

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 21, 2008, 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 Warren Taylor, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Milly Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda for this July 21, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, July 21, 2008
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for July 21, 2008, meeting
Motion on Minutes for July 7, 2008, meeting
Motion on June Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Mary Walker
RE: Solid Waste Fee Appeal
C. John Blevins
RE: Work First Biannual Plan
D. Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
E. County Business
1. AIM Contract with Ashe County DSS
2. Ropes Course Budget Amendment
3. Fee Schedule Discussions
4. Pool Operational Hours
5. Other Business
6. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development
7. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 7, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real property releases and refunds for June. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the auto refunds and releases for June. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Paul Church talked about the amount of dairy farmers, beef farmers and Christmas tree farms in the county. He further talked about the Extension Service. He stated that he hoped the Board will not jeopardize taxpayer dollars by paying another director \$65,000. He talked about Amy Pardue and the excellent job she does. He further talked about the partnership between Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties regarding the Christmas trees. He stated his recommendation is to have this guy in Alleghany County full time. He said to leave the director's position vacant if no one will do the job the way it needs to be done.

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

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to present a solid waste fee appeal. She explained the release is for David Woodruff. She further explained the mobile home hasn't been lived in during the past five years and doesn't have power or water.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented information to the Board about changing how the tax certifications are handled. She talked about the notice will be sent to the attorneys asking for certifications to be sent to the Tax Office one day and the certification will be ready by 9:00am the next morning. She explained the reasons for these changes.

County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the statute allows this action to occur but it could have formal Board approval since it is a change in policy.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about how this change could affect attorneys and the transfer of property where people haven't paid their personal property taxes.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, presented information to the Board about the Work First Biannual Plan. He talked about deciding to be a standard county or an electing county. He stated that he and the Social Services Board recommend remaining a standard county. He further stated that he will need approval on the Work First Planning Committee that has been presented. He explained what it means to remain a standard county or become an electing county.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to declare Alleghany County as a standard county. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins reviewed the list of members for the Work First Planning Committee and the organizations they represent.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the members as presented by John Blevins. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Jimmy Church, Chief of Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department, presented their annual report. He talked about their new fire truck hasn't been delivered yet. He further talked about their policy change regarding paying the members an incentive to respond to calls of 3 gallons per call. He explained that it is getting tough on the volunteers responding to calls. He talked about the new program that has been started, Ashe County Honor Guard. He further talked about this is coming to Alleghany County with 10 potential members so far. He talked about Ashe County has donated one of their Crown Victoria and is totally in support of the program. He stated his appreciation for the opportunity to talk to the Board.

Chair Ken Richardson and Jimmy Church discussed the membership makeup between Alleghany County and Ashe County. Jimmy Church explained that they currently have five or six getting ready to retire. They talked about the Ashe County fire tax is how the operating money is provided and Ashe County provides some additional money over the fire tax amount. They further talked about the retirement is based on 20 years. They discussed the training center being the number one priority and the reasons why.

Paul Church asked if the Board has ever considered a fire tax here because every county around Alleghany County has a fire tax.

The Board stated that it has been discussed.

Paul Church asked if it is fairer to have the fire tax rather than the donations.

The Board stated that it is something to consider.

County Manager Don Adams presented the AIM contract with Ashe County's DSS. He explained this contract allows AIM to bill Ashe County's DSS for their services.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #2 in the amount of \$1,650 for the Ropes Course. He explained that this budget amendment is to budget the donations for the Ropes Course. He said he is planning to transfer this money to a non-profit group that can assist with the donations. He talked about the County's responsibilities regarding the Ropes Course.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #2 in the amount of \$1,650. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he had passed out information regarding the Fire Inspections Fees.

Chair Ken Richardson explained why this is coming back before the Board for more discussions.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed information for Alleghany County, Ashe County, Surry County and Wilkes County regarding their fire inspections fees. He talked about where Alleghany County is compared to these counties

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed how this could impact Alleghany County's ability to attract industries.

County Manager Don Adams talked about if the Board wishes to cut Alleghany County's rate in half and then how the County will compare with the surrounding counties.

The Board discussed the rate.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to change the rate to \$0.005 per square foot. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the pool's operational hours. He explained the request is to have the pool open until August 13 and one or two Saturdays after that. He talked about changing the hours starting on August 6 to 2:30pm until 7:00pm.

The Board said this is a good idea and thinks the hours should go until Labor Day on Saturdays. The Board and County Manager Don Adams discussed opening until Labor Day depends on the availability of the lifeguards. They discussed the additional amount of money needed; approximately \$1,400.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the County is currently taking bids on the Transfer Facility loader. He talked about the condition of the Transfer Facility scales, and the need to replace them. He talked about asking Larry Davis to have quotes to him at the same time for the scales as the loader. He suggested to the Board that the scales could be put in with the loader on the loan.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed researching funding sources for the EMS capital. Commissioner Doug Murphy said this is something that the Board needs to consider.

Commissioner Randy Miller asked about the tag office.

County Manager Don Adams stated that it is his understanding that Alleghany County will have a tag office in September. He further stated that it hasn't been publicly

announced as who received the contract.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to go into closed session at 4:18pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to adjourn closed session at 4:28pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman