeting due to the birth of their grandson.

Commissioner Irwin said he is looking forward to the economic groups getting started.

Commissioner Evans mentioned that Child Abuse Prevention Month is April. He said that the agenda is online, and this meeting will be on the air tomorrow or people can watch it online 24/7.

Chair Smith followed up on the Economic Development Plan, and said he is anxious to get started, too.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 11:41am. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair