

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners reconvened the recessed meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 10:00am from Wednesday, June 24, 2015, in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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 10:00am. He explained today hopefully the Commissioners can finish the budget work including the public hearing was held last night. He asked for comments or questions.

Commissioner Leys said everyone has done their due diligence to the budget, and she appreciates everyone working together. She talked about it is a long but good process. She thanked the Chairman for leading the Board.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the 2015/16 budget. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 3:2 (Bobby Irwin, Mark Evans).

Commissioner Evans said he would like to revisit the Inspections fee schedule and take the additions/remodel back to \$200 for the first 200 square feet then \$0.10 per square feet over 200 up to 1,000 square feet.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve all of the fee schedules with this change to the Inspections fees. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the pay plans. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the reimbursement resolution. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Adams read the language of the proposed change for the new hire policy regarding employees hired after 7/1/15 will not receive County insurance benefits after becoming eligible for Medicare.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the new hire policy. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Irwin commented on budget that the Commissioners worked on by thanking all of the Board members, Don Adams, Karen Evans, the Finance office and anyone else worked on the budget. He said the Board looked through everything that they could. He stated that he has some concerns in areas of the budget and provided examples including raising taxes.

Commissioner Leys stated that the Commissioners didn't do a tax increase because this is a revenue-neutral tax rate and if taxes go up then the value went up. She reiterated this is a revenue-neutral tax budget.

Chair Smith said this is his fifth budget, and through those five there is no perfect budget. He talked about taking five elected people the Commissioners have done as well as can. He said thank you. He stated to everyone on this Board that he is proud to serve with you. He further stated that work started on the budget process several months ago. He said as a citizen, he appreciates the work done on the budget.

Commissioner Evans said it has been interesting. He further said that he appreciates the passion of everyone sitting on the Board, and the Commissioners don't always agree. He thanked Karen Evans, Don Adams and

the employees who have put a lot into this. He said that a lot of things he agrees with but he does feel like it is a tax increase, and he understands the revenue-neutral rate. He talked about there are a lot of PR issues in the county, and he wished people would get more involved and be a part of it. He said it is dishearten when there is a public hearing and five people come. He thanked everyone for their comments, concerns and questions.

Commissioner Irwin said he understands the revenue-neutral tax rate is affected by value changes but he thinks at the end of the day when people pay their taxes the majority of the people will pay more. He expressed his concern about the amount of people who will have to pay more especially the fixed income and low income people. He agreed he wished more people would be involved.

Commissioner Leys, Chair Smith and the County Manager discussed when the last tax increase was; 2012/13.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 10:23am. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans, Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith, Chair