

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order. He mentioned the new granddaughter in Commissioner Leys' family, which occurred over the weekend. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Chair Smith presented a plaque to Carolyn Cleary for her 25 years of dedicated service at Social Services to Alleghany County citizens.

Carolyn Cleary stated her appreciation for the plaque. She said it was an honor to work for Social Services.

AGENDA  
Monday, May 18, 2015  
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for May 18, 2015, Meeting  
Motion on Minutes for April 20 and May 4, 2015, Meetings
- 10:05 A. Carolyn Cleary Presentation
- 10:10 B. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. April Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. Actions Requested – Vote on releases and refunds.
  2. April Collections Report - Monthly 2015 collection rates through April as compared to 2014 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
  3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of April 2015. No action requested
  4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
- 10:25 C. Josh Greene, Public Works Director  
RE: Maintenance/Transfer Facility Annual Report. No action requested.
- 10:40 D. Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director  
RE: EMS Annual Report. No action requested.
- 10:55 E. Stephen Crouse, EMS Training Officer/Paramedic  
RE: Hands Only CPR Demonstration. No action requested.
- 11:15 F. Adrian Tait, High Country Council of Government's Workforce Development Director  
RE: High Country's Workforce Agreement. Proposed new agreement will be discussed at meeting. No action requested at this time. Proposed agreements will be brought back to Board at the next meeting.
- G. General Business
1. Solid Waste Contract  
Republic Services currently transports and disposes Alleghany County's solid waste. Enclosed is a summary of the new solid waste proposal from Republic Services. Action Requested – Vote the summary of new proposal. Final contract will be brought back to Board at next meeting for final vote.
  2. Fuel Oil Contract  
Bids are due on Friday, May 15 at 3:00pm. More information will be provided at the meeting. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed contract.
- H. Public Comments—30 minutes
- I. Commissioners Comments
- J. Closed Session – NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)--legal
- K. Adjourn

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this May 18, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20 and May 4, 2015, meetings. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith talked about the three nights of the Board of E&R and stated his appreciation for all of Rita Miller's work on those meetings.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the April auto releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the April auto releases. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the April auto refunds.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the April auto refunds. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the April auto refunds under the vehicle tax system (VTS).

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the April VTS auto refunds. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the April real property releases.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the April real property releases. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the April real property refunds.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the April real property refunds. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller began to present the April 2015 reports; collections' report.

Chair Smith and Rita Miller talked about the possibilities of making it 97%.

Commissioner Evans mentioned that this percentage is higher than the previous three years.

Rita Miller continued to present the April 2015 reports; enforced collection report, and the payment agreement report.

Josh Greene, Public Works Director, came before the Board to present the annual report for Maintenance, Transfer Facility and Animal Control. He reviewed their statistics and activities at the Transfer Facility for 2013/14 including putting new asphalt around the tipping floor and caught up on all of the safety issues found by the Safety Committee. He continued with his report and presented information regarding Animal Control where they run approximately 5 calls per month and work performed at the kennel in order to stay up-to-date on inspections. He reviewed Maintenance statistics including their major activities; replaced roof at library, numerous activities at the Veterans Memorial Park including installing the pipe and gravel in the field area and constructing the building, repainted buildings at the Fairgrounds and updated/repaired lighting at the BDC and Administration Building.

Chair Smith stated his appreciation for the work at Veterans Memorial Park and the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Irwin told Josh Greene that he doesn't know how he does all that he does and does a great job at it.

Commissioner Leys talked about the great work ethics of some of her former colleagues and Josh is taking after them. She stated that she is very proud of him.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director, presented the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) annual report. She reviewed their number of calls, number of patient transports, number of

miles driven, and number of seriously injured or ill patients transported to an air ambulance landing zone. She talked about they continue to meet or exceed the State standards for response time and wheels rolling time. She explained that they are monitored for patient care. She talked about the types of certifications all full-employees are required to maintain. She further talked about their continuing education classes that are held monthly. She said that they began submitting unpaid EMS bills from 2011-2013 to the NC Debt Setoff Program and have collected \$1,846.29.

Chair Smith and Linda Edwards talked about protocol where the EMS personnel take patients out of the county as the patient's first stop.

Commissioner Irwin asked does the patient have the option to ask. Linda Edwards explained the policy to take the patients to the closest medical facility for their condition. She talked about only having two trucks limits the service to other people if both trucks are out of the county.

Linda Edwards mentioned that this week is EMS week. She stated her appreciation to the people who work at EMS. She read a couple of thank you notes written by patients regarding the excellent care they received.

Linda Edwards talked about having the three shift supervisors present today and they will demonstrate the Hands Only CPR. She introduced them; Stephen Crouse, Brandon Jones, David Spicer.

Chair Smith declared a brief recess at 10:22am.

Stephen Crouse talked about the response time and getting more people involved to help in the outlying areas to assist with CPR in the time of need. He further talked about the amount of trainings they have done in the communities and the number of people they have trained so far. He provided statistics in regards to the need for CPR. He explained the Hands Only program and how to perform the Hands Only CPR. He said he appreciates the County's support for this program. He said he will be glad to train people at any time.

Brandon Jones said that they are willing to come out to church groups or any organization to teach Hands Only CPR.

Stephen Crouse explained the map that David Spicer handed out in regards to response time the farther people are away from the EMS base.

David Spicer talked about the chances of the survival rate and the importance of Hands Only CPR to keep the oxygen flowing until help arrives.

County Manager Don Adams said the Hands Only CPR is simple to learn.

Commissioner Evans and Stephen Crouse talked about the differences between regular CPR training versus the Hands Only CPR is 8 hours versus 15 minutes.

Stephen Crouse invited the Board to participate in learning Hands Only CPR. The Board participated in the demonstration.

County Manager Don Adams talked about EMS is getting additional equipment to go to the major functions to offer this training. He said hopefully this meeting will prompt more interest. He talked about trying to do trainings at major events to educate the public.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the school system, bus drivers and coaches have this type of training.

Stephen Crouse stated that he knows Sparta School has a list of people in the front office.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation for EMS.

Adrian Tait, High Country Council of Government Workforce Development Director, came before the Board to discuss workforce development. He reviewed their annual report including the

number of employers served, number of services provided and number of individual customers. He talked about new legislation passed last year that is effective July 1 and the need for an agreement between the counties to create the High Country Workforce Development Consortium and a resolution about workforce development.

The County Manager explained the documents in the Commissioners' packets. He explained the organizational structure of the current workforce development board and the Consortium and its purpose including having a 23-member board. He passed out the resolution establishing the High Country Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Irwin asked is this a change to the way members of the board are appointed. County Manager Don Adams explained that currently the elected officials have 3 appointments. Adrian Tait reviewed how the members are appointed; 2 from each county and then the other 9 must come from specific areas as stated in the law. Adrian Tait reviewed how the 9 appointments are made.

Commissioner Irwin asked in the past has there been a problem getting a quorum. Adrian Tait answered no because the meetings are only quarterly. The County Manager talked about it used to be a problem getting a quorum when the elected officials had 3 appointments. Adrian Tait gave examples of how the board worked in the past regarding the quorum versus now.

Adrian Tait reviewed the members of the Consortium and Workforce Development Board. He stated more than 2 people can serve from Alleghany County. He said he will do his best to spread the public sector seats across the counties.

Commissioner Leys and Adrian Tait talked about the hold harmless clause in the agreement. He explained they are monitored by the Federal government and the State government and is part of the High Country Council of Governments' (HCCOG) audit and recently went through this and no problems were found. He explained their funding comes through HCCOG and is contract work. She mentioned that the new contract hold the counties harmless. The County Manager explained that the grantee is held responsible for their actives and sub-recipients should indemnify the counties. He provided an example. County Attorney Donna Shumate said there is a lot of protection built in. The County Manager talked about adding no personnel and no debt also provides protection.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the County Attorney is happy with the contract. County Attorney Donna Shumate said this wasn't a topic to be voted on today; just introduction. He read a portion of the contract. She talked about the safeguards that are in place.

Commissioner Evans talked about they will have no personnel, no debt and not owning any property. County Manager Don Adams agreed and said only as approved by the Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about the Commissioners will be informed if this comes up. They discussed this is an ongoing contract unless the Commissioners wish to terminate it.

Adrian Tait and the County Manager talked about having to designate workforce development areas and has to be complete by June 30 in order to get monies starting July 1.

Commissioner Irwin mentioned this can be terminated with a 6-month notice.

Commissioner Leys said it is a well-written resolution and thanked everyone for their participation in the workforce program.

Chair Smith talked about this will be on the next agenda.

County Manager Don Adams talked about Republic Services currently hauls and disposes of our solid waste. He reviewed the items in the packets; emails and current contract. He provided a history of the solid waste contract. He explained that they went out to bid for the transportation portion and the new contract will be a \$0.05 per ton increase rather than the initial \$3 per ton increase that were proposed. He reviewed the terms of the agreement; renewal terms of 5 years at a base rate of \$48.15 per ton, CPI, benefits of longer terms. He said he is not asking

for a vote today to extend the contract for 5 years because the contract will come back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about we are guaranteed someplace to take our garbage for the next 5 years.

The County Manager reviewed the other charges in the contract including a fuel surcharge and \$7.50 per load environmental charge.

Commissioner Evans clarified that the transportation portion is taken care of through Republic Services. The County Manager said that is correct.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams discussed we are happy with their services. The County Manager talked about the value of the larger contract and provided examples of them working with our needs.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the summary of the new proposal with Republic Services. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the fuel oil bids. He explained that we have reduced the amount of places that require fuel oil. He said that the major part is the Social Services Crisis Fuel Program. He stated after bids came in, it is recommended to award the bid to Hometown Fuel. He said the rates are close but Hometown's rates are slightly lower.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to award the contract to Hometown Fuel. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith opened the floor for public comments.

Ginger Collins thanked the Board for the support of the Arts Guild. She provided handouts to the Board about upcoming events and explained the events. She talked about the fire hydrants project and the mini-murals. She said thank you again for the support and participation.

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

Commissioner Evans mentioned the Board of Equalization and Review meetings. He apologized for missing one meeting due to his wife having surgery. He said she is doing well and thank you for the prayers. He talked about the meetings were a learning experience and look forward to learning more about that.

Commissioner Irwin said that he didn't think he would see people wanting their values raised. He mentioned that the Farmers Market is off to a good start. He said that he would like the Board to consider our role with Smoky Mountain because it has come under a new program six months ago and he is not sure how Alleghany County will benefit from this. He stated that at some point we need to bring the local agencies together to study this to see if we, as Commissioners, agree or not. He said he has another meeting next week. He stated that this is a very important project we need to stay on.

Commissioner Davis talked about the Farmers Market had a good crowd and was doing a good job.

Commissioner Leys thanked everyone for their work on the Farmers Market and Chair Smith for his speech. She thanked the grassroots people for the work on the fire hydrants. She thanked Rita Miller for all of her work on the Board of Equalization and Review, and she deserves a lot of credit. She thanked Commissioner Irwin for his passion about mental health.

Commissioner Evans added one thing that the Board of Equalization and Review meetings were very relaxed, and he would encourage people to come on in because our tax department will work with you. He talked about they offer a high level of service. He stated he wants to invite people to come on in with questions.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal at 11:32am. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:09pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith stated no action was taken during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 12:10pm. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans, Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith, Chair