

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 20, 2011, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman 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.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the agenda for this June 20, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, June 20, 2011
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for June 20, 2011, meeting
Motion on Minutes for June 1 & June 6, 2011, meetings
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Rita Miller
RE: May Releases and Refunds
May Collections Report
Late Application for Disabled Veteran's Exclusion
Motor Vehicle Interest Release Request
Commercial Solid Waste Fee Release Request
- C. County Manager's Business
1. Language Access Plan for CDBG—Scattered Site Grant
2. Animal Control
3. Budget Discussions
- D. County Commissioners' Business
1. Firefighters Week in North Carolina—Chair Richardson
2. Other Business
- E. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development
- F. Adjourn

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 1 and June 6, 2011, meetings. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson asked for public comments.

Chair Richardson talked about former County Commissioner Eldon Edwards passed away this morning. He further talked about his service to this county and country. He stated that Georgia Warden passed away this weekend and talked about her years of service through the Division of Motor Vehicles. He stated that the Board received a Certificate of Appreciation from Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission.

Dennis Smith talked about media coverage and the builderberg group in Switzerland, and meetings of the builderberg group being held in secret. He talked about mainstream media coverage. He quoted a portion of the congressional record regarding newspaper coverage. He talked about media coverage for the world. He provided a quote by David Rockefeller. He provided a quote by Walter Cronkite about world government. He said that these people are a real treat to our way of life. He asked the Board and everyone to educate themselves to the real threats to our Republic. He read a prayer offered in the Senate.

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

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the May auto releases and refunds, real releases and refunds.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the May auto releases and refunds, real releases and refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the May collections' report. She reviewed the amount billed, collected and the collection rates for real property and vehicles.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about providing information to the Board about the amount of taxes uncollected.

Rita Miller presented a late application for a veteran's exclusion. She explained that the applicant had been waiting on the Veterans Administration for the proper paperwork.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to accept the application. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented a request to release the interest on an old motor vehicle bill. She reviewed the request and explained that this is for a 2001 tax bill.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to deny this request.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about how far back she is trying to collect taxes. He stated his appreciation for the efforts.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented a solid waste fee release for a business that never became active. She explained that the release is \$209.39.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller talked about accounts that have been turned over to the County Attorney for legal collection action regarding prior-year taxes.

Commissioner Roten asked is there a master list of what is owed from 2009 and back. Rita Miller answered yes.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about county employees who haven't paid their taxes have either now paid their taxes or are being garnished.

Rita Miller talked about she will be bringing information to the July meeting for settlements and insolvents.

Rita Miller explained that they are making payment arrangements with several people. She reviewed their additional collection efforts.

County Manager Don Adams presented the Language Access Plan for the next CDBG – Scattered Site Housing Grant. He quickly reviewed the Scattered Site Housing Grant. He reviewed the reason for the Language Access Plan and how Social Services will be assisting High Country Council of Governments on our Plan for the Scattered Site Grant.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the Language Access Plan. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about Animal Control. He explained that he has met with the Sheriff, J. C. Rife, the District Attorney, Magistrate, Larry Davis and the Health Department regarding animal control. He further explained that records are kept but isn't kept in a database. He stated that they will be approaching the possibility of charging people. He said that the Sheriff's office works with the County on bite cases. He explained one thing that he is going to do is to educate people about taking out a warrant rather than Animal Control staff pursuing the legal action. He further explained that this will be a future discussion with the Board. He talked about the need for better enforcement.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about our animal control ordinance is defined as dogs.

The County Manager explained the highlights of the ordinance. He further explained the Health Department gets involved when rabies are involved or animals that are deemed a health issue. He explained that if the Board wants to talk about cats, the County will have to expand our space and resources. He reviewed the current contract with Twin Oaks for dogs that are brought into the shelter.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about how 911 calls are handled regarding who is responsible for a rabid animal and how the ordinance discusses rabies.

County Manager Don Adams explained that animal control does not respond on weekends or at night except for two reasons; bites or rabies and explained it's due to lack of personnel. He further explained that if anyone ever wishes to go further in animal control, it becomes a resource issue. He said that he wanted to explain how animal control is handed currently, and if that changes it becomes a resource issue and a restructure issue.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about kittens at the recycling center and who is responsible. They discussed what is done with animals through the Save-A-Pet foundation and the shelter. The County Manager discussed what the County does financially at the shelter.

Commissioner Cox asked about larger animals, such as, horses and cows. The County Manager talked about cattle has a State law.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that it is allowing livestock to run at large.

The County Manager gave an example of a horse recently, and the County doesn't have a provision that deals with horses nor has the resources to deal with the larger animals.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the last budget meeting was recessed so that can be skipped on the agenda.

Chair Richardson discussed a resolution sent by Charles Graham in the House of Representatives regarding firefighters' week in North Carolina.

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

Commissioner Cox made a motion to enter into closed session at 10:48am under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn closed session at 11:20am and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 11:23pm. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman