

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2013, at 10:00am 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.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the agenda for this May 20, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, May 20, 2013
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for May 20, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for April 29, 2013, Special Meeting, April 29, 2013, Joint Meeting and May 6, 2013, Meeting
- 10:05 A. 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 report. Actions Requested – Vote on releases and refunds.
 2. April Collections Report - Monthly 2013 collection rates through April as compared to 2012 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of April 2013. No action requested
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
 5. Board of Equalization and Review Appeal Recommendation – Recommendation regarding the appeal heard during the Board of Equalization and Review. Action Requested – Vote on recommendation.
- 10:20 B. Kevin Heath – Engineer/Owner/Partner of Adams-Heath Engineering & the Lane Group
RE: Construction bids for the Piney Creek Elementary School sewer improvements are scheduled to be opened on May 15, 2013. Mr. Heath will present the bids to the Board for approval. Action Requested – Tentatively award the construction contract based on the engineer’s recommendation and contingent upon funding agency approval.
- 10:35 C. Jim Connor - Tourism Development Authority Chairman
RE: Tourism Development Authority Annual Report – No action requested.
- 10:45 D. Clark Hunter - Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director
RE: Mr. Hunter will provide an update on local economic development activities. No action requested.
- 10:55 E. Linda Edwards - EMS Administrative Director
RE: EMS Open House – Ms. Edwards will invite everyone to the EMS Open House event scheduled for May 23 from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. No action requested.
- 11:00 F. Gerald Leftwich - Emergency Management Coordinator
RE: Emergency Management Annual Report – No action requested.
- 11:10 G. Dr. Jeff Cox - Superintendent
RE: Alleghany County Schools Annual Report – No action requested.
- 11:25 H. General Business
1. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Report
Required status report on housing program. No action requested.
 2. Workers Compensation and Property/Liability 2013/14 Insurance Renewals
Workers Compensation renewal is \$102,748 compared to current year \$110,847 or \$8,099 less. Property and Liability renewal is \$106,422 counting the multi-pool discount of \$3,745 compared to \$104,264 (which included the multi-pool discount) or \$2,158 more.
Actions Requested – Vote on Workers Compensation and Property/Liability Renewals.
 3. Secondary Road Public Hearing Dates/Times
NCDOT has requested a meeting in June to hold the Secondary Road Public Hearing. Action Requested – Discuss and Vote on Date/Time for the Secondary Road Public Hearing.
 4. Region D Development Corporation (RDDC) Board Appointments

Don Adams, Bryan Edwards, Dennis Gambill and Russell Sheets currently serve on the RDDC Board. Russell Sheets no longer wishes to serve. It is proposed that Clark Hunter be appointed in lieu of Russell Sheets. Action Requested – Vote to Appoint/Reappoint Don Adams, Bryan Edwards, Dennis Gambill and Clark Hunter to the Region D Development Corporation Board.

- I. Public Comments—30 minutes
- J. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
- K. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2013, special meeting, April 29, 2013, joint meeting and May 6, 2013, regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

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

Rita Miller presented the April auto refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the April real property releases.

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

Rita Miller presented the April real property refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the April 2013 collections' report, enforced collection report and payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented one appeal left from the Board of Equalization and Review meeting where the property owner was questioning the amount of the value of the property in the flood zone. She explained that after the Tax Office's research the amount in the flood zone was already classified as residual land during the 2007 revaluation. She further explained that the property owner requested a value of \$150,000, and the assessed value is \$244,000. She stated the recommendation is that no adjustment be made.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the increase of collections.

Rita Miller talked about three parcels will be sold on Thursday unless the taxes are paid before then.

Kevin Heath talked about three bids were received for the Piney Creek School septic improvements. He reviewed what each bid type covers; base bid, additive bid and deductive bid. He continued to review the bids with the low bidder being Eberhart Construction and the revised budget since the bid came in under budget. He talked about the Board tentatively awarding the bid to Eberhart Construction for the base bid and the additive bid subject to funding agencies approval.

Commissioner Leys talked about attending the bid opening, already having a working relationship with Eberhart Construction, and they installed the system at Glade Creek.

Chair Cox and Kevin Heath talked about the good news of the bid being in budget.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Alleghany County is still in contract with Eberhart at Glade Creek because of some erosion control issues. He stated that he sees no issue with them providing these services.

Commissioner Leys pointed out that Alleghany County is only investing \$10,000 in this project because the funding is from the Rural Center and ARC.

County Manager Don Adams talked about being able to replace the existing failing pipe lines for the School during the project.

Commissioner Smith and Kevin Heath talked about the project's timeline.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to tentatively award Eberhart Construction the base bid and additive bid subject to funding agencies approval. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Jim Connor, Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Chairman, presented their annual report. He provided a brief update since their creation including they have met monthly and their members/terms. He talked about their revenues and expenditures. He explained that they have teamed up with the Chamber of Commerce for administrative support in the amount of \$1,450 monthly. He talked about the types of advertising that they have purchased this year and grants approved. He described the grants and groups they have worked with in promoting Allegheny County. He talked about brochures printed for distribution and rack cards. He said they will continue to review grants to promote tourism. He stated that he hopes to continue to serve as the Chair and have a TDA dedicated to increasing tourism.

Commissioner Smith and Jim Connor talked about the cards are available at the Chamber and the possibility of having them available at other places.

Commissioner Leys said that she has attended some of the meetings and wanted to say thank you for what has been done. She talked about it is hard to keep up in the meetings but she has taken a lot of notes today. She asked how the TDA measures success of their expenditures.

Jim Connor talked about the only way is the amount of occupancy tax increase. He explained that statistics are hard to find. He used examples. He reiterated that measuring the occupancy tax is the only way they know.

Chair Cox talked about the great job the TDA has done and has exceeded his expectations.

Clark Hunter, Blue Ridge Business Development Center (BDC) Manager, thanked the Board for the updated operational management agreement. He talked about some of the exciting things occurring including the recent open house for the new Allegheny Electronics. He explained he just returned from an Advantage West seminar for small counties and things they discussed. He talked about the funding for regional partnerships and if funding doesn't continue, it will hurt. He further talked about the historical tax incentives, which he will continue to pursue. He stated that 10 counties participated in the seminar with all under 40,000 population. He talked about participating in the local economic development strategy workshops, moving in the right direction, and the next step is identifying stakeholders to help create the plan.

County Manager Don Adams talked about they have made some progress including Darren Rhodes and Phil Trew have a clear picture of what the group wants. He explained that they are compiling a list of resources available and the resources will dictate the size of the plan. He talked about it is a good idea to reach out to other businesses.

County Manager Don Adams and Clark Hunter talked about working with Ashe County about their plan.

Clark Hunter talked about this resolves around involving the stakeholders. He further talked about the BDC is busy and provided some examples including the new location for DMV and Lawson's corporate offices. He said things are moving along. He invited the Board to come visit any time.

Commissioner Leys and Clark Hunter talked about if funding is cut it will impact Advantage West. The County Manager talked about Advantage West is a not-for profit and his understanding of the proposal is moving the funds to the Department of Commerce and using their staff. The County Manager explained that it would significantly change Advantage West and the positive things for Allegheny County. The County Manager said that Allegheny County is the most eastern county, a lot of their stuff is out of Asheville and most of our industrial leads have come from Advantage West not Commerce. The County Manager talked about having to look at the pros/cons, and he doesn't know what impact it will have on Allegheny County.

Commissioner Leys and Clark Hunter talked about his knowledge of the historical tax incentives and his involvement with Advantage West.

Chair Cox and Clark Hunter talked about the historical buildings could be county-wide.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director, invited everyone to attend the EMS open house on May 23 from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. She explained they will be providing blood pressure checks, teaching hands-only CPR, and provide stroke information along with other things. She asked everyone to come join them on Thursday.

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the Emergency Management/Fire Inspector annual report. He talked about holding the county-wide tornado drill, placed a lot of information in the newspaper so people would know what to do, and recently conducted a training exercise. He described the exercise theme being a bomb threat and who responded to the exercise along with how the exercise was handled. He talked about the updated training for the Town Council and County Commissioners that occurred during the past year. He continued presenting his annual report including incidents involving the release of petroleum products, citizens' complaints regarding air quality/water quality, searches and their locations, training with the National Guard helicopter, multi-hazard plan in place, still waiting on Wilkes County to submit theirs for approval then the regional plan is good until 2018. He talked about the mobile generator is in place and currently working on the placement of the EOC backup generator.

Gerald Leftwich and Chair Cox talked about the recent training debriefing is tomorrow night.

Commissioner Smith and Gerald Leftwich talked about the bombs at the training exercise were all found.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the school district summary showing the last five years' comparison of each school's testing performance.

Commissioner Leys and Dr. Cox talked about the impressive growth, the common core and how to compare along with the need to prepare the kids for more challenges.

Commissioner Smith and Dr. Cox talked about the graduation rate including this year's rate should be over 90% and in the top 10 in the State.

Dr. Cox talked about their recent construction projects of the lights at the baseball and football fields, roof repairs as leaks are discovered, scheduled to open bids soon for the brick façade and the biology/chemistry labs. He explained that the classrooms renovations are part of the Golden Leaf grant and brick façade monies will be coming out of their fund balance. He presented a brief presentation about his trip to China about the STEM education competition.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:30 am.

County Manager Don Adams presented the April 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Scattered Site Program. He explained the report and stated that this is a required monthly report.

County Manager Don Adams presented the workers compensation and property/liability renewal quotes for 2013/14 through the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). He reviewed the quotes; workers compensation renewal is \$102,748 compared to current year \$110,847 or \$8,099 less and property/liability renewal is \$106,422 counting the multi-pool discount of \$3,745 compared to \$104,264 current year or \$2,158 more. He talked about there isn't any significant changes.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the decrease in the workers compensation rate.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to renew the workers compensation insurance with NCACC. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to renew the property/liability insurance with NCACC. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that NCDOT has requested a secondary road public hearing to discuss paving and maintenance of secondary roads. He talked about the proposed amount is \$358,569.47. He further talked about a few years ago it was over \$1,000,000. He explained after the public hearing the Board can concur, make recommendations, or take no action at all. He stated that at least three Commissioners need to attend the public hearing, and NCDOT is requesting the hearing in June.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about NCDOT runs the public hearing.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about information the Commissioners will have prior to the meeting. The County Manager explained his experience is people come talk about other NCDOT issues not these.

The Board and the County Manager talked about dates/times for the meeting. The Commissioners decided on Monday, June 10 at 6:00pm.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Phil Trew in regards to the Region D Development Corporation membership. He explained that this is the corporation that handles the SBA 504 loan program. He reviewed the current members are himself, Bryan Edwards, Dennis Gambill and Russell Sheets. He explained that Russell Sheets will continue to serve if no one else will. He said it is proposed that Clark Hunter be appointed in lieu of Russell Sheets.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about these are one-year appointments. The County Manager explained more about the SBA loan process.

Chair Cox asked if there are any other nominations for this. No one spoke.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to appoint Don Adams, Bryan Edwards, Dennis Gambill and Clark Hunter to the Region D Development Corporation. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox encouraged the Commissioners to continue to have conversations with the County Manager about developing the budget.

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

Dennis Smith talked about he has been sharing examples of how parts of the government have been taken over by criminals. He stated what has come to light since the last meeting, and should be obvious to everyone, is that you can't trust the government. He said the government is no better than the character of the people who willed its power. He read a quote by Robert Charles Winthrop. He further read a prayer offered by a North Carolina County Commissioner.

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) (6)—personnel at 12:01pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau left the meeting at 12:01pm.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:35pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Chair Cox stated that no actions were taken in closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn at 12:36pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman