

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 2008, 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 Warren Taylor, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Doug Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated the following items needs to be added to the agenda; closed session for (a) (3)—legal, pool update, farmers market and schedule for budget hearings.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this May 19, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, May 19, 2008
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for May 19, 2008, meeting
Motion on Minutes for May 5, 2008, meeting
Motion on April Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: Transfer of School Property
C. Mary Walker/Rita Miller
RE: Appeals, Town Tax Collections and Tag Office
D. Barry Maines
RE: Forestry Service Budget
E. John Blevins
RE: Summer Child Care
F. Soil and Water Department Annual Report
G. Sandy Walker/Sherry Cahn
RE: CJPP Annual Report
CJPP Budget Amendment
H. Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
I. Kate Cosner
RE: Elections Annual Report
Elections Budget Request
J. County Business

1. Recycling Contract
2. June Jamboree Request
3. County Website
4. Ropes Course Budget Amendment
5. Pool Update (added)
6. Farmers Market (added)
7. Schedule Budget Meetings (added)
8. Other Business
9. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal (added)
10. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 5, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the real property releases and refunds for April. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the auto refunds and releases for April. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public comments' portion of the meeting. He asked for public comments.

Brandon Hawks came before the Board. He reminded the Board that he is a college student and a substitute teacher. He informed the Board that he has put together a strong group to help improve the area. He talked about he was recently in Brevard and how it compares to Alleghany County.

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

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing at 3:35pm regarding transfer of school property. He asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, discussed the elderly exemption audits. She presented a letter from Ms. Easter requesting that the penalties be released on her audit. She explained why Ms. Easter was disqualified and the reason why this request is coming before the Board. She reminded the Board about the wording in the North Carolina General Statutes if they release this.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to deny the request. Chair Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Milly Richardson).

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Mary Walker talked about there is an application that people have to complete to be considered for the exemption. They

discussed what happens if the taxpayer does not reside in Alleghany County all year.

Mary Walker talked about a Board of Equalization and Review (E&R) appeal that was heard during the Board of E&R that was not decided on. She explained the reasons for the property owner's request of decreasing the value from \$833,800 to \$779,300.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker discussed another Board of E&R appeal where a decision was not made; Reynolds property along the Sparta bypass.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to accept the recommendation of \$280,000. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker stated that she has been working with the Town about collecting the Town's taxes. She explained that the Town is working on the contract. She further explained what is involved in collecting the Town's taxes including the Town taxes will appear on the County bill in July.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Mary Walker talked about the data already being in the computer system.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve this action. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the main thing that has to be worked out is the tax certification process on the Town's part.

Mary Walker stated that the County has an interview with DMV on Thursday regarding the tag office. She further stated that they are working on job descriptions and have visited Ashe County to see how they operate their tag office.

John Blevins, DSS Director, came before the Board to discuss child care fees. He read a letter from Betty Cook with Kiddie Kampus regarding the summer child care fees. He explained that he had spoken to other social services and the State, and no other county has supplemented parent fees. He further explained how the fees are figured for nine months at a reduced rate and the summer rate is the full-time rate because the children are there full time.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the previous request to the Board was would the Board be willing to pay half of the summer parent fees. He reminded everyone about the action taken by the Board previously for summer care.

Linda Hash presented the Soil and Water's annual report. She presented information about their activities and program throughout the year including new

programs and grant opportunities plus the new sod seeder received for the Soil and Water district.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Hash discussed the best way for individuals to find out about these programs.

Kate Cosner came before the Board to present the Board of Elections' annual report. She talked about the number of new registrations, voter changes, voter turnout for each election during the past year, trainings attended, Kids Vote and bringing polling places into compliance with HAVA.

Kate Cosner presented information regarding the second primary, which will be on June 24. She reviewed the timeline for the second primary. She talked about the second primary will cost \$9,455. She explained that this is \$3,000 less than a normal primary because there won't be any assistants working at the polls and coding is less.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #40 in the amount of \$9,455. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Kate Cosner invited the Board to the district meeting of the election supervisors tomorrow at the County Administration Building.

County Manager Don Adams presented information regarding the Forestry Service's budget. He talked about they have overruns like other departments, and the contract amount is 40% of the budget. He explained that he is recommending \$3,000 and why.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the 40% share of the overrun.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how the burning ban affected the Forestry Service.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Sandy Walker came before the Board to present the annual Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) report. She reviewed their activities including the number of clients served. She reminded the Board that this program is an alternative to placing people in jail.

Sandy Walker explained the CJPP requested \$3,000 from the State to use for additional training.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #38 in the amount of \$3,000. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams asked the Board if they had any changes on the recycling contract. He stated that he recommends extending the contract for one year.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the County Manager's recommendation. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from John Spicer asking for the Commissioners' support for the June Jamboree in the amount of \$800 to \$1000.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve \$800. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson said that the County has a website. She talked about what information is available. She urged people to use the website. She provided the web address; www.alleghanycounty-nc.gov.

County Manager Don Adams explained how the website was created. He further explained the additional information available on the website. He talked about the next steps for the website; tax collections, inspection applications.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #39 in the amount of \$950 for the ropes course for a donation.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #39 in the amount of \$950. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams provided a pool update. He explained the plaster issues and concrete issues. He reviewed the proposed schedule from the owner to get the pool in operational order. He explained that the target opening date is June 7.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about the amount of work and effort put forth by our maintenance department at the pool.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the Farmers market. She explained issues regarding the Farmers market last year. She stated that they are asking to have the Farmers market here. She reminded everyone that it was here in the past and did well. She explained reasons for using this location. She further explained that her recommendation is to let the people use the parking lot since it belongs to the people. She stated that they have criteria about what can be sold.

Chair Ken Richardson and Mr. Connors talked about the Farmers market will be from 8:00am to Noon on Saturdays. Mr. Connors stated that they understand that there will be no access to the building.

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

Mr. Connors talked about the Farmers market and the items that were available this past weekend. He further talked about he hopes to have Jack Minor join them this year, and other products will be there as they become available.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Mr. Connors talked about there are two pages of rules and guidelines.

County Manager Don Adams clarified if the Board is authorizing the Farmers market to determine who can participate.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that it is the Farmers market, and it will not be open for private yard sales.

Mr. Connors agreed. He explained that they have a committee. He thanked the Board for their approval, and stated that they have their own liability insurance.

Clerk to the Board Karen Evans read the proposed dates for budget hearings; June 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27 and 30.

The Board discussed the dates to have the meetings.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the number of meetings needed.

The Board decided to have budget meeting on June 11, 12, 25 and 27 beginning at 4:00pm with the public hearing to be scheduled on June 30 immediately after the joint meeting with the Town.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he was in Raleigh for two days receiving information about the legislative session and what is predicted to happen.

County Manager Don Adams asked the Board about the insurance quotes.

Chair Ken Richardson made a motion to keep the employees insurance the same as it has been. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about option #5 for 90/10 plan.

County Manager Don Adams and Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the different options.

The board discussed the insurance alternatives.

Chair Ken Richardson restated his motion of leaving the plan the same as it is currently.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (Milly Richardson).

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the timing of signing the insurance quotes. He suggested everyone to remember this, and this needs to be an item of conversation next year. He talked about the Board hasn't had time to address other issues.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the timing of bidding out insurance will always be around mid-April to receive bids, and the Board can discuss alternatives before then.

Commissioner Doug Murphy reiterated that this is an issue to be aware of for next year.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to enter into closed session at 5:08pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:13pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman