

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 2, 2011, 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 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.

Chair Richardson stated that EMS Open House needs to be added to Item I on the agenda.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this May 2, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

#### AGENDA

Monday, May 2, 2011

6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
- Motion on Agenda for May 2, 2011, meeting
- Motion on Minutes for April 18, 2011, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
- B. Pat Polley/Karon Edwards  
RE: Council on Aging Home and Community Care Block Grant  
Lead Agency
- C. John Blevins  
RE: Request to Fill Vacant Position
- D. Gerald Leftwich  
RE: 6-Mile Fire Districts
- E. Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
- F. Sparta-Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
- G. First Sergeant Tyre Needham, State Highway Patrol  
RE: Little River Bridge Dedication
- H. John Kilmartin  
RE: Chamber of Commerce Request
- I. County Manager's Business
  - 1. Wood Waste Bids
  - 2. Solid Waste Disposal Fee Request by Sparta Presbyterian Church
  - 3. Budget Amendment—Summer Jamboree/July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks
  - 4. Wilkes Community College Board Appointment
  - 5. Health Insurance
  - 6. EMS Open House (added)
- J. County Commissioners' Business
  - 1. Other Comments
- K. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
- L. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 18, 2011, meeting. 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 came before the Board regarding the Board speaking about seeking an opinion from the Attorney General's office and the County Attorney reading the response at the last meeting. He asked why the letter was addressed as it was and wasn't addressed to the Attorney General Roy Cooper. He read a prayer that was offered in the United States Senate.

Susan Miles Reinhardt came before the Board to thank the Board for the way the meeting was opened. She talked about becoming aware of the Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Initiative, which is accepting awards nominations with a deadline of May 31. She read portions of information about the Initiative and provided examples of projects that were completed during the required time period. She said that she would like for this information to be taken into consideration.

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

Pat Polley, Chair of Allegheny County Council on Aging (COA), and Karon Edwards, Interim COA Director, came before the Board to request COA to be appointed as the lead agency for the Home and Community Care Block Grant. They explained the Home and Community Care Block Grant and the services that this grant provides funding for and the how High Country Council of Government oversees the grant administration.

Commissioner Roten made a motion appoint COA as lead agency. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Karon Edwards talked about the advisory board for the Grant. She talked about a couple of changes needed to the board; adding new COA Board member John Goudreau and remove David Isner from the board since he is longer employed with the Extension Service..

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the request and appoint the extension agent if she is willing to serve.

County Manager Don Adams explained the purpose of the Advisory Board. He talked about the possibilities of looking at someone from Allegheny Cares and/or the Wellness Center or Senior Services along with the people that traditionally serve on this Advisory Board.

Chair Richardson and Commissioner Roten talked about an appointment from the Extension Service.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion on the floor.

Chair Richardson and Karon Edwards talked about there isn't a limit on the number of members.

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

John Blevins, Social Services Director, explained that he has a vacancy for a Social Worker IAT position because the individual in this position has turned in her notice. He further explained the duties of this position. He talked about the need and purpose for the position.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about her last day is Friday.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to grant the request to fill the position. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, discussed extending the current fire insurance districts. He talked about the extra efforts of the fire departments to apply and receive permission to extend the fire insurance districts to a 6-mile radius. He provided the insurance breakdown showing how much it would save homeowners with their property insurance. He discussed the portion of Allegheny County that will be covered in the 6-mile radius. He explained the next steps for obtaining the State's final approval includes adopting a resolution approving the 6-mile districts.

Commissioner Roten and Gerald Leftwich talked about the timing of the change.

Gerald Leftwich stated his appreciations for Wendy Williams for her assistance with the maps.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the resolutions. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Gerald Leftwich explained that one resolution will cover the entire county.

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

David Higgins, Chief of Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department, reviewed contents of packets that he provided t the Board. He reviewed the number of firemen, number of training hours, types of equipment, information about the 2010 and 2011 State grants, information about the 6-mile fire district, types of fund raisers/special events/community service, their community involvement through technology. He talked about seeing information about having a call system that will alert citizens of hazardous situations. He continued reviewing the packet including their current projects, future projects and goals, budget, accident/sickness proposal where they purchased the first option, letter from Blue Ridge Parkway about the fire department's involvement with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival, letter from Skull Camp regarding the fire department's involvement with a fire and a letter regarding their fire inspection rating obtained in 2009. He stated his appreciation to the fire departments and the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Roten stated his appreciation for the efforts by the volunteer fire department members.

The Board agreed.

Gary Finney, Chief of Sparta-Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department, presented their annual report including the number of members and their certifications, types and numbers of calls, number of training hours, number/types of work details, types/number of turnout gears, number/types of equipment, fundraisers, revenues/expenses, working on radio frequency switchover and working with Gerald Leftwich on the 6-mile fire district.

Commissioner Roten stated his appreciation for everything that the fire department members do.

First Sergeant Tyre Needham came before the Board to present information requesting to get the bridge on Highway 21 over Little River named for Trooper Hogan and Police Chief Taylor who were killed chasing a bootlegger in 1948. He discussed information about the incident, a newspaper article regarding the incident and a sample resolution.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Roten and First Sergeant Needham talked about these types of requests are occurring statewide to honor fallen officers.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

First Sergeant Needham explained that Alleghany County has a new trooper and one open position with the open position having the possibilities of being cut due to budgetary issues in Raleigh.

John Kilmartin came before the Board as the Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He talked about the detours off of the Blue Ridge Parkway that has people traveling through Sparta this year. He listed out reasons why their current budget is short including having to print more materials due to the detour and occupancy monies are coming in late. He asked the Board for their consideration of \$4,000 to help the Chamber. He reviewed their new publications.

Commissioner Smith talked about occupancy taxes and the request that was sent to Raleigh.

John Kilmartin explained that the occupancy tax bill has been delayed. Chamber Director Bob Bamberg explained the crossover date is approaching; May 12. Mr. Kilmartin explained that their fiscal year ends on June 30. He explained their numbers including the number of members, visitors and where they are from, types and amounts of advertising, fundraisers and the number of staff members.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to grant the request. Chair Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the County has been out to bid for wood waste grinding, advertised twice, received two inquires and only one bid in the amount of \$16,500. He further explained that this waste has to be removed and monies are available to fund this bid. He explained that legally it doesn't have to be bid out because it is a service.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to award the bid. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this wood waste is turned into mulch and is given away free, which will occur in the next few weeks.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Sparta Presbyterian Church regarding a request for a discount on the disposal fees for old roofing materials where they are replacing the roof on their education building.

Chair Richardson, Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about the request.

Commissioner Roten said that that he will go along with this if it is done for all churches.

Chair Richardson and Commissioner Roten talked about applying this to all churches to be fair.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams clarified this is this approving the request.

The Board agreed.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #22 in the amount of \$3,500. He explained that this is for the Fireworks and Summer Jamboree that was discussed at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #22 in the amount of \$3,500. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Dr. Gordon Burns with Wilkes Community College regarding the Board of Trustees appointment of Dr. Suzanne M. Irwin where her term ends on June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to reappoint Dr. Irwin to serve on the Wilkes Community College Board of Trustees. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams announced that there is an EMS open house on May 18 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, which occurs during EMS Week of May 16-20.

County Manager Don Adams provided information to the Board regarding health insurance. He noted that one thing that has changed from the original summary page; the reimbursement amount is actually \$28,162.92. He reviewed the spreadsheet showing the insurance summary including the total General Fund insurance of \$99,155.08, which includes two additional retirees, and the actual amount of the 12.72% increase is \$84,259.48. He further reviewed information about each percent is \$6,481.50 and a breakdown of the impact of potential changes to the plan as shown on an email from CIGNA. He explained that these are the final numbers and the Board needs to make a decision by May 16.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about the co-insurance difference.

County Manager Don Adams explained different scenarios for getting to 13% if the Board wishes to look at changing benefits.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about changing office co-pays and drug card changes.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he is trying to present different options to the Board.

Commissioner Roten stated that he doesn't know how the County can continue.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Commissioners can come see him if there are questions.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to enter into closed session at 8:00pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:25pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 8:26pm. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman