

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 19, 2012, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

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

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the agenda for this March 19, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, March 19, 2012  
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for March 19, 2012, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for March 5 and March 9, 2012, meetings
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Steve Cothren Presentation  
C. Rita Miller  
RE: February Releases and Refunds  
February Collections Report  
Late PUV Application  
D. Linda Edwards  
RE: EMS Annual Report  
Open EMS Positions  
E. Appalachian District Health Department Annual Report  
F. Warren Taylor  
RE: Alleghany Memorial Hospital  
G. General Business  
1. FY 2011/12 Audit Contract  
2. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation  
3. Solid Waste Disposal Contract  
H. Adjourn

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5 and March 9, 2012, meetings. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Dennis Smith thanked each Commissioner for their support in supporting the Constitution and the opposing the detention language in the NDAA. He talked about conversations from a politician about the language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). He further talked about people questioning the relevance of our constitutional government which is causing chaos. He said that this turmoil causes people to be overwhelmed and give up. He talked about this is what makes the Commissioners' actions concerning NDAA so extraordinary. He said the Board should be praised and he does so. He talked about actions occurring since the last meeting at the Federal level. He read a portion of the Constitution about the powers regarding war. He talked about the oaths of office for congressional leaders and who has the authority regarding war. He asked the Board to instruct the County Attorney to draft a letter to our three congressional representatives reminding them to honor their oath to defend the Constitution, strongly urge them to do whatever is necessary to make it clear to the Executive branch who has the authority to go to war and co-sponsor North Carolina's Walter Jones' legislation relating to this matter. He gave the information to Commissioner Goudreau to share with the other members. He read a prayer that was offered in the US Senate.

Kingsley Booth talked about the Hospital. He said that we cannot afford it. He further said that no one can afford taxes to be raised. He explained the idea about a plan of having a community fair. He said that if taxes are raised for everything then people will not be able to live here. He handed papers to the Board.

Chris Huysman said that he understands that the Hospital will be making a presentation today. He said that he would like for the Commissioners to discuss how much 1¢ is of property taxes, which he thinks

is \$170,000. He further said that he would like to ask how much the monthly local sales tax is which he thinks is \$120,000. He talked about conversations at the last meeting about having a public forum.

Xavier Iglesias said that he is here to support the Hospital. He used an example of his brother and the need for medical care in the county.

Linda Chekanow asked the Commissioners to take into account the importance of keeping emergency care in the community. She stated her concern about how the Hospital got where they are. She talked about there are two entities responsible for oversight to the Hospital; Hospital board and QRH. She asked that the Commissioners ask for minutes for the last two years because this situation did not occur overnight and to see if they did anything to prevent this. She said she is in favor of keeping the Hospital. She reiterated the importance of keeping the Hospital in the community. She urged the Commissioners to ask for the records instead of immediately throwing money at the problem and learn what the problem is along with how to fix it.

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

Chair Richardson, on behalf of the Board, made a presentation to Steve Cothren for his dedication and years of service to Alleghany County as an employee.

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

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the February auto releases and refunds. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the February real property releases and refunds.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the February real property releases and refunds. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented information that wasn't included in January's request for auto refunds and real property refunds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the February 2012 collections' report.

Rita Miller presented a late application request for present-use value. She explained that the application and it does meet the requirements.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the late application. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about the Tax Office confirms the information on the application.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about the amount of property on present-use value.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director, presented the Emergency Medical Services annual report including the number of calls/transport/miles, thrombolytics training/testing, protocols for thrombolytics, change in State personnel assisting Alleghany County, process of submitting data electronically and training information.

Commissioner Smith and Linda Edwards talked about there was a 100% pass rate on the thrombolytics testing.

Linda Edwards talked about having two open positions with one paramedic's position being open as of last Friday and a shift supervisor's position will be open on May 1. She reviewed the two open positions.

Commissioner Roten made a motion for Linda Edwards to be allowed to fill both positions. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Beth Lovette, Director of Appalachian District Health Department, presented their annual report. She provided information to the Board. She reviewed their annual report for 2010-2011. She further reviewed statistics for Alleghany County including the number of new septic permits, new wells, existing septic evaluations and existing well evaluations. She talked about adding a section on the annual report about each county. She discussed a handout about what do local health departments do for North Carolina. She further discussed the Surgeon General's report about tobacco use and pointed out that Alleghany County is referred in the press release.

Warren Taylor came before the Board representing Alleghany Memorial Hospital. He explained that after looking at the financial reports of January and February, they felt like the Commissioners should know their financial situation. He talked about the need to work together to have a hospital. He explained that the CEO resigned, and they are currently in the recruitment process. He introduced the administration staff; John Spencer, Katie Woodle, Wendy Orton. He talked about they believe physician recruitment is the key. He stressed the importance of physician recruitment. He stated their appreciation for the past recruitment monies. He explained why he believes that recruitment is so important. He further explained the problems associated with physician recruitment. He stated that they are seeing physicians that don't want to manage their practices and named the terms that physicians look for.

John Spencer presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the current status of the Hospital including their stability efforts, revenues, expense snapshot, staff productivity, reasons why a hospital is needed, request to the County of \$50,000 per month starting July 1, 2012, and where do we go from here.

Warren Taylor said he cannot remember a time when there wasn't a hospital in this community. He talked about all of his family has benefited from this hospital. He explained the importance of health, education and welfare. He said that we cannot allow our county to go backwards in time. He reiterated the need to move forward with what we have and provide the best health care possible.

Chair Richardson declared a brief recess at 11:00am.

County Manager Don Adams talked about he had previous conversations with the Hospital. He explained that their request will be part of the normal budget process. He asked does the Board want to do anything before July.

Chair Richardson talked about placing the topic on the next agenda.

Commissioner Goudreau asked why the public forum wasn't addressed. County Manager Don Adams stated that they are looking to this Board for direction. Commissioner Goudreau said that he strongly recommends the forums.

Commissioner Smith talked about at the public forum there will be questions that the Commissioners don't have answers to but the Hospital does. Commissioner Roten agreed.

Commissioner Cox agreed and said that the County doesn't fund the Hospital and stated that the Commissioners don't have the answers. He further said that they are a private business. He talked about the Hospital needs to have their own forums. He reiterated that the public needs to hear from the Hospital.

County Manager Don Adams said this will be on the next agenda.

Chair Richardson agreed and said the Board has just heard the numbers today.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the request being part of the normal budget process.

County Manager Don Adams talked about, at some point, needing an educational session for the public about how the Hospital's actions may or may not have an impact on EMS and the Health Department.

County Manager Don Adams presented the annual audit contract in the amount of \$39,000 with Martin Starnes and Associates. He explained that the Finance Officer is requesting an additional \$225 in the event more work needs to be completed. He further explained that the County Attorney received this information in her agenda packet.

Chair Richardson stated that the County Attorney is in Superior Court today.

County Manager Don Adams said this is something that he was trying to get the Finance Officer before the Board to answer questions.

County Manager Don Adams read the proposed Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed solid waste contract. He reviewed there is a 3-year option and a 1-year option. He further reviewed the renewal terms for both options. He explained that he has had a couple people contact him about the transportation portion of this, he detailed what was involved and they have not expressed further interest. He said that we are looking at a 3-year or 1-year extension. He provided history of garbage disposal facilities in the area and who Allegheny County has done business with.

Commissioner Roten asked was it part of the bid for renewing the contract. County Manager Don Adams explained that this has been extended for the last 6 years. They discussed there isn't any formal bidding laws because this is a service.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the County Manager would recommend a 1-year extension if the Board wants him to keep the option open for local people. They talked about the County Manager has been contacted twice in the last 8 months.

The County Manager stated that he explains to iterated people that the County needs at least 2-3 trailers, a couple of tractors, and provide proper insurance. He explained the new rate of \$46.59 and 15 years ago the County was paying over \$43 a ton. He talked about the County has been treated well by BFI/Allied/Republic.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the 3-year option, \$46.59 is subject to a CPI increase annually and after 1 year it could be greater on the 1-year extension.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this is the first time he has ever heard them mention securing the capacity. He further explained why that is important and how it could be a cost driver.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about \$46.59 is good for one year and then it is subject to a CPI increase.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about they pay their own insurance and it could increase more than CPI on the 1-year extension. County Manager reiterated that the County has received good services from them over the years.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to enter into the 3-year option. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 11:34am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Ken Richardson  
Chairman