

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 19, 2010, at 3:30pm 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 Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Milly Richardson was present but arrived late.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Doug Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the agenda for this July 19, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA
Monday, July 19, 2010
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for July 19, 2010, meeting
Motion on Minutes for June 14, June 17, June 21, June 23, June 24, June 28, June 28 and July 6, 2010, meetings
Motion on June Tax Releases and Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Mary Walker
RE: Late Tax Applications/PUV Appeal
C. John Blevins
RE: IMC Position
D. CJPP Annual Report
E. Planning Committee Annual Report
F. County Business
1. Safety Training Facility Bid Discussions
 2. 1/4¢ Sales Tax Resolution
 3. Village Park Bowling Center
 4. E-911 Budget Amendments
 5. Wilkes Community College Floor
 6. Other Business
 7. Adjourn

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 14, June 17, June 21, June 23, June 24, June 28, June 28 and July 6, 2010, meetings. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the real and auto releases for June. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the real and auto refunds for June. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to present a couple of late applications. She first presented two disable veterans applications.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Mary Walker presented a request for an elderly exemption, which does qualify, but they didn't get the paperwork returned from an audit.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Mary Walker presented another elderly exemption in the same situation about the audit paperwork did not get returned but it does qualify.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Mary Walker stated that the next one is the same because it was audited and did not return the paperwork on time but does qualify.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson arrived at 3:39pm.

Mary Walker presented a present-use value appeal. She explained that Mrs. Woodel's mother passed away, Mrs. Woodel has made a new application, survey showing 11.18 acres, and the map showing how the Tax Office mapped it out showing 9.20 acres. She said it does not meet the guidelines, and they haven't seen any income for the property. She further said her opinion is that it doesn't qualify but she told the landowner that she would present this to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Mary Walker talked about 10 acres in the legal requirement and 9.20 acres is in actual production. They discussed the garden area and driveway.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Mary Walker talked about taking off one acre for the house, and it has to be 10 acres in actual production.

Commissioner Steve Roten said it looks like to him that it would meet the requirements.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Mary Walker discussed whose cattle are on the land. They further discussed the Tax Office hasn't seen anything regarding income.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked can the Board give her time to submit the additional information.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that maybe the Board can table the request to allow more time for them to get the information to the Tax Office.

Chair Ken Richardson tabled the request until the next meeting.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, came before the Board to discuss personnel. He explained that the money is already budgeted for what he will be talking about. He further explained that all positions must be two grades between the different levels of the positions and there was one that he didn't get in his previous request, so now DSS is out of compliance with the Office of State Personnel because when one moves the others have to move. He stated that in order to be in compliance one position needs to move from grade 61 to grade 63 or if the position wasn't occupied then there wouldn't be any problems. He requested the Board to move the position effective July 1.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to take the one position from grade 61 to grade 63 effective July 1. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Joan Henson came before the Board to present the CJPP annual report. She stated her appreciation to the Board for their continual support of the CJP program. She introduced Nancy Woodward and Sam Griffith. She reviewed the handouts; summary report for 2008/09 and 2009/10, comparing two years seeing how they are making an impact, reviewed each categories. She stated that their numbers are coming up by the work with everyone involved. She reviewed the numbers of the program admission statistics/program exit statistics, successful completion numbers for both years, and maintaining employment numbers while completing the programs. She said

they are proud of the people who have completed the program. She explained the purpose of the group sessions and intervention with groups. She talked about a letter of review from Nancy Woodward, and the appreciation of Ms. Woodward for her assistance with the CJPP.

Chair Ken Richardson read the last sentence of Ms. Woodward's letter; "overall this is a well run CJP program there in Alleghany, Ms. Hinson and her staff are to complimented for their continued efforts to enhance the overall effectiveness of this program."

Agnes Joines came before the Board to present the annual report for the Planning Committee. She provided information to the Board. She talked about their fiscal year, being a supportive arm of Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission, information about their purpose of helping low-income people, amount/types of donations they provide including scholarships and assisting 4-H campers, lending library and most of their funding comes from the Hillbilly Show. She talked about last year's show. She further talked about they have supplied emergency fuel through BREMCO for 102 people at \$100 per person. She explained the process of assisting with power bills. She thanked the Board for their support.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that they do a good job.

Agnes Joines stated her appreciation and said they try hard.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Agnes Joines talked about the hillbilly show is October 17, and they will have a memorial at the beginning. Agnes Joines further talked about the show will be titled the Hillbilly Reunion and will start at 7:00pm.

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

Brandon Hawks came before the Board stating that he has been thinking about things since the budget passed. He talked about the private sector and the need to build infrastructure including technology and allowing competition for services such as telephone and cell providers. He further talked about the public sector will still need to cut taxes in the future from 43¢ to 38¢, which would put more money in people's pockets. He talked about people going somewhere else to buy items because of cheaper prices. He explained that the proper role of government is to provide law and order, not things. He talked about factory work isn't coming back and the need to look forward. He thanked the Board.

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

County Manager Don Adams provided a letter from Cavanaugh & Associates and a tabulation sheet showing all of the bids for the safety training facility with the lowest bid being \$567,572 from Professional Construction Group. He explained that Dixie Grading and Carl Rose & Sons are their subcontractors. He further explained that Cavanaugh is performing reference checks. He talked about this bid is within \$7,000 of the construction budget with the difference coming from contingency. He requested the Board to award the bid to the low bidder and notice to proceed contingent on USDA approval and give him the authority to make changes necessary at the request of USDA.

Chair Ken Richardson made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder and notice to proceed contingent on USDA approval and give him the authority to make changes necessary at the request of USDA. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion.

The Board and the County Manager talked about trying to get local contractors and having to follow USDA's guidelines. The County Manager pointed out that some of these groups received local bids, and they sent out local information to people after the pre-bid meeting trying to get local contractors involved in the process.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a proposed resolution regarding a local option 1/4¢ sales tax. He explained that this resolution will set things in motion for this to be on the November ballot.

Chair Ken Richardson reminded everyone that this was brought up during budget discussions. He talked about this will take each Commissioner's effort to campaign for this. He further talked about if each one of the Commissioners is not willing to campaign for this, it will not pass. He stated that the Board would still have to vote on this if the public approves it.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about it is up to the Board on how to proceed at this point.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the proposed resolution. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion.

Commissioner Doug Murphy clarified that this is just to get it on the ballot for citizens to decide on this and one of the reasons is because of the cuts that everyone keeps hearing about from the State regarding education. He reiterated that he just wants to make it clear that the county could be looking at huge cuts from the State towards education.

Commissioner Randy Miller asked if by saying this, you are in support of this.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that she is saying that she is in support of getting this into the citizens' hands.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated that this is the only fair way across the board because it touches everyone in the county.

The Board talked about the local option sales tax recently passed in Wilkes County.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that no tax is good but with the cuts coming from the State the revenues have to come from somewhere.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he is in support of letting the people decide, and if the people support it, he will, but if they don't, he won't.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a letter received from Sarah Stevens regarding a grant in the amount of \$72,000 for the bowling center. He explained that the County is waiting on the contract from the Rural Center, which is a contract between Alleghany County and the Rural Center, and then there will be a contract between Alleghany County and the business owner. He further explained that the County normally requires a deed of trust on the property until certain conditions are met.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the 911 bill has been approved in the General Assembly but hasn't been signed by the Governor. He said he will place the budget amendments on the next agenda. He explained the budget amendments in the amount of \$120,916 which is transferring 911 monies to the General Fund for the fire commission for the fire departments/rescue squad matching capital monies in the amount of \$90,000 and to maintenance for the Law Enforcement Center's roof in the amount of \$30,916. He further explained that he has talked to Richard Taylor who is staff with the 911 Board at the State level, and he stated that these are allowable expenses.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the NCACC's Review of the 2010 Legislative Short Session. He further talked about the value of the NCACC working on behalf of the counties in the State. He gave an example of the \$120,000 that Alleghany County has access to through the passage of the 911 bill.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the request for more discussions regarding the Wilkes Community College floor. He further talked about a sheet showing the room numbers, priority ranking and the costs associated with each room. He explained that he would look at the top two or three; room 106 for \$1,050, room 200 for \$1,050 and room 203 for \$728. He further explained that the remainder of the rooms is not used on an every day or every night basis.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked has anyone else walked through the building.

County Manager Don Adams and Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the locations of the rooms in the WCC/BDC building. Commissioner Murphy asked if this money can come from the maintenance budget. The County Manager asked to wait until Christmas to see how the money is and explained fixing the floors in October and December when they have breaks in the school calendar. The County Manager further explained that this is how the other floors have been repaired.

Commissioner Steve Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about how tiles are put down as they come loose.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked if anyone has asked other organizations if they are willing to assist the County with this because civic groups are always looking for projects.

County Manager Don Adams said he can ask.

County Manager Don Adams explained if the Board wants to do two rooms from the maintenance budget, then the Board needs to realize that Larry Davis may have to come back for emergency monies if the need arises. He stated that he would just talk about the first two rooms because it would take too much of maintenance's money.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about if Larry Davis needs money, the Board can address that at that time.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about addressing the first two.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams talked about the first three are used every day and night.

Commissioner Steve Roten said he would hate to see the County get held civilly liable.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked can letters be sent out to groups.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he would entertain a motion to do the top three then if the Board can encourage Jayne Phipps-Boger to see about other groups to help with this.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that she would call Jayne Phipps-Boger.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve fixing three rooms to come out of the maintenance budget. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about a letter from NCACC regarding the EMS Medicaid reimbursement of \$37,346. He further talked about this is not new money because the County Manager already has it included in the budget. He stated that Medicaid reimbursements are an on-going effort and this money would not be recovered if the County Commissioners Association did not work on this.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a vacancy in the Sheriff's Department and the possibility of the full-time deputy's position being filled by a full-time jailer which opens another position. He further talked about until he hears different from the Board that he is under the opinion that all open positions must go before the Board before

filling them.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve filling these two full-time positions. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:35pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman