

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 18, 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 Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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 April 18, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, April 18, 2011
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for April 18, 2011, meeting
Motion on Minutes for March 31 and April 4, 2011, meetings
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: Grant for 5310 Funds for Alleghany in Motion
C. April Hamm
RE: Grant Discussions for 5310 Funds for Alleghany in Motion
D. Rita Miller
RE: March Releases and Refunds
March Collections Report
Late Application
E. Michelle Ball / Phil Trew
RE: 2010 Scattered Site Grant for Housing Rehabilitation
Smoky Mountain Center Quarterly Report
F. Extension Service Annual Report
G. Maintenance/Animal Control/Transfer Facility Annual Report
H. Social Services Annual Report
I. County Manager's Business
1. Summer Jamboree Request
2. July 4th Fireworks Request
3. Wood Waste Requests for Bids
4. Invitation to Fire Chief Training in May
5. Fiscal Year 2011/12 Budget Requests
6. Budget Presentation Meeting
J. County Attorney's Business
1. Attorney General's Opinion
K. County Commissioners' Business
1. Other Business
L. Adjourn

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31 and April 4, 2011, meetings. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson asked for public comments.

DW Miles on behalf of the Miles JOB Fund read a letter asking the Commissioners to consider reinstating the July 4th fireworks and Summer Jamboree. He continued reading the letter that states funding these two projects would exhibit positive and forward-thinking support for our local business community. He continued with the letter including their request to fund a part-time economic development person to be combined with a currently established county position.

Dennis Smith came before the Board to talk about this coming Sunday is Easter. He read a prayer that was offered before the United States Senate during the week before Easter. He talked about how he hopes the Commissioners have a good Easter.

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

April Hamm, Transportation Director, explained the purpose of the public hearing is a continuation grant of the Section 5310 grant for the "ED" van. She reviewed the costs of the grant application for the operating budget and capital budget.

Chair Richardson opened the public hearing at 10:10am to hear comments regarding the 5310 grant for Alleghany in Motion. He asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 10:11am and reconvened the regular meeting.

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

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

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

Rita Miler presented the March real releases and refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the March collection report including the real property collection rate, motor vehicle collection rate and prepayments collected.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about the delinquent taxes will be advertised in the newspaper in May.

Rita Miller presented a late exemption application for a religious property. She explained that the property does qualify for the exemption and they are requesting for 2010 taxes to be released and approval for the exemption for 2011. She further explained that she cannot legally recommend releasing the 2010 taxes.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the late application for 2011. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Michelle Ball with the High Country Council on Governments came before the Board to present policies and procedures for the upcoming CDBG Scattered Site grant. She provided packets to the Board showing properties that have been involved in the rehabilitation program. She explained the Scattered Site grant.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the documents in their packets; Agreement between High Country Council of Governments and Alleghany County, Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing, Equal Employment and Procurement Plan, Local Economic Benefits for Low and Very Low Income Persons Plan, Fair Housing Complaint Procedure, Compliant Procedure. He reviewed the grant project ordinance in the amount of \$400,000. He continued reviewing the documents; Section 504 ADA Grievance Procedures, Optional Coverage Relocation Plan Resolution, Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Code of Conduct Resolution, Fair Housing Resolution, CDBG Compliance Requirements, Procurement Policy for Recruiting and Selecting Contractors for CDBG Programs, Optional Coverage Relocation Benefits Policy, Citizen Participation Plan for CDBG programs. He explained that there is one document missing; Language Access Plan. He talked about there needs to be more conversations regarding the Language Access Plan. He explained his concerns regarding the sample Plan.

Commissioner Cox, County Manager Don Adams and Michelle Ball talked about the application process and how houses were selected through the grant committee. The County Manager reviewed the requirements for the grant; this is a loan forgiveness program, and requirements for the local portion. They discussed the grant committee is still functional.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the documents as submitted for the Scattered Site Grant. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Shelly Foreman with Smoky Mountain Center along with Christy Pruess from Smoky Mountain Center and Paige Stevens from New River Behavioral Healthcare (NRBH) came before the Board to discuss Smoky Mountain's relationship with NRBH.

Paige Stevens explained to the Board how county funding is spent; crisis services, intensive in-home, children's intensive in-home services, assertive community treatment team, psychiatric medication clinic, and targeted case management.

Commissioner Smith and Paige Stevens talked about services have been renamed and modified over the years but only one program has been eliminated.

Shelly Foreman talked about the State is focusing on getting treatments out in the communities.

Chair Richardson talked about the importance of the CARF and CABHA certifications that NRBH have.

Shelly Foreman talked about the State has opened applications for the Medicaid waiver. She explained that Smoky Mountain is working on this and will be bringing more information back.

Commissioner Cox talked about as the representative for NRBH; he has spent time with NRBH seeing what services are offered to the citizens.

Nancy Keith, Interim County Extension Service Director, came before their Board to present the annual report. She explained the number of staff members and functions of the staff. She thanked the Board for their support. She turned the annual report over to her staff to present different aspects. Teresa Herman talked about the active cattle association, farmers markets, discussions about a processing facility or value-added facility, and working with Soil & Water to help farmers. Brad Edwards explained that he works with Christmas trees in Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga and items that they are working on in the Christmas tree industry. Amy Lucas talked about the youth development programs, how it has grown over the years, number of programs and number of youth involved.

Commissioner Smith and Teresa Herman talked about the ongoing survey about the farmers market and the current status of the farmers market.

Larry Davis, Public Works Director, came before the Board to present the annual report for Maintenance/Animal Control/Transfer Facility. He provided collection numbers for the amount of garbage, scrap metal, recyclables, used motor oil, waste water and scrap tires. He explained that animal control responded to around 100 calls. He reviewed the number of buildings/facilities, number of vehicles and the landfill equipment that the Maintenance staff maintains. He said that the classroom at the Community College is just about complete.

County Manager Don Adams and Larry Davis talked about there are three Maintenance employees.

John Blevins, Director of Social Services, came before the Board to present their annual report and provided the Board copies of the report. He reviewed the highlights of the annual report; children protective services, foster care, number of calls and clients during the year, Medicaid, applications monitoring, Food and Nutrition, reviews that they have been through, child support, daycare, crisis program, energy program. He explained changes that are coming from the State that will directly impact Alleghany County. He presented the annual report for the Community Protection Team/Child Fatality Prevention Team.

Chair Richardson and John Blevins talked about the total appropriations by service area and total appropriations by funding sources.

Chair Richardson declared a 5-minute recess at 11:13am.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from the Chamber of Commerce. He reviewed the letter including the parade on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, Summer Jamboree events, and the July 4th fireworks. He explained that they are requesting the Summer Jamboree and July 4th fireworks funding be reinstated. He said that he has the contract for the fireworks but if the County isn't participating financially then he isn't comfortable signing the contract.

Chair Richardson reviewed the requests before the Board; \$2,500 for the fireworks, \$1,000 for the Summer Jamboree.

Commissioner Cox said that he thinks historically speaking the Commissioners have participated and these events bring people into Sparta.

Commissioner Goudreau agreed and stated he thinks it is money well spent.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to restore funding for both events. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams informed the Board that the County is out to bid for wood waste grinding with bids due on May 2.

County Manager Don Adams and Commissioner Roten talked about a fire chief training that will be on May 6 from 6pm-10pm and May 7 from 8am-4pm that the Commissioners are invited to attend. The County Manager explained he had suggested having an hour or two session for the Commissioners to learn about issues that are impacting the fire departments.

Commissioner Roten said he told them that he will try to go to the entire thing.

Chair Richardson said he has it on his calendar, too.

County Manager Don Adams and Commissioner Smith talked about this is classroom training to learn about things that are impacting the fire departments.

County Manager Don Adams stated that budgets were due to the Finance Office last Wednesday. He presented the FY 2011/12 Budget requests for the General Fund in the amount of \$14,901,877, summary of new positions/salary increases, summary of General Fund Capital/Capital Improvements as of 4/14/11 in the amount of \$1,013,990 which includes capital for the schools of \$920,885 which includes school bus purchases, summary of special appropriations in the amount of \$1,693,616 and the insurance summary. He provided an update about medical insurance including the meetings held so far, quotes received at this point, staying with Cigna and the impact of the medical insurance is currently \$88,207.98 after considering the reimbursements. He asked the Board about scheduling June 1 for him to present the proposed budget and look at their calendars about scheduling other budget meetings in June.

The Board of Commissioners discussed having a meeting on June 1 and decided on June 1 at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams talked about his schedule for the upcoming weeks regarding the budget and the possibility of scheduling budget meetings up front for the department heads to present to the Board.

Chair Richardson talked about letting everyone think about it and discuss it at the retreat.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about staying with Cigna and the network. The County Manager explained the only difference is there isn't a vision portion for eye exams.

County Attorney Donna Shumate reminded everyone that the Board asked to get an opinion from the Attorney General regarding prayer at meetings. She reviewed the content of the request letter including attachments to the letter from the Ministerium group and the petition signed by the former County Commissioners. She read the response letter from Special Deputy Attorney General Grady L. Balentine, Jr. She said in response to the last section of the letter this is the type of letter that is received from the Attorney General's office.

Chair Richardson, Commissioner Smith and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the County Attorney doesn't think the current process is a violation.

Commissioner Cox asked the County Attorney to explain the difference between nonsectarian and sectarian prayer for the audience.

County Attorney Donna Shumate read a portion of the letter.

Chair Richardson and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the Forsyth County case, how it relates to Alleghany County and being in the same situation as Forsyth County by offers made by the public to say the prayers.

Commissioner Roten stated that the letter says it is an advisory letter, and he thinks it is vague.

Commissioner Cox asked about the last sentence of the letter.

County Attorney Donna Shumate explained that this is language that is seen when Attorney General's opinions are obtained.

Commissioner Cox and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about Alleghany County is not alone in this issue.

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Cox talked about continuing the current process with a silent prayer.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to accept the opinion by the Attorney General's office and the County Attorney's opinion. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Steve Roten).

Commissioner Cox talked about he and Commissioner Goudreau attended the Town meeting regarding Benchmark's presentation.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman