

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 6, 2013, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Chair Cox stated that Closed Session for NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal needs to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this May 6, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, May 6, 2013  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for May 6, 2013, Meeting  
Motion on Minutes for April 15, 2013, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Kay Luffman – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Chairperson
1. 2013/14 JCPC Proposal Grant Application – the application portrays the programming priorities as voted upon by the JCPC Advisory Board. Action Requested – Vote on funding proposal.
  2. JCPC Annual Report -- No action requested.
  3. Alleghany Connections Annual Report – No action requested
- 6:50 B. David Higgins - Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department Chief  
RE: Fire Department's Annual Report – No action requested.
- 7:00 C. General Business
1. Soil and Water District Agreement  
This proposed agreement was initially presented at the 4/15/13 Board meeting. Action Requested – Vote on agreement.
  2. Blue Ridge Business Development Center's Operational Management Agreement  
This proposed agreement was presented at the 4/15/13 Board meeting. Action Requested – Vote on agreement.
  3. Daymark Proposed Lease  
This proposed lease incorporates the terms discussed at the 4/15/13 Board meeting and has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Action Requested – Vote on lease.
  4. Social Services Building Proposed Lease  
This proposed lease incorporates the terms discussed at the 4/15/13 Board meeting and has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Action Requested – Vote on lease.
  5. Piney Creek School NCDOT Encroachment Agreement  
This proposed encroachment agreement allows Alleghany County and the Board of Education to encroach onto NCDOT property to construct a sewer line across Piney Creek School Road. Action Requested – Vote on agreement.
  6. Cooperative Extension Position  
In order for the State to fill a vacant agriculture agent position in the Alleghany County Cooperative Extension Office, the State is requiring Alleghany County to match this position cost at 40% versus the traditional 30%. Action Requested – Vote on matching the position cost at 40%.
  7. Tax Office Budget Amendment  
Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment # 13 in the amount of \$900 to increase available funding for foreclosure costs. These costs are offset by fees collected during the foreclosure process.
  8. Budget 2013/14 Request Update  
Enclosed in the packets is an updated 2013/2014 Budget request summary. The initial presentation did not include a request from the Sheriff to hire and equip three new School Resource Officers. No action requested.
  9. Budget 2013/14 Schedule  
The County Manager's recommended budget is proposed to be presented to the Board on June 3, 2013. The Board usually schedules a couple of meetings in the first week of June to hear directly from those requesting funds. Action Requested – Schedule at least the first two budget hearings.

10. Health Insurance Update

Provide update about prescription card coverage amounts. Action Requested –  
Vote on revised amounts.

- D. Public Comments—30 minutes
- Closed Session—NCGS 1431-318.11 (a) (3)—legal (added)
- E. Adjourn

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Kay Luffman, JCPC Chairperson, presented the 2013-14 JCPC funding allocation in the amount of \$56,055 for the following programs; JCPC Administrative Funds, After School Counseling, Project Challenge, Barium Springs. She explained that there is a 20% required match in the amount of \$9,986.

Commissioner Smith and Kay Luffman talked about some programs had to be dropped because lack of funding.

Commissioner Leys and Kay Luffman talked about Project Challenge and Barium Springs including the number of children involved in these programs.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Barium Springs program saves the County money because the only other option is incarceration.

Commissioner Leys, County Manager Don Adams and Kay Luffman talked about the 20% match has been budgeted for years.

Commissioner Leys thanked Kay Luffman for working with this program.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the funding allocation. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Kay Luffman presented the JCPC annual report including how they have reallocated their money and requesting JCPC to use the money during the summer. She talked about how the money is down and the number of people is up.

Commissioner Leys and Kay Luffman talked about their numbers are up by about 30%. They further talked about who is the fiscal agent and how the funds are handled.

Kay Luffman talked about Alleghany Connections. She explained their programs, and have over 600 hours for over 300 students. She talked about all of their funding is spent on this program. She talked about the County's allocation plus other funding sources. She talked about the money goes directly to help children.

County Manager Don Adams and Kay Luffman talked about the big brother program and the number of children served.

Commissioner Leys and Kay Luffman talked about Mrs. Luffman volunteers an average of 10-15 hours per week on these two programs.

The Board stated their appreciation.

David Higgins, Chief of Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department, presented their annual report including their roster, trucks, 2012 State equipment grant. He talked about if there is any way for the extra capital money up to the matching \$15,000 could be put aside for another year. He continued reviewing the annual report including the 2013 State equipment grant. He talked about the importance of the \$15,000 matching grant monies. He reviewed their budget. He displayed their handouts that they provide. He continued reviewing the annual report including the number of calls, training, fund raisers, special events, community service, technology, current projects, future projects and goals. He talked about them along with Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department will be at the fire training facility next Monday night, and invited the Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Smith and David Higgins talked about the Class 7 rating and how it saves money for homeowners on their insurance.

Commissioner Goudreau stated thank you David and all of the members of the fire department.

Commissioner Leys and David Higgins talked about how many hours he volunteers for the fire department.

The Board stated their appreciation.

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed Soil & Water revised Memorandum of Understanding that was presented at the last meeting. He reiterated the changes discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the Soil & Water Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the Operational Management Agreement for the Blue Ridge Business Development Center. He talked about the Agreement was presented at the last meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the Operational Management Agreement. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone of his financial analysis regarding Social Services remaining at their current location or move to the Daymark location and the Commissioners decided for Social Services to stay at their current location. He explained that the Daymark lease requires a public notice about leasing a County facility, which has been done. He reviewed the terms of the Daymark lease; 3-year lease for \$3,798 per month. He said that this has been reviewed by the County Attorney.

Chair Cox talked about the only change is turning it into a 3-year lease. County Manager Don Adams agreed and said this has been signed by Daymark.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Daymark lease since the facility will not be needed by the County during the term of the lease. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the Social Services lease. He reviewed the terms of the DSS lease; 5-year term for the same rent amount. He explained that Bill Blevins has agreed to make the changes requested.

Commissioner Leys talked about everyone should be thankful for Mr. Blevins making the renovations because these are major improvements.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the list of changes.

Commissioner Leys stated that he has also agreed to have the changes completed by October 1.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the Social Services lease. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented an encroachment agreement for Piney Creek School Road. He explained that this allows Alleghany County and Alleghany County Schools to cross Piney Creek School Road with the sewer line at Piney Creek School.

County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about she has reviewed the agreement.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the Schools are taking this up tonight.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the encroachment agreement. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the vacant agriculture position with the Extension Service, and this position has been listed. He explained the State is requiring the County to match this position's costs at 40% rather than the standard 30%. He further explained if the Board wishes to fill the position then the Board needs to approve funding it at 40%.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the 30% standard is for Alleghany County. The County Manager explained the 30% agreement was done many years ago.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the reason other counties have more agents is because their counties pay a larger portion of the costs.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the wording of the advertisement and the emphasis will be based upon the people that apply.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve funding the position at 40%. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$900 for the Tax Office. He explained that he is trying to work out something with the auditors about this being a liability line rather than an expense.

County Attorney Donna Shumate explained the process and how it works of when people pay their taxes prior to their property being sold along with paying any fees associated with the foreclosure.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$900. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams provided a 2013/14 budget request update. He explained that the initial presentation did not include a request from the Sheriff to hire and equip three new School Resource Officers. He further explained that the Sheriff also asked for an additional vehicle.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about there would be no additional training.

Chair Cox talked about this is for information purposes.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the new three School Resource Officers are three full-time salaries and the current School Resource Officer doesn't have a County vehicle. They talked about the \$31,588 is for a replacement vehicle and the total amount of \$234,260 does not include the replacement vehicle. They talked about the additional holiday pay and how it is calculated.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the budget schedule including in the next couple of weeks he is meeting with everyone and he needs dates for people to meet with the County Commissioners if they aren't satisfied with his recommendations. He explained that normally he presents the budget on June 1 but since that falls on a Saturday he is planning to present the budget on June 3. He asked does the Board want to hold a special-called meeting on June 3 for his presentation then look at June 5 and 6 for budget meetings.

The Board and the County Manager talked about dates/times regarding the budget. They decided on the budget presentation at the regular meeting on June 3, June 5 and June 6 at 6:30pm, June 17 after the regular meeting, June 24 at 6:30pm for the public hearing and June 27 at 6:30pm for the final budget adoption.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Tracy McCarty, Senior Benefits Consultant with Mark III. He explained that she had displayed the prescription co pays as \$15/\$40/\$60/\$180 and it should have been \$15/\$40/\$80/\$160. He further explained that she negotiated a better drug card than the first two examples at no change in the costs. He reviewed the proposed drug card; \$10/\$45/\$60/25% with a minimum of \$50/maximum \$100 on specialty meds. He stated that this is their recommendation.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about there are no additional costs associated.

Commissioner Leys talked about this is a great benefit change. She thanked everyone for the hard work on this.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about there is no way the County Manager would have gotten that without Mark III.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the \$10/\$45/\$60/25% with a minimum of \$50/maximum \$100 on specialty meds drug card. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Brandon Hawks stated that for some odd reason if people talk about federal issue they forego local economics. He asked what makes an economy grow. He stated that there are many debates on this. He named several economists and said that these economists agree that government burden must be reduced as much as possible. He talked about as Commissioner Goudreau pointed out that

our death rate is more than our birth rate. He further talked about importance of this statistic. He explained that he is starting a business here. He stated that according to the State, Alleghany County has lost population and zero growth. He talked about Alleghany County's largest employers in third quarter of 2011. He said it shouldn't be a surprise about property taxes going higher as the population is decreasing and getting older. He explained that the answer is simple; cut taxes and reduce debt then focus on what government is supposed to be doing. He talked about while he was reading last month's paper he found a quote he liked and read it to everyone. He further talked about to be an example is to lead by example which is what people should be doing.

Dennis Smith talked about hours before the last meeting three people died and some had to have their limbs amputated due to the event in Boston. He continued talking about the media went into overdrive covering the event and certain individuals took advantage of the situation to further their political agenda. He talked about for weeks prior to this there was another event that involved horrific deaths, mutilations and dismembering but the media didn't care to report on it because these deaths didn't matter. He said he is talking about the murder trial of the abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell. He explained that the media didn't even go to the trial. He talked about Gosnell's activities and this went on for 17 years until the police discovered the place when they were looking for illegal prescription drugs. He explained what the doctor did over the years and no one put a stop to it. He talked about reading the report and provided examples of part of the text. He said the report is hard to read without weeping. He talked about there are young women in Alleghany County who get abortions without knowing the risks involved. He said that some think that's their only option. He further said that this topic affects people as much as suicide or drug abuse and should be considered by this Board. He encouraged the Commissioners to look at the grand jury report. He read words spoken by a North Carolina county commissioner chairman about biblical scriptures and a prayer.

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

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

Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:40pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated no action was taken during closed session.

Commissioner Leys talked about Angie Sexton is second in the State in child support collections over a 4-year period. She stated that she will bring it up at the next meeting.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 8:43pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox  
Chairman