

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 15, 2013, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Chair Cox talked about the County Manager will be presenting the road name for Wendy Williams.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this July 15, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, July 15, 2013
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for July 15, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for June 6, 2013, Budget Meeting; June 17, 2013, Meeting, June 17, 2013, Budget Meeting and June 24, 2013, Budget Meeting
- 10:05 A. Public Hearing – E-911 Road Names
RE: To hear public comments regarding naming one new road in the Whitehead township; Arnies Lane.
- 10:10 B. Wendy Williams – E-911/Mapping Coordinator (changed to Don Adams)
RE: Naming of one new road in the Whitehead township; Arnies Lane.
Action Requested – Vote on the proposed road name.
- 10:15 C. Rita Miller - Tax Administrator
1. June Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on report. Actions Requested – Vote on releases and refunds.
2. June Collections Report - Monthly 2013 collection rates through June as compared to 2012 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of June 2013. No action requested
4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
5. Late Exemption Application. Action Requested – Vote on late exemption application.
- 10:25 D. April Hamm – Transportation Director
RE: Consideration of the Alleghany in Motion’s Vehicle Video/Audio Surveillance Systems Policy. Action Requested – Vote on the Vehicle Video/Audio Surveillance Systems Policy.
- 10:35 E. Clark Hunter - Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director
RE: Mr. Hunter will be discussing the proposed Economic Development Strategic Plan Development Process. A draft of the process is enclosed in the packets. The cost of this planning process is \$7,500. It is proposed that Alleghany County fund up to \$5,000 towards this process. Action Requested – Vote on contributing up to \$5,000 towards the Economic Development Strategic Plan Development Process.
- 10:45 F. Alleghany County Library Annual Report – Debbie Brewer, Librarian
- 11:00 G. Kate Cosner – Board of Elections Director
RE: Discussion of House Bill 607 in regards to paper ballot requirements and other updates regarding new potential legislation
- 11:10 G. General Business
1. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Report.
Required status report on housing program. No action requested.
2. Jury Commission Board Appointment
Virginia Van Hampton’s term on the Jury Commission has expired. She is willing to serve another 2-year term. Action Requested – Vote on Board Appointment
3. Library Annex Lease
The proposed lease is between Alleghany County (Lessor) and Southern Belle’s Nside & Out, LLC, owner Janet Crouse (Lessee) for property located at 136 North Main Street, Sparta, NC 28675. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed lease.

4. Alleghany County Flexible Benefits / Plan Cafeteria Plan
Action Requested – Vote on the Resolution Regarding the Cafeteria Plan.
5. Surplus Property—Service Weapon for A Retiring Deputy
Chief Deputy Carlton Edwards is retiring from service with Alleghany County. Sheriff David Edwards is requesting that Chief Edwards' handgun be classified as surplus and sold to Chief Edwards' for \$1 as a token of appreciation for the many years of service to Alleghany County. Action Requested – Vote to surplus the Sig Sauer PA 229; Serial # AM106587 and sell it to Chief Edwards for \$1.
6. Community Garden Budget Amendment
General Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of (\$975). This budget amendment is needed to reduce the Community Garden line item in the Extension Service to accurately reflect the amount available for this fiscal year. Action Requested – Vote on the General Fund Budget Amendment #1.
7. Community Social Services Assistant
1) Updated Pay Grade Plan shows the Community Social Services Assistant part-time position at a grade 54, \$8.34 an hour. 2) General Fund Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$9,783 to put the funding in place for the Community Social Services Assistant's position. No additional County funds needed. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed (1) Pay Grade Plan and (2) General Fund Budget Amendment #2.
8. Insurance Proceeds Budget Amendment
General Fund Budget Amendment #3 in the amount of \$1,652. This budget amendment is to budget insurance proceeds received for a vehicle accident within the Sheriff's Department. Action Requested – Vote on General Fund Budget Amendment #3.
9. Inter-Departmental Transfers
In accordance with the adopted budget ordinance, inter-departmental transfers will be reported to the Board. No action requested.
10. Emergency Management/Fire Inspector Position
Gerald Leftwich will be retiring from service September 1, 2013. It is requested to fill the vacant position. Action Requested – Vote to allow the vacant position to be filled at Grade 67 - \$32,701.48.
11. Records Retention Schedules
The State has released new records retention schedules for the Register of Deeds, County Tax Administration, and County Management. These Schedules will be placed on the next agenda for approval. No action requested.

H. Commissioner Business

1. Sparta Revitalization Committee Request—Commissioner Leys

I. Commissioner Comments

J. Public Comments—30 minutes

K. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal

L. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2013, budget meeting; June 17, 2013, meeting; June 17, 2013, budget meeting; and June 24, 2013, budget meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox declared the public hearing open at 10:02am regarding the E-911 proposed road name. He asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 10:03am and reconvened the regular meeting.

Don Adams, County Manager, presented one road name for the Board's approval; Arnies Lane. He explained the location of the road. He reviewed the process for submitting new road names.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the road name as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the June auto releases.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the June auto releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the June auto refunds.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the June auto refunds. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the June real property releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the June real property releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the June real property refunds.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the June real property refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the June 2013 collections' report

Rita Miller and Chair Cox talked about the new tax/tag bills will be in September.

Rita Miller presented the enforced collection report and the payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented a request to approve a late exemption application for Mt. Sinai Holiness Church. She stated that the property owner thought they had already completed the application. She said she recommends approving the late application for 2013. She talked about there are taxes due for 2011 and 2012 but she doesn't have an application for those tax years.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve Rita Miller's recommendation for 2013. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller informed everyone that the plan is for tax bills to go in the mail on the last day of July.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented Allegheny in Motion's Vehicle Video/Audio Surveillance Systems Policy. She explained that this is from a strong suggestion from the State and how it was drafted by the School of Government and attorneys. She stated that our County Attorney has reviewed the Policy as well.

Commissioner Leys, Chair Cox and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the County Attorney has reviewed this policy.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about the chain of custody, who can review the videos and the notice has already been posted because they have been in place for about six weeks.

April Hamm and Commissioner Leys talked about the cameras were installed the end of April and everything is ready for operation.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the main purposes for these cameras are for investigative and personnel purposes.

County Attorney Donna Shumate explained that the policy is to protect the privacy of the people using the services.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about retaining the videos. She explained the triggering of recording on the cameras, and it is automatically downloaded daily. She further explained her and her assistant reviews the videos.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about the benefits, and she provided examples.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about the cameras start when the vans start.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about the recorded material is kept for 30 days unless it is needed longer. They discussed the disposal of the records.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the records retention schedule. He explained this is why the School of Government got involved along with NCDOT and USDOT. He talked about situations where the materials could be retained longer.

Commissioner Leys asked if there is a grievance policy for Allegheny in Motion. April Hamm stated no. Commissioner Leys stated that there may be a need for it. County Manager Don Adams explained that it is all recorded, and drivers will have to let staff know if there are potential issues. Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about there is Title VI and safety complaint policies. County Manager Don Adams explained Title VI, and we don't have a formal complaint policy. Commissioner Leys said she thinks it would be good to have a formal complaint policy which could lessen our liability.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve Alleghany in Motion's Vehicle Video/Audio Surveillance Systems Policy. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Goudreau said he didn't vote for the cameras to begin with because we shouldn't record citizens against their knowledge.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau)

Clark Hunter, Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director, talked about recent businesses that are coming to Sparta or are expanding. He further talked about the BDC continues to offer business services. He talked about putting money back into the local economy. He stated that Lawson Support Services has closed their doors after 12 years, which meant 30 jobs at 3 business locations. He explained that he recently attended an economic development conference and his conversations with Secretary Decker and Secretary Tata. He talked about he recently attended the dedication ceremony for Dr. James Harrell, Sr. He further talked about the Take a Break from the Interstate project. He talked about in the Commissioners' packet is the draft schedule for the economic development strategic plan development. He reviewed the steps on the schedule. He explained that he is requesting Alleghany County to fund \$5,000 on this process.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the steering committee and it started with conversations about how to develop a plan that will provide guidance for the next five years. He explained that Darren Rhodes with the Division of Community Assistance (DCA) with the Department of Commerce and Phil Trew with the Council of Government helped with the facilitation. He further explained that it came down to a written plan costing \$7,500. He explained the costs and what the DCA and the Council of Government will be doing in regards to helping with the plan. He talked about the outreach portion where there will be a community-wide meeting and outreach to community stakeholders. He described the community stakeholders' outreach. He talked about gathering the information then setting up goals and objectives for the plan. He said he understands that \$7,500 is a lot of money but a private firm would charge a lot more.

Chair Cox talked about the Town of Sparta will be asked to contribute \$2,500. He further talked about there are others that wasn't mentioned.

Clark Hunter talked about the prosperity zones and becoming part of the bigger picture.

Commissioner Leys and Clark Hunter talked about Secretary Decker's plan will be in place in January and this local plan is on schedule for then also.

Commissioner Smith and Clark Hunter talked about the Town of Sparta's plan was completed in 2008. County Manager Don Adams and Commissioner Smith talked about the County's plan was in 2004. The County Manager explained the Town's plan was in 2008 and involved the County some too. The County Manager reviewed the analysis and what will occur including reviewing previous plans, and the need for an update.

Commissioner Leys talked about the Town's step plan and having goals plus involving the stakeholders is very important. She said this is a good start.

Chair Cox talked about the purpose of this is to have goals and asked does this impact us when applying for grants or looking at projects. County Manager Don Adams talked about the new realignment of services with the Department of Commerce; this does line us up with grants, and prepares us for opportunities. The County Manager explained that this assists with new opportunities, having to line up the existing services to provide direction. The County Manager talked about the core of economic development is private and small businesses but there is a partnership with government and explained the services offered to businesses. The County Manager talked about part of this is to line up what is already available.

Commissioner Leys talked about workforce and education. She talked about the Winston-Salem Journal had a nice article about a piedmont group that is working together on this same effort.

Commissioner Goudreau asked how we got to the \$7,500. He asked about line item details. County Manager Don Adams explained that \$5,000 is for the Council on Government and \$2,500 is for DCA. The County Manager stated that DCA's money is to cover their overnight travel and expenses; the Council of Government is more labor for their time spent writing the document and making the copies at the end.

Commissioner Smith and Clark Hunter talked about having a public input session, and how the public was involved in the 2008 update. The County Manager explained around 100 attended a facilitated meeting at Sparta School. The County Manager further explained that the group is trying to

be more focused, may change the order of the schedule in order to meet the needs of developing the plan including may have a meeting with the community stakeholders before having the larger public meeting so everyone has ideas/concepts generated by the stakeholders when we meet with the public.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the \$5,000 for the economic development strategic plan development. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Debbie Brewer, Alleghany County Librarian, presented the Alleghany County Library's annual report including the 2011/12 highlights, year-end statistical reports. She reviewed additional information in the Commissioners packets; How Libraries are Essential to Economic Recovery, 50 reasons I Love My Library, and library patron comments. She reviewed the activities held at the library during the past year, usage of the library meeting room, workshops held, classes held, book fairs held, regional library events. She thanked the Board for their continued support and invites everyone to come to the library.

Commissioner Smith and Debbie Brewer talked about having 2,000-3,000 people in the library monthly. She talked about the internet usage and having a wish list on the internet for the library. She stated their website is nwrl.com.

Commissioner Leys read some of the 50 Reasons I Love My Library. Commissioner Leys and Debbie Brewer talked about the number of children involved in the summer programs. Commissioner Leys encouraged more people to come to the library.

Kate Cosner, Elections Director, talked about the General Assembly being active regarding elections including House Bill 607 which will require paper ballots. She explained that the bill has changed to a study bill, which has to be done before the next general session. She said the language is to get rid of the voting machines like Alleghany has because complaints were that people did not receive paper receipts showing their votes, having long lines, machine errors and calibration issues. She explained that Alleghany County will have to purchase new equipment; optical scan which require paper ballots. She stated that it could cost between \$123,870 and \$131,850, which are ballpark figures. She described the amount of equipment and supplies that would be needed to switch to a paper ballot system. She stated that this doesn't include storage needs. She talked about how the storage needs will change if the legislation passes. She urged everyone to please contact our representatives. She talked about the arguments they have put forth are not strong arguments. She stated that she invites them to follow her through an election. She talked about the need to start preparing now for the financial side. She further talked about the election omnibus bill and what it could include.

County Manager Don Adams said the State Board of Elections will be requesting more information. He explained things the Board has to decide if the State mandates paper ballots, and to lobby the State that they assist in the funding side. He talked about the initial costs but there will be ongoing costs. He further talked about once the study is done, and then lobby the legislators to assist in the funding of the new equipment.

Kate Cosner talked about the HAVA funds, and, as of right now, the General Assembly is not willing to do that so the local government has to fund it.

Commissioner Smith and Kate Cosner talked about the good news being it's a study bill. She explained the Senate has not been favorable to study bills so far this session, and she doesn't see them letting it sit because of changes coming to elections so it gives us a stay for about a year.

County Manager Don Adams talked about leaving the leasing of computers in the budget because of the automation at the polls, he doesn't know when changes will take place but this will give Kate Cosner and the Board of Elections time to train poll workers on the automation at the polls.

Commissioner Leys, County Manager Don Adams and Kate Cosner talked about the amount in the budget for the computers.

Kate Cosner talked about the voter ID bill and part of that requires exploring the use of laptops at the polls for digital photos and other necessary things that are with the voter ID bill. County Manager Don Adams said they have the funding/resources for the first step dealing with the legislation that is coming.

Commissioner Leys said she would like to have what Kate Cosner is saying in writing for talking points with the legislators. Kate Cosner talked about things she will include. Commissioner Leys talked about unfunded mandates, and this is ridiculous.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about the General Assembly is trying to put credibility back into elections with the voter ID bill and these other bills. He talked about roles of government and this is a role of government to do things like this to protect the right to vote. He stated that there are things in

this county that we fund that we have no business funding and that's where the money comes from. He reiterated funding elections is a responsibility of government and that is what these bills do.

County Manager Don Adams and Kate Cosner talked about breaking down the comments into different sections/issues.

Kate Cosner stated that she understands the need to bring creditability back into elections. She explained she has worked with all 100 counties, North Carolina has some of the most honest directors of elections and they work very hard to make sure the elections are fair and impartial. She said she understands the question but what bothers her is the General Assembly doesn't take the time to observe elections.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:30am.

County Manager Don Adams presented the June 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Scattered Site Program. He explained the report and stated that this is a required monthly report.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Susie Gambill stating that Virginia Van Hampton's term on the Jury Commission needs reappointment, and she is willing to serve another term.

Chair Cox asked for additional nominees. No one spoke.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed library annex lease that was discussed at the last meeting. He explained that work was finished last week regarding the water leaks and drop ceilings. He stated that the business would like to open the beginning of August. He reviewed the terms of the lease; July 15, 2013-June 30, 2014, \$600 monthly, in exchange for the cleaning/repair work the 1st payment due is September 1. He continued to review the remaining items in the lease including they have provided a certificate of insurance. He explained that they are ready to move in and switch over the power and water. He said the lease is with Southern Belle's Nside and Out, LLC and/or owner Janet Crouse.

Commissioner Leys and Commissioner Smith talked about the library board has worked on this.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the lease. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the next resolution is a standard resolution for cafeteria plans. He explained this is for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. He said that nothing has changed for the administration of the cafeteria plan. He talked about the health insurance consultant has a more comprehensive plan but didn't want to change too dramatically. He stated that this resolution is continuing with what we have been doing for our cafeteria plan.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this is for the supplemental insurances to offer to the employees.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the resolution as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the recent retirement party for Carlton Edwards. He read a letter from Sheriff Edwards requesting the Sig Sauer PA 229 be declared surplus and supply it to Carlton Edwards for \$1 as a token of appreciation for his 32 years of service to Alleghany County.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to declare the Sig Sauer surplus and provide it to Carlton Edwards. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #1 in the amount of (\$975) for a reduction in the community garden allocation to accurately reflect the amount left.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #1 in the amount of (\$975). Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Community Social Services Assistant and the Board left \$2,717 in the budget for this position to be hired to provide visitation support as required by law. He reviewed the grade plan addition at a grade 54. He presented budget amendment General Fund #2 in the amount of \$9,783. He reviewed the budget amendment that adds funds to part-time

salaries, FICA and contracted services while removing the \$2,717 in the special appropriations category.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the grade plan update. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #2 in the amount of \$9,783. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$1,652 for insurance proceeds from an accident involving the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$1,652. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he is reporting inter-departmental transfers. He talked about the purpose of the transfers so departments are not over spent. He explained that \$180 was transferred to add to FICA for Roaring Gap Deputies and the transfer was from the New River liabilities line. He further explained that \$5,000 was transferred to school cap reserve fund, which is a mandated transfer, and the transfer was from the New River liabilities. He stated that according to the budget ordinance, he has to report the transfers at the next meeting.

County Manager Don Adams announced that Gerald Leftwich has issued his retirement letter to the County and the State that he is retiring as of September 1, 2013.

Commissioner Goudreau left the meeting at 12:00pm.

County Manager Don Adams continued talking about the retirement of Gerald Leftwich. He explained this position is Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Inspector III. He further explained the fire inspector portion is what keeps businesses open. He talked about the different levels and it will take a period of time to get back to a level III. He stated that he requests the Board to fill the position at a grade 67 and move as they get to a level III. He explained that Gerald Leftwich will come back part time because of the fire inspector duties and the new person will work under Gerald Leftwich's license. He stated that Gerald Leftwich will be a part-time employee until they get to a level III and the part-time status will decrease over time. He reiterated his request is to hire someone at a grade 67 with the idea that they will get to a level III and keeping Gerald Leftwich part time until then.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the different levels of the fire inspections.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about having to put money in the budget for fire inspection training but there is money available for the emergency management side.

County Manager Don Adams said he would like to advertise and see what type of applicants apply. He stated that he believes there are several people in the community that have dedicated their lives to these types of services.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about people not having fire inspection certifications.

County Manager Don Adams explained the first step is to advertise then set up the interview team.

Chair Cox said that everyone knew this day was coming. He read a portion of Gerald Leftwich's letter.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to allow the position to be filled at a grade 67. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to amend the grade plan to add the wording Fire Inspector to Emergency Management Coordinator at a grade 67. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about updates for the records retention schedule that needs to be passed. He asked the Commissioners to look at the document as they visit the office or come review it. He talked about the changes are highlighted in yellow. He asked the Board to review it prior to the next meeting.

Chair Cox talked about it is around 300 pages front and back.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about we don't alter from the State.

Chair Cox asked the County Manager what is different between Commissioner Business and Commissioner Comments on the agenda.

County Manager Don Adams explained Commissioner Business is if a Commissioner has something that needs to be voted on then it needs to be on the agenda under Commissioner Business so the Board can review the materials before the meeting. He further explained that Commissioner Comments are for the Commissioners to make general comments that don't require any action/votes.

Commissioner Leys talked about a request to put up a piece of art at the Dysart property. She explained this has the support of the Sparta Revitalization Committee (SRC) and will have a contract. She reviewed more information about the request; the art piece would stay up for a year and the SRC is working on procedures to have more art. She talked about the art piece will be for sale but will not have anything on it about it being for sale. She further talked about having the artist's name on the piece. She explained there wouldn't be any liability there. She reviewed the agreement. She said that the SRC has voted favorably on the request. She talked about they would like for this to be an annual change of artist.

Chair Cox and Commissioner Leys talked about the SRC will make the decisions on the art. Commissioner Leys thanked John Brady for his involvement, and he will help with installation of the art piece.

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Leys talked about the size of the art piece, the flower garden in the center, SRC approved this and in the future this will be open to other artists.

Commissioner Davis talked about trying it to see how it goes.

Commissioner Leys thanked Daniel Cater for the donation.

Chair Cox said he has talked to several people about this including John Brady and other people may put up art at their location along Main Street also.

Commissioner Leys talked about SRC's involvement.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the SRC's approved Cater art, place it in the Dysart garden and approve the agreement written by the County Attorney. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

County Attorney Donna Shumate and Chair Cox talked about the agreement is brief and concise.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Leys invited everyone to attend the dedication ceremony on August 10 at 10:00am for the Deputy Charles Shepherd Bridge.

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

Dennis Smith talked about Blue Ridge Electric and to understand Blue Ridge Electric you have to understand the management appears to follow Edward Bernays. He explained who Edward Bernays is and his techniques by using manipulation. He said that Blue Ridge Electric uses some of the same techniques to manipulate its members. He read catch phrases used by Blue Ridge Electric and how those catch phrases are being manipulated by management to the members. He used other examples of the manipulations by Blue Ridge Electric and how much money was spent on these actions. He talked about the things that the Board of Directors are responsible for. He read the Congressional Act that created rural coops. He explained the amount of compensation in the Act from 1936 until now then compare it to Blue Ridge Electric. He talked about as long as Blue Ridge Electric can keep members in the dark and all of this is paid for by the members the increase will costs the members and the County. He said you as a board can do something about this but the question is will you. He read a prayer from 1860.

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

Commissioner Leys made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal at 12:38pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn closed session at 1:09pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Chair Cox stated that no actions were taken in closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn at 1:10pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman