

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 6, 2011, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

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

Chair Richardson stated that House Bill 350 needs to be added to the agenda under the County Manager's Business.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this June 6, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, June 6, 2011  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for June 6, 2011, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for May 16, 2011, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Gerald Leftwich  
RE: Piney Creek 6-Mile Fire Insurance District  
C. County Manager's Business  
1. July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday  
2. Region D Development Corporation Board Appointments  
3. Regional Library Board Appointment  
4. Budget Amendment—Soil & Water Insurance Proceeds  
5. Budget Amendment—Social Services Adoption Assistance  
6. Budget Discussions/Schedule  
7. House Bill 350 (added)  
D. County Commissioners' Business  
1. Commissioner Advocacy in Raleigh—Chair Richardson  
2. RPO Road Ranking—Commissioner Roten  
3. Other Comments  
E. Adjourn

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 16, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Dennis Smith provided an example of a young former Marine trying to protect his family died during an incident involving the police. He explained that this is not an isolated case. He talked about drug issues in this Country. He read a letter about who benefits from the current drug problems being the big banks. He talked about the fall of the Roman republic and how history repeats itself. He stated that only God can restore the American republic. He read an acknowledgment of God from the Senate.

Brandon Hawks came before the Board to talk about the proposed budget and the economy. He talked about the proposed 2¢ tax increase has more negative effects than positive effects. He further talked about the current economic trends especially with food and fuel prices. He talked about now is the time for the Board to adopt some solutions to the problems of the county. He said for the Commissioners to remember to ask themselves at whose expense is the proposed tax increase.

Chris Huysman provided papers to the Commissioners from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He reviewed some of the demographic statistics from the County Profile including the numbers/percentages of people working, retirees, commuters driving ½ hour or more, education, housing issues, people living below poverty level and employment/unemployment. He said that there are specific examples in the budget where cuts can be made but he thought he would share this information so everyone is looking at the same thing. He asked the Board to review the information he provided.

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

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, talked about he appeared before the Board recently about extending the 5-mile fire insurance districts to 6-mile fire insurance districts. He explained that the lines cannot cross State lines, county lines or other fire district lines. He talked about a portion of Piney Creek Fire Department's crosses the river but firemen access the properties by going across State lines. He further talked about the need for another resolution just for the Piney Creek Fire Department to send to Raleigh for their approval. He explained that if the Board receives phones calls about this, the Board can refer calls to him. He reminded the Board of the process/timeline.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the first meeting in July falls on the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

The Board agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday, July 5 at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams explained the Region D Development Corporation and the request for reappointments of Bryan Edwards, Dennis Gambill, Russell Sheets and himself to serve another term on this Board.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to reappoint Bryan Edwards, Dennis Gambill, Russell Sheets and Don Adams to serve another term on the Region D Development Corporation. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from John Hedrick requesting Sandy Herndon be reappointed to serve on the Northwestern Regional Library. He reminded the Board that the Commissioner appointee is Commissioner Tom Smith.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to reappoint Sandy Herndon to serve another term on the Northwestern Regional Library Board. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #25 in the amount of \$2,150. He explained that this is insurance proceeds where Soil and Water's vehicle was hit after someone ran a red light. He further explained that this is not monies from our insurance company.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #25 in the amount of \$2,150. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #26 in the amount of \$28,800 for additional adoption assistance monies for Social Services. He explained that there are no County funds involved.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #26 in the amount of \$28,800. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about House Bill 350. He explained he was approached by Representative Stevens asking for a response about the Bill. He reviewed the packet he provided to the Commissioners; copy of email responding to her request, House Bill 350, top five priority goals of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), NCACC's Taxation and Finance Policy Statement, NCACC taxation and finance legislative proposals. He talked about his initial email where he responded that Alleghany County was not in favor. He explained that he thought it was prudent to bring this topic before the Board since there may be local groups in favor of this Bill. He read her question and his response to the tax exempt status for land conservation groups. He said that the basis for his email is the NCACC's legislative goals and this being a top five priority goal of preserving the existing local revenue base. He talked about these goals were discussed with the Commissioners. He read the highlighted areas. He read the proposed House Bill 350. He reiterated why he responded. He said he is presenting this to the Board to see if the Board wants to change or add to how he responded.

Commissioner Goudreau said that the Commissioners did discuss this early on. He explained that he had also emailed her about this action will erode the tax base. He stated that in his opinion the Board has to try to protect the tax base.

Chair Richardson asked if any Board member has a problem with the County Manager's response. No one spoke.

County Manager Don Adams provided proposed agendas for the budget meetings on June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>. He explained that this is subject to change. He provided copies of the current fee schedules. He explained that there is time scheduled at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the fee schedules. He talked about his previous conversation about a federal surplus vehicle available for the Maintenance Department.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about they are holding this vehicle. The County Manager explained that he has to call tomorrow because they cannot hold it for extended periods of time. When asked if he is recommending this vehicle, the County Manager stated that he is recommending a vehicle for Maintenance Department. He explained that he goes back and forth in his mind about this vehicle and explained why; mileage and age.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about a vehicle request was submitted last year. The County Manager explained what would occur with the current vehicle and how vehicles get moved to other departments.

Chair Richardson asked if there is permission to replace the Maintenance Director's truck.

Commissioner Roten asked if this is going to be part of the budget process. The County Manager explained the timing on the federal surplus vehicle. They talked about it is six years old. Commissioner Roten stated that he doesn't think it is that good of a deal.

Chair Richardson said he is gathering that the Board wants it to follow the budget process and pass on this one.

Chair Richardson talked about the budget public hearing is June 27 at 6:30pm. The County Manager and Clerk agreed.

Chair Richardson talked about when he and Commissioner Smith were in Raleigh there were counties who have employees in Raleigh to work on their behalf and a few counties have an appointed Commissioner to go to Raleigh to advocate on behalf of their county. He explained that he approached Commissioner Goudreau about doing this for Alleghany County, and he graciously agreed to do so. He further explained that he wanted to see if anyone has any problems with that. No one spoke.

Commissioner Roten talked about moving Oklahoma Road up the RPO's priority ranking. He explained that it has been re-ranked to the #10 priority instead of #28, where it was.

Chair Richardson and Commissioner Roten talked about the top three are funded currently.

The County Manager explained that this list used to be 40 rankings but now is 28. He further explained the importance of what Commissioner Roten accomplished because when NCDOT is looking at funding projects they base 25% of their decision on those points. He stated it takes the points from 12/14 to 52 which drastically increases the chances for funding.

Chair Richardson talked about this is a good example of a topic to start communicating with Raleigh.

Commissioner Cox talked about a booklet for youth activities for June and July. He reviewed some of the activities in the booklet and provided copies to the Commissioners, County Manager and Clerk.

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 7:22pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman