

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2009, at 3:30pm 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 Milly Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the Planning Board appointment needs to be added to the agenda and WCC Board Appointment needs to be rescheduled for the first meeting in June.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this May 18, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, May 18, 2009  
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for May 18, 2009, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for May 4, 2009, meeting  
Motion on April Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Amy Lyall  
RE: School Age Kids Summer Daycare  
C. Brandon McCann  
RE: Cascade Highlands  
D. Gerald Leftwich  
RE: Emergency Management Update  
E. Elections Annual Report  
F. Soil and Water Annual Report  
G. CJPP Annual Report  
H. County Business
1. Insurance Agreements
  2. JCPC 2009/10 Program
  3. WCC Board Appointment (deleted)
  4. Region D Development Corporation Board Appointments
  5. Surplus—Ambulances
  6. DSS Budget Amendment
  7. Planning Board Appointment (added)
  8. Other Business
  9. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
  10. Adjourn

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 4, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the real and auto releases for April. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real and auto refunds for April. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Amy Lyall came before the Board to talk about school-age kids' summer daycare. She talked about the number of children/families this affects in her center. She further talked about people will have to quit their jobs because they can't pay for daycare. She asked if the Board can provide any help.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he recently had a budget meeting with John Blevins. He further explained that this meeting was regarding the social services budget. He talked about daycare funding being cut. He further talked about this program as a whole will receive a significant cut from the State.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the money provided last year. He explained that it will be very difficult to find the additional funds because of the budget situation. He said that this has been passed to the County Manager then will be sent to the Social Services Director for more discussions.

Brandon McCann, Regional Tourism Director with the Cascade Highlands, came before the Board to introduce the Cascade Highlands formally. He named the counties/cities that the group is comprised of. He gave the Board an overview of Cascade Highlands and how they are working in the counties in both states. He explained that they are trying to get an understanding of the businesses' needs. He said that the board meets again in June to put together a strategic plan regarding these needs.

County Manager Don Adams explained the initiative that started this group. He talked about the purpose of creating this regional tourism group. He explained that this links counties together with like interest and the common transportation routes in these areas.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed the counties in the Cascade Highlands and how they have items in common with Alleghany County.

Bob Bamberg talked about the amount of traffic that comes into the Chamber office and which direction they travel to Alleghany County.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Brandon McCann discussed how the name Cascades was chosen. He said that he will be back before the Commissioners with updates soon.

Gerald Leftwich presented a slide show regarding the recent tornados. He presented a timeline of the tornados and activities that occurred including departments that responded.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated his appreciation to everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that she agrees about the volunteer emergency personnel that responded; they did an excellent job and made a bad situation as bearable as possible.

County Manager Don Adams talked about emails from the trauma center about how well EMS dealt with the injuries that did occur. He further talked about these people are still rebuilding their lives. He said they are working with their insurance companies. He said that one issue that we are dealing with is he has been approached by property owners that are uninsured or underinsured regarding rebuilding what they have lost, had discussions with them about how the solid waste fees will be collected and talked about collecting the materials in an organized manner. He further said that we will have some that doesn't have the insurance to build back. He explained that he views this like an earlier instance where a house fire occurred and relief was provided on the solid waste fees. He asked is this something the Board would like to provide relief for. He explained that his recommendation is to do it on a case-by-case basis. He talked about the need to track the debris in order to have the total amount to have to approach the State. He asked in regards to the uninsured and underinsured, what are the Board's thoughts on this for relief.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that they think the County needs to provide all the relief that we can.

Gerald Leftwich talked about they are still complying the amount of man hours and amount spent during this event in the chance that the State can provide assistance.

Kate Cosner, Elections Director, came before the Board to present the Elections' annual report. She presented information including the number of registered voters, number of new voters, voter registration changes, voter turnout for each election, trainings attended by board members and staff, very few problems with the actual elections, overview of the elections, Kids Vote program, candidate forum hosted by the Kids Vote committee, preparing to host a forum for the municipal election, activities associated with the Kids Vote committee, certification exam, poll worker appreciation dinner, moving the Cherry Lane polling place to the Cherry Lane fire department and participation in the district.

Linda Hash, District Administrator/Conservationist, presented the Soil and Water office's annual report. She talked about their mission statement, administration, program activities including the educational programs and technical programs, area 2 programs, farmland preservation program, dry hydrant project, environmental enhancements grants program and the no-till "truax" drill project. She presented their activities summary. She talked about the free tree project.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that she knows that the farming community is aware of what the Soil and Water department does and the non-farming community should be aware of the activities of the office.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the best management practices helps everyone.

Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Hash talked about the amount of interaction with children.

Joan Henson came before the Board to present the annual report for the criminal justice partnership program (CJPP). She reviewed the CJPP activities and goals for 2007/08. She stated her appreciation to the Board.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Joan Henson talked about the crossover with JCPC.

County Manager Don Adams explained that they are different programs with one working with adults and one working with children.

County Manager Don Adams presented the insurance quotes for 2009/2010. He reviewed the quotes for property/liability, workers compensation and health insurance. He recommended going with NCACC for all three pools. He talked about the NCACC quote being less than the other quote obtained.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the insurance quotes with NCACC. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the JCPC summary that was presented at the last meeting needed to be put before the Board for a vote. He explained that the amount is unknown at this time so they are recommending approving the same as this last year.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented three Planning Board applications. He reviewed the applicants; Bill Brooks, Wayne Miles and Nancy Wilson. He reviewed which fire district these applicants reside in, and the Planning Board needs a representative from the Sparta-Alleghany fire district.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve Wayne Miles for the Planning Board. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Phil Trew asking that members of the Region D Development Corporation be reappointed. He stated that Russell Sheets, Dennis Gambill, Bryan Edwards and himself serve on this board. He reviewed the function of the Development Corporation.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to reappoint Russell Sheets, Dennis Gambill, Bryan Edwards and Don Adams to serve on the Region D Development Corporation for another year. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams requested the two ambulances involved in the fire be declared surplus. He explained that both ambulances have been totaled by the insurance company. He further explained that the replacement cost covers up to \$85,000 on each ambulance. He talked about the County can keep the vehicles for \$3,750 each. He further talked about bidding them out locally to see if anyone is interested in them, and then if not, turn them back over to insurance company.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to surplus the two vehicles and go out to bid. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #34 in the amount of \$8,000 for an increase in public assistance.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #34 in the amount of \$8,000. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller thanked everyone that was involved after the tornados for their hard work. He talked about helping the people in the mobile home since they lost everything. He said he would like to talk to all of the people that was affected by the tornados, and he asked them to call him. He stated that this shows everybody that we need to get our priorities in order.

Commissioner Doug Murphy reiterated his appreciation for all of the hard work regarding the tornados. He talked about people in the community coming out to help in time of need, and you don't get that in other places.

Commissioner Steve Roten agreed and stated his appreciation to everyone for everything that has been done.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to go into closed session at 5:08pm under NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:30pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 5:31pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman