

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners reconvened the recessed meeting from Thursday, June 18, 2015, on Friday, June 19, 2015, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting was for budget discussions.

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

Chair Smith reconvened the recessed meeting at 6:30pm. He stated the people invited to attend tonight couldn't make it but will be here Tuesday morning. He said the County Manager has worked on the fee schedules.

County Manager Adams explained that Travis Dalton worked on the Inspections fee schedule and provided copies of the new proposed fee schedule. He reviewed the proposed rate changes.

Chair Smith asked for questions or comments.

The County Manager said all of those were taken to the Ashe County rates. He reviewed the proposed revenue changes for each category including a decrease with commercial trade permit because the policy would be changed back to commercial trades wouldn't be at a minimum of \$265 but is double the residential trades' fees. He said the total increase is \$6,610.

Commissioner Irwin asked does that seem reasonable. Commissioner Evans said he thinks so. Commissioner Evans asked for clarification on the decrease from the commercial trades' permits. The County Manager said that's correct. Commissioner Evans asked about the \$290 for an addition is for the first 1,000 square feet, and it might make sense to add a fee for a smaller addition and gave examples of a small bathroom versus a larger 1,000 square feet addition. The County Manager recommended if the Board is going to take a second look at that then keep it at \$200 or a smaller increase.

Commissioner Irwin asked if a permit is required for work you do yourself. The County Manager answered that he would prefer the Inspectors answer that because he isn't completely sure.

Chair Smith talked about looking at the addition/remodel and asked does the Board want to look at that again. Commissioner Leys and the County Manager said there may be more conversations on that one, and the County Manager's recommendation is to reduce it back down, and \$290 is equitable to surrounding counties. Commissioner Irwin said it is fine with him.

Chair Smith asked about motion to move on the permit fees.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve as presented. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Mark Evans).

County Manager Adams said the next fee schedule is the Fire Inspections. He reviewed the change on capping the fees and the loss revenues with the different amounts for the different cap levels.

Chair Smith talked about a \$400 cap. Commissioner Evans agreed somewhere in that neighborhood. Commissioner Irwin asked about which cap amount and said the Board isn't talking about a lot of money difference on the different caps. Commissioner Leys talked about the comparison of other counties.

Commissioner Irwin asked how many larger building we have. The County Manager talked about the number of complaints over the years and explained why the need to look at this.

Commissioner Evans said he is leaning towards the \$600 cap. Commissioner Leys said that falls in line with Ashe.

Commissioner Irwin and the County Manager talked about the frequency of inspections are determined by the business' use. They further talked about what Daniel Roten looks for during the inspections.

Chair Smith asked for a motion on the fire inspections fees.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to set it at a \$600 cap. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys asked about charging an ABC permit of \$35 since we don't have one. The County Manager explained there are fees for the Planner and Building Inspections regarding ABC permits and looking at those fees in comparison to Ashe County. Commissioner Evans mentioned if we added \$35 to ours then it would be \$110, similar to Ashe County, and he does have to go out on those permits.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to change the fee from \$0 to \$35 for an ABC permit.

Commissioner Irwin asked if that is \$35 for all three or individually. The County Manager talked about all three together and provided examples. Commissioner Evans said he was thinking if ABC was added and new business is just one \$35 fee. The County Manager said \$35 would cover the new business and ABC in one trip. Commissioner Irwin and County Manager talked about when a business is transferred it requires him to go out.

Commissioner Leys clarified to change policy from \$0 to \$35 for an ABC permit. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Adams mentioned the solid waste fees and transportation fees, which both had handwritten information. He reviewed the changes on Alleghany in Motion's (AIM) fees.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve AIM's fees. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Adams reviewed changes on the solid waste fees.

Commissioner Leys said these increase are necessary to cover costs.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the changes on the solid waste fees. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion.

Commissioner Evans and the County Manager talked about losses are from revenue projections are lower, some expenses increased, and combination of all of them along with covering depreciation.

Commissioner Davis mentioned tonnage has been going down. Commissioner Leys said the last rate increase was 2008/09.

The County Manager talked about we have been spending down the savings over the years.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Adams reviewed the EMS and Recreation fee schedules and unless there are other questions on the fees, the Board will hold the public hearing and all fee schedules will be presented after the public hearing for a final vote.

Chair Smith asked about going back to address presentations. He asked for questions about Lisa Osborne's request.

Commissioner Irwin said his question was where was the money coming from with one answer being out of the fund balance, and this request will come back next year. He asked

has Social Services' caseload ever gone down. Commissioner Leys said it has grown since the economy went bad. The County Manager stated that he agrees the caseload has grown, and he can't recall a reduction in staff prior to that.

Commissioner Davis talked about they are also adding new programs. Commissioner Leys pointed out that new programs require more time.

Commissioner Irwin said he doesn't mind the people but if the State mandates it then they should pay for it, and he sees this department growing each year. He talked about his concern over taking it out of fund balance. Chair Smith stated that to this point we haven't changed the fund balance. Chair Smith and Commissioner Leys talked about the functions for this job. Chair Smith and Commissioner Leys talked about the amount is \$21,032.

Chair Smith asked for other questions or comments.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the position for \$21,032 to get Allegheny County into compliance with the required ratio. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion.

Commissioner Evans said he has to go along with Commissioner Irwin's concern with another way to pay for it but we need it.

Commissioner Irwin talked about where the proposed money will come from. The County Manager explained with this addition the fund balance appropriation is \$551,905.

Commissioner Leys asked how much money in 2013/14 came from Social Services and from the State to increase the fund balance. The County Manager said it was nothing because we spend more than we receive. He showed her the amount of revenues and expenditures.

Commissioner Irwin and Commissioner Leys talked about it is a liability issue if this position isn't funded.

The County Manager explained to Commissioner Leys that Social Services didn't spend all of the monies is probably what John Blevins was showing, which goes back into the fund balance.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (Bobby Irwin).

Chair Smith said the next presentation was from the Chamber of Commerce. He reviewed conversations up to this point including the possibility of putting a stipulation on the funding. He asked for questions.

Commissioner Leys asked about delaying the decision until the Commissioners' July meeting due to they should learn something from the grant by then. Chair Smith said that he does recall the Chamber got money from the County and the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) provides them money. Commissioner Leys talked about they were funded through occupancy tax. The County Manager explained several previous examples of their funding from the County. Commissioner Leys and the County Manager talked about the occupancy tax monies are now required to go to the TDA. The County Manager provided background of the occupancy tax and using a portion for administration, which goes through to the Chamber. Chair Smith said yes he agrees waiting until July. Commissioner Evans said he agrees.

Chair Smith said we are done with the Arts. He reviewed the other items left.

The County Manager asked for clarification if Arts has been decided.

Chair Smith and Commissioner Evans talked about the amount provided to the Arts Council and Arts Guild. Chair Smith reviewed the other comments or changes for the Arts Guild; \$5,625 for the opportunity to get the matching grant from the State, \$6,600 match for the grant and hoping the Town would help them on the difference.

Chair Smith asked for a motion on a change for the Arts Guild. No one spoke.

Chair Smith talked about meeting again next Tuesday at 8:30am.

The County Manager provided information about the notice that the Clerk has to send out on Monday. The Board agreed with the notice.

Chair Smith recessed this meeting at 7:45pm until Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair