

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 21, 2011, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman 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 Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this March 21, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, March 21, 2011  
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for March 21, 2011, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for January 31, February 25, March 2 and March 7, 2011, meetings
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Rita Miller  
RE: February Releases and Refunds  
Late Applications  
Board of Equalization and Review  
Solid Waste Fee Request Form
- C. Dare Stromer/Jessica Prevette, Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission  
RE: Community Service Block Grant
- D. Joan Hinson  
RE: Criminal Justice Partnership Program Grant
- E. Teresa Herman  
RE: Potential Closure of Upper Mountain Research Station Impacts
- F. Joy Hines  
RE: Smoky Mountain Center Quarterly Financial Report
- G. EMS Annual Report
- H. Alleghany Memorial Hospital Annual Report
- I. Health Advisory Council Annual Report
- J. Dr. Jeff Cox  
RE: Golden Leaf Grant
- K. Dennis Smith  
RE: Decisions
- L. County Manager's Business  
1. Ministerium Solid Waste Request  
2. Copier Management Program—Bid Summary and Recommendations
- M. County Commissioners' Business  
1. Commissioners' Retreat—Chair Richardson  
Discussions about Possible Upcoming Retreats  
2. Other Business
- N. Adjourn

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 31, February 25, March 2, and March 7, 2011, meetings. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

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

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

Rita Miler presented the February real releases and refunds.

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Roten asked Rita Miller to explain the releases for High Meadows Golf and Country Club. She explained that this is an ongoing audit and these amounts are for five years. She further explained the types of items involved.

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

Rita Miller presented two late exemption applications for Heavenly Hills Chapel located at 80 Chapel Drive in Piney Creek and Trustees of Saddle Mountain Union Baptist Church.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve both of the late applications. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller talked to the Board about the scheduled Board of Equalization and Review meeting already has appointments until 8:00pm and asked the Board if they want to continue to add to that date or schedule an additional date.

The Board of Commissioners talked about adding additional appointments to the original scheduled date.

Rita Miller presented a form for the Tax Office to use for the Board of Commissioners in releasing residential solid waste fees. She talked about reinstating the field visits to these properties.

Rita Miller informed the Board that the delinquent letters went out in the mail last Friday.

Jessica Prevette explained that she is the community services block grant director for Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission. She further explained that they have to have Commissioners' approval for the Community Services Block Grant for 2011-12 but it doesn't require any additional County monies. She reviewed the agency budget information in the amount of \$204,751 with indirect costs of \$12,285. She further reviewed the breakdown of the programs; Emergency Assistance of \$111,216 and Family Self-Sufficiency of \$105,820. She explained Form 210, agency strategy for eliminating poverty. She explained Form 212, one-year work program and budget.

Chair Richardson and Jessica Prevette discussed that this is Federal monies.

Commissioner Cox and Jessica Prevette discussed the Federal income poverty level.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the forms for the grant as presented. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Joan Hinson with New River Behavioral Healthcare presented the Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) grant application. She explained their goals for the upcoming grant. She reviewed the budget summary in the amount of \$47,763.

Chair Richardson and Joan Hinson talked about this is State monies.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone that the CJPP Board sent out request for proposals for services, received two proposals and this Board chose to go with New River Behavioral Healthcare for these services.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the grant application. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Teresa Herman explained that the Governor's budget has the Upper Mountain Research Station slated for closure, and she is asking for the Board's support in contacting legislators to prevent this action. She presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the potential impacts of the closure of the Station including facts, highlights about the Station and current research projects that are being conducted. She stated the importance of talking to State legislators about protecting the Station. She invited the Board to attend a meeting on April 1 at the Station.

Joy Hines, Finance Officer, presented the quarterly financial report for Smoky Mountain Center. She reviewed the monitoring report for period December 31, 2010, the explanation of variances on the report, and the final audited numbers.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Supervisor, presented the annual report for EMS. She explained the number of calls/ transports, types of trainings, advisory council subcommittee which

reviews patient care performance of EMS, number of times that paramedics have initiated helicopter transports. She listed the places where medical helicopters are based that they are able to obtain for services. She talked about information that they are required to submit and then receive feedback about response time and patient care. She further talked about they moved into the EMS Base built as result of the fire.

Chair Richardson explained that he would like for the County to have an open house for the citizens to see the new EMS structure.

Ralph Castillo presented the annual report for Alleghany Memorial Hospital. He reviewed the Hospital's volume over the last four years, local vendor expenses, three years of audited financial statements, breakdown of miscellaneous items, impacts of community hospitals, core measures in comparison of Alleghany Memorial Hospital to Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital/Baptist Hospital/Twin County Hospital, patient satisfaction results, charges comparison chart, strategic plan, current Board of Trustees and current medical staff. He reviewed the economic contribution of North Carolina hospitals. He talked about how the Hospital is regulated by Federal/State regulators. He said that the Commissioners have an open invitation at the Hospital.

The Board thanked Ralph Castillo for his work.

The Board took a brief recess at 11:23am.

LuAnn Tucker presented the annual report for the Health Advisory Council. She thanked the Board for their continued support. She reviewed the activities of the Health Advisory Council during the past year including the yellow ribbon card project, health events at the schools and a portion of the Be Happy Be Healthy celebration. She talked about activities that have occurred so far this year. She reiterated their appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and Ken Richardson for serving on this Board.

Chair Richardson and LuAnn Tucker talked about the Health Advisory Council being involved in conversations about the farmers market.

Commissioner Cox and LuAnn Tucker talked about places for the yellow ribbon cards.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, came before the Board to request support for a Golden Leaf grant. He explained the recently awarded STEM initiative is to target students in grades 4-9 over the next 36 months which will bring \$325,000 into the school system.

Patti Cox talked about a portion of the grant had to focus on economic development. She explained how they plan to meet their goals; LASER Institute, CTE programs, Upward Bound, Applied Technology Center.

Dr. Cox reiterated that this grant is for all students in grades 4-9 and part of the requirements are to extend learning opportunities to the students. He explained how they are planning to extend the opportunities and how they will enhance school-day instruction.

Patti Cox explained in order to complete this they will increase teacher and after-school staff effectiveness and ways to accomplish this action. She further explained the importance of the partnerships in the county. She reviewed the list of people/organizations that they leverage partnerships with in the community to ensure that activities are responsive to our economic needs.

Dr. Cox explained how the monies will be spent; LASER Institute, Project Lead the Way, professional learning communities and STEM education and improving access to technology for students, equipment for science labs and STEM-based field trips for students. He talked about adding all of this together equals students who are better prepared for the jobs of the future.

Commissioner Goudreau thanked Dr. Cox and Patti Cox for their work.

Chair Richardson talked about he and Joe Ward have been attending Future Forward meetings in Caldwell County. He said that he would like to see this Board support this initiative and be included in this report.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to support this project. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Dennis Smith stated that he is concerned about the future also. He talked about the banker bailout bill, and read a quote by a legislator. He further talked about the number of threat fusion

centers in the United States and North Carolina received stimulus money to construct a fusion center. He talked about issues with Law Enforcement in the Nation; our Sheriff has told him that his department is one of the few departments in the State that hasn't been federalized. He further talked about TSA regulations. He asked who the government thinks is a threat. He talked about the Modern Militia Movement and the MIRAC report. He quoted Ben Franklin. He said that people may wonder why he brings up all of this because the Board cannot do anything about it and that's right. He stated all of these things just didn't happen; they were allowed to happen. He talked about the consequences of when people fail to stand for what is right all of the way down to the local level and the Board may be faced with a situation where the Federal government may want something done that isn't in the best interest of Allegheny County and he hopes that the Board makes a decision in favor of the people of Allegheny County. He read a prayer that was offered in US Senate. He said if the local elected officials won't stand for what is right, then what hope do we have against the Federal government. He stated that the Federal government was made to serve the people. He said freedom is a precious thing, shouldn't be taken for granted and is a gift from God. He asked to consider freedom, what it means and act accordingly.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from the Allegheny County Ministerium asking the Board to waive the building inspections' fees associated with a building project on Davids Way. He explained the purpose of building a house to assist residents in emergency situations, such as a fire.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to grant the request. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained information in the Board's packets regarding the copier management program; summary of proposals and invitation for proposals (IFP) for copier management program. He explained the current copier services and what has occurred during the last five years. He reviewed the IFP about Allegheny County is looking for a true cost per copy, all copiers must be co-terminus, ability to add additional copiers at any time during the contract to end at the same time as all of the others. He explained that this could go out to not only County departments but it could go to any of the agencies that the County has a financial relationship with. He explained that he held a pre-proposal meeting where companies were escorted to each location, received bids from Toshiba Business Solutions/Toshiba machines, Northwest Office Solutions/Canon machines, Document Imaging Solutions/Panasonic machines, Sharp/Sharp machines, Quality Quickly/Xerox machines and Ikon Office Solutions/Ricoh machines. He listed the top three proposals; Toshiba/Northwest/Document Imaging and reviewed their cost per copy for black/white and color, monthly lease or cost per print, estimated five-year cost with the copy count being constant. He explained that the Document Imaging Solutions amount and their bid is retaining the current copiers and providing six new copiers. He reviewed the summary sheets for the Toshiba bid and the Northwest Office Solutions with Toshiba being cheaper. He talked about the lower printing costs by printing to the copier rather than on a printer. He used an example of laser jet printers versus ink jet printers. He explained that he has concluded that Toshiba's overall costs will be lower, all of their references were positive and customers are satisfied with the quality of the equipment and service therefore he recommends Toshiba be awarded Allegheny County's copier service contract for the next five years.

Chair Richardson stated that he thinks it is up to the County Manager to make the decision now that the Commissioners have the information.

Commissioner Smith and the County Manager talked about why this project has been five years in the works.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about a cost per print wasn't in the IFP. They discussed annual costs.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about the need to move forward and doesn't see a reason not to.

The Board agreed by consensus to move forward.

County Manager Don Adams clarified that he will be calling Toshiba to award the bid to them.

The Board agreed.

County Manager Don Adams talked about North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) will be holding district meetings with the closest one is in April in

Wilkesboro on April 7. He said to let Karen Evans know if you want to attend. He stated that there aren't any registration fees but the deadline to register is March 30.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about Representative Sarah Stevens sent him an email about Land of Tomorrow and she wants to get the Board's opinion about it expanding to non-profits.

County Manager Don Adams explained the legislators are considering House Bill 350 to clarify property tax for conservation land, which is adding another exemption, and the Bill is currently in committee. He further explained that this is adding a new category about real property held for nonprofit-land-conservation purposes to be excluded from the tax base. He explained that the question is how does this Board feels about this. He said that he talked to NCACC about the impact, and they are collecting data across the state to see how much it will cost counties. He explained that Rita Miller is going to a class next week to learn more about this. He said NCACC normally opposes anything that reduces counties' tax bases.

Chair Richardson talked about that is one of the Association's legislative goals about opposing anything that reduces counties' tax bases.

County Manager Don Adams said he doesn't know how this would be figured.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about one group was a potential lost of \$3,800 and that is just that one. He said that he thinks she just wanted an opinion from the Board.

Chair Richardson talked about his personal opinion is that any time things take away from the tax base; it makes it harder for counties.

Commissioner Cox stated he agrees.

Chair Richardson talked about the possibility of scheduling upcoming retreats and the need for the retreats. He talked about different dates for additional retreats. He asked if the Board wants to have more retreats other than the budget retreat.

Commissioner Goudreau said that he thinks a lot of good things came out of the first retreat. He talked about the benefits. He stated he is in favor of it.

Commissioner Cox said he knows that the County Manager put a lot of time into preparing for that retreat and asked how burdensome would this be for the County Manager.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the last week of April/first week in May is when he is getting into the budget and anything prior to that he can take time to prepare.

Chair Richardson asked about March 31 from 9:00am to Noon.

The Board agreed.

Chair Richardson talked about he was approached by Kathy Murphy and she offered the conference room at River Country Estates at no cost to the County. He reiterated that she extended this to the Board as a possible retreat location.

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 12:55pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman