

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2011, 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 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 July 5, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Tuesday, July 5, 2011
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for July 5, 2011, meeting
Motion on Minutes for June 15, June 16, June 20, June 20, June 27, and June 28, 2011, meetings
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
C. Gerald Leftwich
RE: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Resolution
D. John Blevins
RE: Child Support Agent Position
E. Chris Huysman
RE: Recommendations for Budgetary Study
F. Forestry Service Annual Report
G. Wilkes Center for Deaf Annual Report
H. County Manager's/General Business
1. Jury Commission Appointment
2. Farmland Preservation Advisory Board Appointments
I. County Commissioners' Business
1. New Year and Challenges—Chair Richardson
2. Other Comments
J. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
K. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 15, June 16, June 20, June 20, June 27, and June 28, 2011, meetings. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for public comments.

Dennis Smith talked about God's love and everyone should understand that. He further talked about the dark forces of evil, and how they are taking over. He provided information/examples to support how the dark forces are taking over since the early 1900's. He talked about how evil can convince people that they are doing the right thing. He further talked about books that describe this and other ways that evil can convince people. He continued providing examples of how evil is taking over. He said that all evil needs are for Christians to be quiet. He read a prayer that was offered before the Senate.

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

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Travis Dalton, Planner, came before the Board to explain that all counties/towns must have a hazard mitigation plan. Gerald Leftwich explained that the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a Plan for the County/Town of Sparta in the event of a disaster and further explained that the Plan has to be updated every 5 years plus the importance of the Plan. Gerald Leftwich talked about updates in the Plan.

Chair Richardson opened the public hearing regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan at 6:48pm and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Gerald Leftwich explained that the Plan has been approved by the State.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the resolution for the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, came before the Board to request permission to fill the Child Support Agent position. He explained how he moved a person to fill the vacant Social Worker position, which created a vacancy of the Child Support Agent position. He explained the need for the position.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to grant the request. Chair Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chris Huysman provided papers to the Board. He reviewed his recommendations for budgetary studies and explained each one; direct the Tax Office to determine if Allegheny County should conduct a continual tax revaluation or designate different tax districts, direct the Finance Office to study the potential savings if County buildings are open four days a week, perform a study to determine the savings if non-essential employees have their hours reduced to 32-36 hours per week, direct Parks/Recreation to study the relationship between the size of the county and the amount of recreational facilities that the county provides, mandate that the recipients of tax funds account for each tax dollar spent. He said that this is a great opportunity to begin the studies since this is the beginning of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Goudreau said that he thinks this is some interesting ideas and the Board needs to keep an open mind. He further said he would like to look into this.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Huysman for his effort and research.

Brandon Keenan, County Ranger, came before the Board to present the annual report for the Forestry Service. He talked about their activities during the past year including the number of management plans written, number of tree plantings, cost-share program, timber stand improvements, inspection of logging sites, fire control activities, working with the fire departments on creating a wild land crew, acquisition of a truck for the wild land crew, causes of fires, Smoky the Bear/Farm Safety Day and pest control.

Chair Richardson and Brandon Keenan talked about quarantine for the county. They further talked about bittersweet.

Commissioner Cox and Brandon Keenan talked about the cost sharing program for bittersweet. They further talked about ways to destroy bittersweet and other pest.

Donna Key, Director, came before the Board to present the annual report for the Wilkes Center for Deaf. She talked about their activities during the past year including they have cut back to 4 days a week, number of interpretations, number of calls for their services, number of referrals and services for Allegheny County citizens.

Chair Richardson and Donna Key talked about the amount of services remaining the same in Allegheny County over the years.

County Manager Don Adams explained the title change of County Manager's/General Business.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Susie Gambill requesting that Virginia Van Hampton be reappointed to the Jury Commission.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to reappoint Virginia Van Hampton. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Paul Edwards requesting that Teresa Herman be appointed to replace Amy Lucas, reappoint Jim Dixon and Lewis Upchurch to serve another term on the Allegheny County Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program for a three-year term which will end June 30, 2014. He read a portion of the letter that Dennis Franklin chose not to accept the recommendation for reappointment, the board will make an effort to submit a recommendation for this

position with an interested citizen from the Cherry Lane or surrounding community, please recognize Dennis and thank him for his 8 years of service, being a charter member.

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

Chair Richardson stated, on behalf of the other Commissioners, he would like to thank Dennis Franklin and invite him to a Commissioners meeting.

Chair Richardson talked about July 1, 2011, was the beginning of a new year, the 3 newest Commissioners came into office inheriting a budget approved by another Board of Commissioners and the new majority now has the opportunity to lead Allegheny County with their own ideas and policies. He said that there are many issues and challenges before this Board. He further said he would like to address a few: North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and their recent mailing of the NCACC 2011 Legislative Overview, NCACC could not function without County Commissioners being willing to volunteer to work within this organization and he would encourage each Commissioner to choose a subcommittee to become involved with; received a grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), described the number/types of applications, grant was \$172,479 to fund the Veterans Park project and there needs to be a down payment made by this Fall or Allegheny County risks losing this grant; with the help of Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Cox in determining school needs, the Board needs to work with the Board of Education and provide funds for our High School and Piney Creek Elementary School; arrangements are being made for our Board and the Hospital Board to meet to discuss how we can assist the Hospital and the Commissioners must be willing to assure the Hospital Board of our willingness to work with them and deal with their issues/needs; the Commissioners appointed Commissioner Cox and himself to be the board members for two different mental health boards, their responsibilities are to ensure that the citizens of our county receive the best services along with making sure the tax dollars are wisely spent; New River receives almost \$900,000 from the 5 counties each year, is this the best provider system for Allegheny County, three counties (Alexander, Caldwell & McDowell) have gone in a different direction, asked before anyone forms an opinion they talk with the two appointed Commissioners; must be prepared to establish enough money for our next revaluation; County Manager had established a plan dealing with the capital needs of the County and the Commissioners should reinstitute plus support the plan; 35% of the county workforce needs to be reviewed and thinks the entire plan should be reviewed and updated, asked that Commissioner Smith to be part of a planning process with the County Manager to bring a better plan to the Board; Commissioners must be willing to explore all possibilities with small businesses, tourism, and continue to work with the North Carolina Department of Commerce to recruit employers to our county; Board will be hearing a future report indicating how critically understaffed we are at Social Services. He stated that the Commissioners as a Board were elected to move Allegheny County forward the best way for the citizens.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about Chris Huysman's comments could be incorporated into some of this and could be something for Commissioner Smith to look at regarding employees. He said that he doesn't know the State statutes about buildings being open. He explained that he has been working with the Town on the PARTF grant. He further explained that he had agreed to serve on a governmental committee with NCACC. He said there is definitely some stuff that the Board needs to talk about.

Commissioner Smith explained Commissioners had an opportunity to go to the Safety Training Facility during a training exercise last week. He thanked David Higgins and Glade Creek Fire Department for the invitation.

Commissioner Goudreau said he wanted to echo those comments. He talked about going in the flashover simulator.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:35pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development and 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:32pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Chair Richardson explained that he has been invited to Washington, DC to represent Allegheny County. He further explained that policy requires permission to travel out of the state.

Commissioner Roten asked about the costs.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this is through the LASER grant and explained what is paid for with the grant.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to allow the Chair to go to Washington, DC. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 8:35pm. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman