

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, June 28, 2010, 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 Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the meeting at 6:30pm regarding the fiscal year 2010/11 ordinance.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the proposed fee schedules with the only change is in the Transfer Facility/Solid Waste fee schedule, pay grade plan, proposed temporary amendment holiday furlough policy. He further reviewed the proposed budget ordinance for 2010/11: General Fund in the amount of \$13,570,153; Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$180,181; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$350,901; Fairgrounds Fund in the amount of \$27,919; Soil and Water Fund in the amount of \$35,628; Special Revenue Drug Fund in the amount of \$141,000; Register of Deeds Enhancement Fund in the amount of \$50,679; Library Fund in the amount of \$46,754; School Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$509,822; Transfer Facility Fund in the amount of \$751,002; E-911 Fund in the amount of \$310,100; Property Taxes/Tax Rate; Special Authorization—Budget Officer; Restriction—Budget Officer; Capital Project Funds; Utilization of Budget and Budget Ordinance.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:45pm. He asked for public comments regarding the 2010/11 budget ordinance.

John Hedrick with Northwestern Regional Library and Alleghany County Public Library thanked the Board for maintaining their current level of funding.

Linda Chekanow thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and for holding the Library's funding level. She talked about the programs held at the library. She further talked about it would have been a severe blow to the citizens if the funding had been reduced. She reiterated her appreciation for the Board's support.

Genia George came before the Board talking about the funding reduction discussed by the Board for the Arts Council. She explained that most of the programs at the library are funded by the Arts Council. She further explained that if the Arts Council can't match the State funds; the money has to be sent back. She talked about the current program that is being held at the library tonight. She said that she respectfully requests the Board to restore some of their funding. She talked about the children's programs, numbers for those programs and some of the other programs that they provide. She reiterated her requests for the Board to restore part of their funding.

DW Miles came before the Board to talk about the support for the business community is gone from the budget. He talked about the retail community is very fragile, and they need support. He further talked about the County gets tax revenue from the retail community. He talked about the chamber being eliminated and the fireworks show being eliminated. He explained that this is about the welfare of the retailers and their impact to the county. He said he respectfully requests that the numbers for the chamber and the fireworks be reviewed again. He talked about the Summer Jamboree is provided without asking any of the merchants for monetary support. He stated that he would like to see some support brought back into the community.

Chris Huysman talked about the Board is still looking at a fund balance appropriation of \$750,000, which he thinks is too large. He further talked about this is a concern because it doesn't provide the county with any buffer if the economy gets worse.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:54pm.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about hearing earlier from the chamber

saying that they were looking at approaching the Board about a change in the percentage of occupancy tax to charge/collect. He further talked about this is a merit-based request.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he has a problem with this budget because it is using way too much fund balance. He said that he hates it for the chamber but the County doesn't have the money. He talked about the Board hasn't done enough to anticipate what is coming in the following years.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the budget ordinance has been read and the public hearing has been held so it is up to Board now.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget ordinance as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Commissioner Steve Roten).

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the Transfer Facility fee schedule.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the Transfer Facility fee schedule. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson mentioned Allegheny in Motion's (AIM) fees.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve AIM's fee schedule. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson mentioned the inspection department's fees.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the inspection department's fee schedule. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the emergency management fire inspection fees.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the fire inspection fee schedule. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson mentioned the EMS fee schedule.

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

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the fee schedule for recreation.

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

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the salary pay grade plan for 2010/11.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the salary pay grade plan for 2010/11. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 3:2 (Milly Richardson, Steve Roten).

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the temporary furlough policy that corresponds with the budget.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve temporary policy. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson explained that this Board will move forward about requesting a referendum on the fall ballot regarding the ¼¢ sales tax.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that even though everyone isn't happy with the

budget; it is over a \$1,000,000 less than last year's budget. He talked about the Board has worked very hard on this budget.

Chair Ken Richardson reminded the Board that the next meeting is on Tuesday, July 6 at 6:30pm.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman