

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 18, 2011, at 10:00am 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 John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Larry Cox was absent.

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

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the agenda for this July 18, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, July 18, 2011  
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for July 18, 2011, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for July 5, 2011, meeting
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Rita Miller  
RE: June Releases and Refunds  
June Collections Report  
Late Applications for Elderly Exemption  
Insolvents
- C. John Blevins  
RE: Foster Care Social Worker
- D. Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission Annual Report
- E. Planning Committee Annual Report
- F. Soil and Water Annual Report
- G. County Commissioners' Business  
1. Introduction of New Health Director—Chair Richardson  
2. Other Business
- H. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 5, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Chair Richardson asked for public comments.

Dennis Smith talked about the Bohemian Grove retreats in July and what occurs at the retreats of the Grove. He further talked about when powerful people met together they become more powerful. He read an article from the Sonoma County Free Press. He talked about there are many offshoots from this Grove. He talked about some of the most powerful men in America attend the retreat. He reiterated what occurs at the retreats. He quoted biblical scriptures. He talked about people need to turn from their wicked ways and quoted additional scripture. He asked the Board to choose life and focus whatever power and influence to restore the Republic. He read a prayer that was offered before the United States Senate.

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

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

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the June auto releases and refunds. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller presented the June real releases and refunds.

Commissioner Roten, Rita Miller and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about one of the releases.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the June real releases and refunds. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about the explanation on several of the releases.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about one of the releases.

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

Rita Miller presented the June collections' report. She reviewed the amount billed, collected and the collection rates for real property and vehicles.

Rita Miller presented a late application and letter for an elderly exemption. She stated that they do qualify for the exemption but didn't get the application completed by the deadline.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the late application. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller presented a request for elderly exemption. She explained that the man came into her office and asked for the exemption. She further explained that he does qualify for the exemption.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the late application. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller presented the insolvent list for vehicles in the amount of \$28,912.04. She explained tax bills older than 10 years aren't collectible.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the insolvent list for vehicles in the amount of \$28,912.04. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about these are vehicle bills for 2000.

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

Rita Miller presented the insolvent list for personal property bills from 1996-2000 in the amount of \$15,643.33

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the insolvent list for personal property in the amount of \$15,643.33 Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller updated the Board about the number/amount of garnishments and legal collections through the County Attorney's office that they have been working on.

County Manager Don Adams and Rita Miller talked about Linda Killon's main goal after the month of August is debt setoff. They talked about the timeline and the debt setoff program.

Rita Miller stated that Linda Killon has been promoted to the position of Assistant Tax Collector. She further stated that tax bills are slated to go in the mail the last day of the month.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, came before the Board to talk about a request from Social Services and Child Protection Team/Child Fatality Team for a Foster Care Social Worker. He explained the need for the position. He continued explaining the need for the position, the current caseload for the current Social Workers and how the foster children are spread out across the current personnel. He said that he learned that the State says that Social Services now has to supervise home visits which those services had previously been contracted out. He reiterated that they are understaffed according to the caseload. He talked about the foster care needs promoted him to present this to the Social Services Board, which they support coming to the Commissioners. He explained that he recently lost a Social Worker because of job stress mainly due to the increased workload plus additional monies. He further explained that each foster child must be visited monthly regardless of where they are living, staff has been talking to him about the added pressures and how they feel that they can't do their job with the current caseload.

Lisa Osborne, Social Worker Supervisor, talked about there are three Social Workers and herself, and Social Workers are responsible for the entire case. She further talked about there are currently 25 foster children, not all reside in Allegheny County, State requires Social Services visits

and now the requirement of supervised visits weekly. She explained that Social Workers aren't addressing all of the needs of the families because of the increased caseload. She said that the caseload is higher than she has seen it in her 14 years. She further said that they are in desperate need for an additional Social Worker.

Debbie Joines, Co-Chair of the Child Fatality/Child Protection Team, explained the Child Protection/Child Fatality Team and who serves on this team. She further explained that this is a very broad base of people, meet every two months and in the two years that she has been involved she has seen the need greatly increase. She talked about the need is great, and the request is coming from a community rather than just the Health Department or Social Services.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about the new requirements coming from the State are non-funded mandates. John Blevins explained that Social Services would receive up to 60% of the cost of the position, with the County cost being 40%.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about the current caseload and number of positions.

Commissioner Roten asked about any open positions. John Blevins stated that they have been filled.

County Manager Don Adams asked why this was not in the budget process. John Blevins explained that he did not know about the State mandate. Mr. Blevins talked about a draft report coming from the State.

Chair Richardson talked about now the responsibility resides with the Commissioners. He further talked about ways to proceed.

Commissioner Roten asked what is the actual cost to the County. John Blevins showed the Board a paper with the costs of the position.

County Manager Don Adams stated that Mr. Blevins' costs show \$51,401, and the actual total costs will be \$51,648. He explained the differences are in retirement and insurance.

Chair Richardson reiterated ways to proceed.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about there shouldn't be additional requests for personnel in this budget year.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to add the Social Worker position.

Commissioner Roten said that he thought the State was under a hiring freeze, and does this not affect that. John Blevins answered no; the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners has that authority.

Commissioner Roten seconded the motion on the floor. Vote 3:1 (John Goudreau).

Agnes Joines came before the Board to present the annual reports for the Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC) and the Planning Committee. She talked about the programs. She introduced Stacy Hawks, who is the Case Manager in Sparta for BROC.

Stacy Hawks provided information to the Board about the services that BROC offers. She explained the pamphlets and services they offer.

County Manager Don Adams and Stacy Hawks talked about the number of people they assisted last year.

Stacy Hawks provided her contact information.

Commissioner Smith and Stacy Hawks talked about how they get the word out to the community. They discussed BROC works with Blue Ridge Electric, Allegheny Cares and Social Services.

Agnes Joines presented the Planning Committee report. She provided and explained information about the Planning Committee and their activities including their energy crisis program and lending library. She talked about their fundraisers.

Commissioner Smith, Agnes Joines and Stacy Hawks talked about the roundup program at Blue Ridge Electric.

Chair Richardson stated that he is always honored to attend the events and requests that all Commissioners be invited to the functions.

Linda Hash, Soil and Water Director/Conservationist, came before the Board to present their annual report. She reviewed their Board members and staff members. She further reviewed their activities; Ag cost share program, EQIP program, educational summary, district activities summary, farmland preservation program, no-till drill, conservation farm family, dry hydrants, cost sharing programs. She invited the Board to their meetings.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 11:23am. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman