

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 15, 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 Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Milly Richardson was present but arrived late.

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 that EMS Fee Schedule needs to be added to the agenda, delete item #7 and add Budget Discussions.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this June 15, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA
Monday, June 15, 2009
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for June 15, 2009, meeting
Motion on Minutes for June 1, 2009, meeting
Motion on May Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Linda Edwards
RE: Ambulances Bids
EMS Fee Schedule (added)
- C. County Business
1. Surplus 1998 Ambulance
 2. Surplus Ambulances Bids
 3. Alleghany Memorial Hospital Resolutions
 4. Joint Meeting with Town Reminder
 5. Solid Waste Management Plan Update Resolution
 6. Board of Education Van
 7. Merchant Marine Seamen of WWII Resolution (deleted)
 8. BROCC Board Appointment
 9. Year-End Budget Amendments
 10. Other Business
 11. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development
 12. Budget Discussions (added)
 13. Adjourn

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 1, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the real refunds and releases for May. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the auto refunds and releases for May. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

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.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Supervisor, came before the Board to discuss the recent ambulance bids. She reviewed the bid summary for Type I and Type III trucks: Type I, Southern Emergency Vehicles \$110,716 for Dodge 4500, Wheeled

Coach \$114,332 for Dodge 4500, First Class Fire Apparatus \$115,977 for Sterling Bullet Chassis, Northwestern Emergency Vehicles \$116,541 for Dodge 4500; Type III Southern Emergency Vehicles \$96,250 for Chevy G4500, Wheeled Coach \$105,257 for Chevy 3500, First Class Fire Apparatus \$99,894 for Chevy 3500, Northwestern Emergency Vehicles \$105,296 for Chevy G4500. She explained the differences between the types of trucks including delivery times. She talked about the need for a backup truck now.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Edwards talked about why she is recommending one two-wheel drive and one four-wheel drive.

Chair Ken Richardson and Linda Edwards talked about these vehicles are diesels.

Linda Edwards talked about the insurance replacement cost coverage of \$85,000. She explained where that amount came from including the purchase of the most recent remount. She further explained that Federal regulations have changed making the prices increase.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Edwards discussed the Type III trucks.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve purchasing the Southeastern Emergency Vehicles for Type III in the amount of \$96,250. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Linda Edwards talked about the differences in prices of Type I and the delay of the chassis.

Commissioner Doug Murphy, County Manager Don Adams and Linda Edwards discussed that they wouldn't provide a cost break to purchase both from the same company.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Linda Edwards talked about gas mileage being worse but brake wear being better.

Chair Ken Richardson and Linda Edwards talked about warranty coverage for the box and the chassis.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the warranty work being done in Ashe County.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to go with Southeastern for the Type I truck. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Linda Edwards presented information regarding the EMS fee schedule. She talked about the current fee schedule and proposed rates for 2009-2010. She talked about the Medicare ruling, and Medicare is the lead organization for all insurance companies. She talked about the County hasn't adjusted rates in the past three to four years. She talked about 65% of patients are Medicare patients.

Commissioner Milly Richardson arrived at 3:45pm.

Linda Edwards continued talking about the proposed rates for 2009-2010. She talked about the mileage rate of \$9 per mile or \$10 per mile.

County Manager Don Adams and Linda Edwards talked about allowable charges.

Linda Edwards provided a breakdown of EMS clientele. She talked about the proposal with \$9 per mile increase will provide an opportunity to bill an additional \$54,900 and probably collect around \$40,000 to \$45,000.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Linda Edwards talked about the allowable charges for Medicare.

Chair Ken Richardson and Linda Edwards talked about typical costs for ambulance services for in-county trips and out-of-county trips. They talked about very few are private pay. They further talked about the Medicaid enhancement of \$40,000 through NCACC. She explained that the per cost trip is a little over \$500.

County Manager Don Adams requested for the Board to have all of the fee schedules reviewed at the next budget meeting.

Linda Edwards stated that they have approximately 26,000 loaded patient miles a year. She talked about Ashe County has a private service and charge \$10.41 per mile. She further talked about the costs of medical supplies.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Linda Edwards talked about the mileage fee starts when the patient is loaded. They discussed the maximum per mile rate is \$10.41.

County Manager Don Adams explained that one bid had been received for the 2003 Chevrolet ambulance of \$4,126 from Old Quarry Auto and there were no bids on the other ambulances.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the bid from Old Quarry Auto. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion.

Commissioner Steve Roten excused himself from the vote because this is his son.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:0.

County Manager Don Adams and Chair Ken Richardson talked about the 1998 ambulance and taking offers on it.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to declare the 1998 ambulance surplus. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented two resolutions for Skyline Telephone and BREMCO regarding Alleghany Memorial Hospital. He reviewed the loan terms to repay the loans.

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

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board of the joint meeting with Town on June 29 at 7:00pm at the Sparta Town Hall.

County Manager Don Adams presented a resolution for the solid waste management plan update.

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

County Manager Don Adams talked about a request from the Board of Education regarding if the County wanted a 1989 Dodge 12 passenger van. He explained that they have to check to see if the County is interested in a vehicle before it can be sold. He said that he doesn't know of any use for it.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to reject the offer from the Board of Education on the van. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a request to reappoint Mike Parlier to the BROCC board.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #35 in the amount of \$17,955. He explained that this was the draw down from the ADM funds that were spilt with the Board of Education. He further explained that the County kept \$10,000 for the prior agreement regarding the PEG grant. He said that he has discussed this with Dr. Cox.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #35 in the amount of \$17,955. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #36 in the amount of \$2,052. He explained that this is budget for additional costs for retaining Ed Woltz on legal issues.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #36 in the amount of \$2,052. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #37 in the amount of \$258 for roaring gap deputies.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #37 in the amount of \$258. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about dental clinic that was recently held and the wonderful response received. He said that it is already scheduled again for next year. He stated his appreciation to all of the volunteers.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to go into closed session at 4:08pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to adjourn closed session at 4:28pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Chair Ken Richardson talked about asking each Commissioner to bring their budget priorities to this meeting. He reviewed his previous discussions about how to proceed with the budget. He talked about providing time for the County Manager and Clerk to work on the Board's recommendations in order to discuss them on June 22.

Chair Ken Richardson explained his priorities with the budget: keep employees in the LEC, tax office, DSS; restore longevity; freeze hiring of county employees except with approval from the Commissioners; restoring funding to 2008/09 level for the Board of Education, library, health department, Council on Aging, Group Homes, Wilkes Community College, Smoky Mountain; no department cut more than 10%; only one year commitment on cuts; move forward with any programs that are needed.

Commissioner Randy Miller explained his priorities with the budget: number one priority is personnel; need to keep jobs in health department, ADAP; education, maybe \$150,000; don't cut Sheriff's department; Volunteer Fire Department's \$90,000; try to find some way for the Wellness Center to stand on own two feet, find ways to get pool covered; look at lower the cuts from 35% to 15% or 20%; support library and Wilkes Community College; 15% on fund balance and realize have to pay the money back; don't take services away.

Commissioner Milly Richardson explained her priorities with the budget: agree with the comments regarding personnel in LEC, tax office and DSS; keep longevity; agree with Ken's list of special appropriation but wants to add ADAP; open to what the Board wants to do; concern for fire departments, if the Board can find the money that will be good or she has some cuts in special appropriations for it; don't want to go to

15% but will if needed; no tax increase; rather have 16% or 17% fund balance.

Commissioner Doug Murphy explained his priorities with the budget: keep tax office, LEC, DSS employees; provide \$175,000 to schools, more if possible; look at fire commission for safety needs; leave longevity alone; find the money for holiday pay; in favor of ADAP and mental health; Wilkes Community College's need for the family literacy program; library; look at secondary funding for the Family Resource Center, Connections and Senior Services; Wellness Center-don't have a problem with the phase out but need to look to find a way to help this groups be self supportive; no tax increase; move ADAP out of secondary functions because of their association with mental health.

Commissioner Steve Roten explained his priorities with the budget: will not support a tax increase; look at some user fees or something like that; cannot support cut in pay; not cut longevity; no pay reduction—cut other places; keep all of the employees—offer other positions if they are available; secondary functions is where cuts should be made.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he is support of the hiring freeze if the County takes care of the current advertised positions first.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated he agreed.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he would be comfortable with the fund balance going to 16% or 17%.

Chair Ken Richardson thanked the Board of Commissioners for this information. The Board talked about times for the meeting on June 22 and decided on 7:00pm.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the County Manager and Clerk will bring back items for more discussions.

Chair Ken Richardson recessed the meeting at 4:55pm until June 22 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman