

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners reconvened the recessed meeting from Monday, June 27 on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at 8:00am 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 Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Richardson reconvened the meeting at 8:00am.

Jerry Brooks talked about the recessed meeting and he wants to make a comment.

Chair Richardson stated that the public hearing was last night.

Chair Richardson and Jerry Brooks discussed appealing the Chair's ruling on allowing speakers.

Commissioner Roten said he disagreed with how the public hearing was handled, and it wasn't discussed with the entire Board.

Commissioner Goudreau said the public wasn't awarded an opportunity to address the Board, just the Chair.

Chair Richardson explained that other public hearings were dealt with in a similar matter, and he has received comments that no one listened to comments addressed to the Commissioners.

Jerry Brooks talked about the public hearing and how it was conducted including it was corrupted by the Chair through intimidation of the people and the refusal to allow people to speak from the podium, which is the normal procedure. He said he would like for another public hearing to be scheduled and deem last night's meeting and today's meeting null and void. He said that their request is to remove the Chair from his role and his seat as a Commissioner.

County Manager Don Adams talked about one procedural matter is to close out the public hearing and open a special meeting since that is the way the meetings were advertised.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 3:2 (John Goudreau, Steve Roten).

Chair Richardson called the special meeting to order.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Transportation Department has a van that has been ordered and won't arrive until next fiscal year so he has put it in next year's budget.

Commissioner Cox, Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about how that affects the transportation budget, with no impact to the General Fund, and the revenues will also be carried over.

County Manager Don Adams explained the additional amount of \$2,160 that was added to the budget because it wasn't added in on the budget spreadsheet.

County Manager Don Adams explained the three items that needs to be addressed; pay plan, budget ordinance, and year-end budget amendments.

Chair Richardson asked for questions/comments from the Board regarding the handouts provided on the budget. No one spoke.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #27 in the amount of \$1,886. He explained that this is for additional utility expenses at the Health Department and additional costs for autopsies.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #27 in the amount of \$1,886. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #28 in the amount of \$769 for Roaring Gap Deputies. He explained that this is to budget for more than 26 pay periods in this budget and no one is receiving a salary increase.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #28 in the amount of \$769. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #29 in the amount of \$11,166 for additional workers compensation expenses as previously discussed.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #29 in the amount of \$11,166. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #30 in the amount of \$17,298 and School Capital Reserve Fund budget amendment #2 in the amount of \$17,298. He explained that this is the mandated sales tax that goes to the schools for capital expenses.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #30 in the amount of \$17,298 and School Capital Reserve Fund budget amendment #2 in the amount of \$17,298. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams provided the pay grade plan. He reviewed the changes; DSS, EMS, Assistant Tax Collector. He further reviewed the reasons for each of the changes.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the thrombolytic training and the timeframe for beginning the procedure. The County Manager further talked about ¼ of a year's additional salary is what has been budgeted.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the pay plan. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the part-time pay plan. He reviewed the position that was added of a transporter for the Sheriff's Department.

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

County Manager Don Adams provided copies of the budget ordinance as the budget is currently. He read the budget ordinance; General Fund in the amount of \$13,606,720, Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$142,921, Scattered Site—CBDG Grant Fund in the amount of \$400,000, Transportation Fund in the amount of \$499,445, Fairgrounds Fund in the amount of \$24,552, Soil and Water Fund in the amount of \$31,660, Special Revenue Drug Fund in the amount of \$138,328, Register of Deeds Enhancement Fund in the amount of \$54,580, Library Fund in the amount of \$54,566, Revaluation Fund in the amount of \$40,000, School Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$533,490, Transfer Facility Fund in the amount of \$771,988, E-911 Fund in the amount of \$214,213, property taxes/tax rate, special authorization – budget officer, restriction – budget officer, capital project funds, utilization of budget and budget ordinance.

Commissioner Roten reiterated his opposition to the tax increase.

Commissioner Goudreau said he stands with Commissioner Roten on this, and he listens to the public where they are opposed to a tax increase. He said he can't put an additional burden on them.

Commissioner Smith stated that he has observed revenue problems in the surrounding areas, and is fearful that if we don't do a little now there will be major adjustments later. He mentioned items that are coming financially; school capital, Allegheny Memorial Hospital. He talked about general on-going expenses have increased in the last four years. He said that he has studied this very closely, and people depend on these services.

Commissioner Cox said that he believes that the County Manager did a good job in presenting a conservative budget. He talked about the current economic conditions, things break and have to be replaced, having to do what we need to do. He talked about the many other problems coming down from the school system. He further talked about the need to continue to support our children to become their best. He said that this budget supports the older population, supports the Hospital, support for mental health, keeps support for the library, supports farmers, and supports County employees. He reiterated that costs increase and things break which has to be repaired or replaced. He said that this budget does what is required.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to adopt the budget ordinance. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Roten talked about he warned the Board earlier of being fiscally irresponsible. He further talked about the unwillingness to address the budget without a tax increase. He talked about undoing the prior Board's actions.

Commissioner Cox talked about last year's budget used over \$800,000 of fund balance.

Commissioner Goudreau said that cuts can be made in special appropriations. He further said we can balance the budget without a tax increase. He provided an example of the Wellness Center. He said he cannot support a tax increase without looking harder at this budget.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 3:2.

Chair Richardson talked about he is proud of this budget, respects the differences of opinion from the Board, and it is the Commissioners' responsibility to make sure the needs of the citizens are met. He said that the budget is a work in progress, and the Commissioners don't have to agree on everything.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 9:07am. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman