

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 5, 2010, 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 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 Steve Roten led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that Item C needs to be deleted and Vocational Rehab needs to be added to the agenda.

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

AGENDA

Monday, April 5, 2010
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for April 5, 2010, meeting
Motion on Minutes for March 15, 2010, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Information Session
RE: Glade Creek Elementary School Water/Sewer Project
C. Group Homes Annual Report (deleted)
D. Gerald Leftwich
RE: FEMA Update
E. Linda Hash
RE: Soil and Water Budget
F. Kate Cosner
RE: Municipal Election Budget Amendment
Elections Budget
G. County Business
1. Pawn Shop Licensing
2. Morgue Discussions
3. High Country Rural Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment
4. Vocational Rehab (added)
5. Other Business
6. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
7. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller 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.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Board has copies of the proposed project including two copies of aerial photographs of the area near Glade Creek Elementary School. He reminded everyone that the County researched ways to provide water/sewer for Glade Creek Elementary School. He reviewed the alternatives for water project and sewer project. He stated that the engineer is proposing a stand-alone well system to serve Glade Creek Elementary School. He talked about the well on the property of Cliff Phillips, and the engineer is proposing the septic system to be placed on the eight acres near Glade Creek Elementary School. He explained that USDA requires the engineer to estimate annual operating costs associated with Glade Creek Elementary School's water/sewer. He further explained the annual operating

expenses including the operations, maintenance, debt repayment and reserves. He reviewed the budget for the proposed project. He talked about the proposed project is a loan for \$500,000 and a grant for \$300,000. He reviewed all other potential funding sources that have been explored for the projects. He explained that this is a summary for the public information session.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to allow the County Manager to finalize the loan/grant application and submit it to USDA. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed that this information is available to the public.

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

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, talked about our area received a Presidential declaration from the December ice storm. He explained that he attended a meeting in Boone and immediately started working on the FEMA damage report for both response and recovery efforts. He reviewed the breakdown and categories of the \$30,215.78 reimbursement including monies for Glade Creek and Cherry Lane fire departments for assisting in removing debris from the roadways, Transfer Facility tub grinder costs, administrative costs, road repairs to Fender Mountain radio tower, repair exterior of Emerson Black Building, Green Mountain radio tower antenna damage and replaced the damaged emergency backup generator on Fender Mountain. He thanked the County Manager, Larry Davis and Larry's crew for their assistance with this process.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about this is a big deal because this would have been money that the County would have to come up with. He thanked Gerald Leftwich for his actions.

Commissioner Milly Richardson thanked Gerald Leftwich on behalf of the fire departments for his assistance working for them.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about receiving a letter from Watauga County where they are asking for assistance to help with the Parkway clean up. He passed the letter around to the Board and stated that he would like to see Alleghany County do the same thing.

Linda Hash, District Administrator/Conservationist, came before the Board to present a request for the Soil and Water department. She stated that Jim Dixon is here to represent the Soil and Water Board. She further stated that they do realize the hard economic times that everyone is going through. She talked about going back to the 2008 salary comparison to look at the 13 county area's minimum salary, at that time several other departments were asking for similar requests, which they were asking for too. She reviewed how much money their department assists Alleghany County citizens. She talked about the level of technical training her employee has, and her request is to increase her employee's salary.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the Board will take this under consideration because we will have a lot of educational sessions between now and budget time.

Linda Hash asked the Board to review this on an individual basis rather than waiting until budget time.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to grant the request tonight if we can do it. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Hash talked about the amount of money involved in this reclassification; \$3,112.28

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about how the soil and water department helps the agriculture community.

Linda Hash talked about the amount of technical training that this person has.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked what changes are different than last time the request was brought before the Board.

Linda Hash talked about now the position has been filled for 5½ years and the amount of training received for the technical portion. She talked about having all new practices and provided examples. She further talked about the position has continued to train in the educational field.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Hash talked about the position hasn't been upgraded only when all of the employees received a cost-of-living increase. She talked about other positions and there should be different levels of technical assistants.

County Manager Don Adams let the Board know that this is one of a series of requests that will be coming before the Board.

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

County Manager Don Adams talked about EMS will be the next ones to come before the Board. He explained that EMS will be discussing a significant certification. He reiterated that there will be a series of requests coming before the Board to revamp the pay scale. He asked when this action is effective.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed the first day of the next payroll.

Linda Hash talked about what it would take to retrain someone in this position.

Commissioner Milly Richardson amended her motion to be effective the first day of next payroll. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked should the Board look at these as they come in or at budget time.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated that he thinks the Board made that decision back in December.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about making sure the Board isn't doing one different than another.

Commissioner Steve Roten said with that being said, the Board is going to have to make difficult decisions.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about Alleghany County Soil and Water hosted the 13-county area regional meeting. He thanked them for inviting him to speak at the meeting.

Linda Hash talked about the fall meeting which the Commissioners will be invited to and their award banquet will be held in May.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #20 in the amount of \$2,966 for the reimbursement by the Town for the municipal election.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #20 in the amount of \$2,966. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Kate Cosner, Elections Supervisor, came before the Board to request a budget amendment to grant the Board of Elections part-time salary funds. She stated that they also understand the economic times. She reviewed that one-stop voting starts next week. She passed out information regarding their request. She quickly reviewed the request; 85 hours for a part-time person to be paid at minimum wage plus FICA for \$663.39. She provided voting statistics from when she started in 2006 including

registration numbers, one-stop voting, staff for 2006 elections and 2008 elections. She talked about the budget request where the County Manager requested the departments to present a series of reductions plus the regular budget request and part time got cut out. She explained that her current part time line item covers poll workers for one election. She talked about the County doesn't have to take over the costs of elections machines maintenance because the State will be paying it for now.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to grant the \$663 request. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Kate Cosner talked about one-stop starts on April 15, and they are currently testing the machines. She invited the Board to stop by and see how the machines are tested.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about a proposed pawn shop. He talked about the Town of Sparta's extra-territorial jurisdiction. He reviewed Chapter 91A of the NCGS that regulates pawn shops. He provided a sample ordinance, which follows the State law. He explained that the ordinance creates a licensing procedure. He further explained the highlights of the ordinance and the attachments in the ordinance; application, bond and actual license to issued. He said he is requesting permission from the Board to put this on the next agenda to provide any comments on the ordinance then schedule a public hearing at the first meeting in May.

Commissioner Steve Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about pawn shops that have operated in the past. The County Manager talked about these are the procedures to issue a pawnbroker's license.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that apparently no one has tried to do this in the county.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to discuss this at the next meeting and advertise for a public hearing on May 3. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the need for a real morgue in this community. He explained he has talked to the Hospital, looking at potential locations in the Hospital, and the Hospital will work with the County for space for the morgue. He said he wants to get some pricing and the exact location. He explained that the County has to pay for the equipment with the installation of the equipment being permanent, and he is working on the pricing for the morgue. He said he is just reporting to the Board about where he is at about the morgue, and this is going to be part of his budget. He talked about the next step will be to gather the interested parties to develop protocols for the use of the morgue. He reviewed that currently Alleghany County has two slots in Ashe County that we can use if they are available. He talked about when a morgue is needed, and pricing out two morgue scenarios.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked about pursuing any type of grant funds and any other financial assistance for this project.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he can look into this, and he is currently looking at the location and other ideas for the morgue.

Chair Ken Richardson asked if there is a consensus to put this in the budget and move forward.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to allow the County Manager to proceed. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the vocational rehab having some funding to pay for expenses for the County to place Alleghany High School juniors and seniors. He reviewed that the vocational rehab program will reimburse the County for the salary, FICA and worker comp. He explained that he has identified three that the County could use.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to proceed with vocational rehab for the youth. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Steve Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about these people didn't show an interest in administrative work.

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

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about trying to get to the rural transportation advisory committee meetings, and he doesn't have time plus thinks it is wrong for him to serve when he can't fully represent Alleghany County.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Commissioner Randy Miller talked about this committee meets once a quarter in Boone at 2pm.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about additional monies that Warren Taylor got for the region by serving on this committee.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the current agenda for the committee including they are getting ready for our transportation plan. He explained what these groups do.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that if anyone else doesn't have strong feelings to do this, then he will.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to appoint Steve Roten to the transportation committee. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

The Board of Commissioners discussed Watauga's request for cleaning the Parkway by clearing the debris, and it is too much for the Parkway's crew to do without assistance.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to go ahead and support their request. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson reminded everyone that a primary election is coming up with one-stop voting starting April 15.

Commissioner Randy Miller thanked everyone that was here and the Board, and appreciates that everyone is working together and would like to see this continue.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about a picture of the Scouts coming to the Commissioners' meeting appeared in the NCACC County Lines.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about being on the teachers' fellow program review board. He reviewed that the review board met all day on a Saturday, having a list of those accepted, two local students receiving \$26,000 scholarships each and one alternate. He explained the positive comments that he has heard about this program.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about this was time well spent.

Chair Ken Richardson reiterated that this is \$52,000 of educational benefits that the parents don't have to come up with.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel at 7:45pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:25pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 8:26pm. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman