

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 21, 2014, 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 Manager Don Adams, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this July 21, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, July 21, 2014
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order
Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for July 21, 2014 Meeting
Motion on Minutes from May 21, June 3, June 4, June 16, June 17, June 18 and June 25, 2014 Meetings
- 10:05 A. 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 2014 collection rates through June as compared to 2013 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of June 2014. No action requested
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
 5. Solid Waste Fee Appeal – Action Requested – Vote on the appeal.
 6. Settlement Report for FY 13/14 Taxes – Summary of property taxes charged and collected in FY 13/14. No action requested.
 7. Order to Collect 2014 Property Taxes – Action Requested – Vote to order the collection of 2014 property taxes.
- 10:15 B. Billy West – Daymark, Executive Director
RE: Update on Services Provided by Daymark Recovery Services. No action requested.
- 10:30 C. Alleghany County Rescue Squad Annual Report
- 10:40 D. Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
- 10:50 E. Cooperative Extension Annual Report
- 11:05 F. Judy Cooper – Alleghany Memorial Hospital Rewards & Recognition Coordinator
RE: Request to use the County parking lot for fundraising efforts. Action Requested – Vote on the request to use the County parking lot.
- 11:15 G. General Business
1. Detention Officer Open Position, Grade 60, \$23,240.55(certified).
Action Requested – Vote on the request to fill the position.
 2. Veteran Service Officer Open Position, Grade 63, \$20,178 (75%).
Action Requested – Vote on the request to fill position.
 3. General Fund Budget Amendment # 1 reducing special adoption assistance funding by \$1,956 to reflect actual amount available for this program. Action Requested – Vote on GF Budget Amendment # 1.
 4. Alleghany County Library Board Appointment
Action Requested – Vote on the request from the Alleghany County Library Board to appoint David Casey Jones to the Library Board.
 5. North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Conference
The NCACC annual conference will be held in Buncombe County on August 14-17, 2014. Action Requested – Vote to appoint a voting delegate for this conference.
 6. County Morgue

Alleghany Memorial Hospital has agreed to house and operate a morgue if the County will purchase the equipment necessary. The equipment will cost \$18,105. Action Requested – Approve the necessary purchases necessary to equip a morgue.

H. Commissioner Comments

I. Public Comments—30 minutes

J. Closed Session: NGS 143.318.11 (a) 3 – legal, (a) 6 – personnel.

K. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 21, June 3, June 4, June 16, June 17, June 18 and June 25, 2014, meetings. Commissioner Smith 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 Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the June auto refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the June auto refunds under the vehicle tax system (VTS).

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the VTS June auto refunds. Commissioner Leys 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 2014 reports; collections' report, enforced collection report, and payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented a residential solid waste fee release. She explained that the power has been turned off and the property has well.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the taxes are current.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller talked about the location of this property.

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

Rita Miller presented the annual settlement of taxes. She listed out what is before the Commissioners; settlements, list of persons owning real property whose 2013 taxes are unpaid, list of persons not owning real property whose 2013 taxes are unpaid, no request for insolvents of any 2013 taxes at this time, settlement for current taxes, total deposits.

Chair Cox talked about having 10 years to collect the taxes.

Rita Miller talked about the order to collect 2014 property taxes. She said the bills will go in the mail on July 31.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to order to collect the 2014 property taxes. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Larry Elmore with Daymark explained Billy West could not be here. He talked about mental health is at a cross roads. He explained the history of Daymark. He introduced Paige Stevens, Director for the Alleghany location. He reviewed the number of patients seen in 2013/14, variety of staff here, services offered here, workforce in Alleghany County, and challenges they face. He talked about they try to provide the best care possible for the lowest price. He said he doesn't know why this county pays more like Chair Cox asked, but he said that Alleghany gets a lot of services that other counties don't get. He talked about Daymark is a private not for profit entity.

Commissioner Leys asked about services for addiction problem. Paige Stevens explained the staff members who work with people with addiction problems and what services are offered along with the frequency.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation for the hard work, maintaining the facility, and appreciate what is done for our community. Larry Elmore thanked her. Commissioner Leys talked about in this day in medical reimbursements breaking even is great. Larry Elmore said they work hard to make it happen; they struggle, and they like being here.

Chair Cox and Larry Elmore talked about the money that Alleghany County spends for mental health is spent here and the need to talk to Smoky but each county is different with the services offered.

Paige Stevens said thank you for the Board's support for the people who doesn't have a voice otherwise.

Carroll Royal, Captain of Alleghany County Rescue Squad, came before the Board to present the Rescue Squad's annual report. He presented the number of members, types of certifications, number of calls they responded to, training hours, types of equipment.

Commissioner Smith and Carroll Royal talked about the certification of members and youth group involvement.

Commissioner Leys and Carroll Royal talked about the number of calls are down because of reporting requirements but the actual number of calls is up. Carroll Royal explained the call reporting changed because of USDA.

Commissioner Leys said thank you. Carroll Royal thanked the Board for everything that is done for them.

Commissioner Davis asked how many calls are to backup EMS. Carroll Royal answered half of the calls, and that is where the main issue was with the call reporting.

David Higgins, Fire Chief for Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department, came before the Board to present their annual report. He thanked Karen Evans for her work for the fire departments, and stated he is proud of his fire department. He reviewed the number of members/junior members, list of equipment, number/types of calls, training, and fundraisers. He talked about the highland games, they will be glad to help start one here but don't think they could front all of monies. He continued to talk about their special events, community service, community involvement through technology, completed projects, future projects and goals, landing zones map. He talked about if the County could fund \$250,000-\$300,000 every year then every six years that would give each department a truck, and what a tremendous asset that would be. He further talked about the number of training hours through the Wilkes Community College and if the County could pay a little to the members for the training it would help a lot. He used an example of \$20 per training for 25 certified trainings per firefighter. He provided some examples of how value the fire departments are.

Commissioner Leys said thank you for the report and to the fire department. She suggested going to see Jim Connor about the highland games since it is tourism related.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:13am.

Amy Lucas, County Extension Director, presented the annual report for Cooperative Extension Service. She explained the staff and their responsibilities. She presented their annual statistics; programs offered with number of participants, contacts, news articles published, blog posts, cable programs, radio programs, workshops, field days, demonstrations, shows. She talked

about the programs that they are involved in. She introduced Alex Wagoner, who is participating in the Youth Summit program. She talked about other programs that they are working in.

Brad Edwards talked about the amount of sales from a recent survey for the Christmas tree industry, which doesn't count greenery that is a large business also. He explained the purpose of the survey and what was learned. He talked about he mainly works with Christmas trees, enjoy and like working here. He said that a lot of tree growers are struggling. He explained the other areas he works with; pesticides, bees, ongoing research, test plot.

Aaron Ray Tompkins explained the areas he works with. He encouraged the Commissioners to participate in some of their activities. He talked about being able to provide information about the procedures, planning a local ag tour on August 14. He listed out the farms that are participating. He talked about the youth livestock program was very successful. He explained a youth livestock ownership grant and target age is freshman and sophomores. He continued to talk about areas that he works with. He said all of their groups meet regularly, and invited the Board to attend those meetings.

Amy Lucas said thank you for the continued support.

Commissioner Leys and Amy Lucas talked about the statistics.

Chair Cox stated his appreciation for how much Extension does. He said this is a very talented group of people.

Judy Cooper presented a request from Alleghany Memorial Hospital rewards and recognition committee to use the parking lot at the Administration Building. She explained that they had a cruise-in last year as a fundraiser. She talked about they provided everything including other activities they used for their fundraiser. She explained that they want to be more centrally located in Sparta, very limited advertising budget, admission free, provide insurance, and port-a-johns would be brought in Saturday morning and picked up by Sunday morning.

Chair Cox and Judy Cooper talked about the date is October 4.

County Manager Don Adams explained normally only allowing a non-profit to use the area, and require insurance. He talked about the use of port-a-johns takes care of the restroom facilities portion, and we don't have any scheduled activities that date.

Commissioner Leys and Judy Cooper talked about the Alleghany Memorial Hospital rewards and recognition committee. Judy Cooper gave examples of what they do, and how the fundraiser works.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Sheriff Edwards regarding a request to fill an open position of a detention office, grade 60.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented a request that the Veteran Service Officer's position be filled. He explained that the current person is leaving on July 31, 2014, and this position is 75% 30 hours a week and does get benefits. He talked about having limited service in the month of August, Sam Nichols has volunteered for 4 hours on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 1:00, and someone from the Veteran Administration will be coming up on Thursdays from 10:00 to 2:00. He explained that the goal is to have someone employed the first of September. He talked about allowing him to pay Sam Nichols part-time to train the new person after the new person is hired. He stated that the request today is to fill the position.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve filling the position. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #1 in the amount of (\$1,956) for a reduction in special adoption assistance.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #1 in the amount of (\$1,956). Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Pat Polly stating that Ken Richardson's term has expired on the library board, and they are recommending David Casey Jones be appointed as the replacement.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the designation of a voting delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners annual conference on August 14-17 in Buncombe County.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to nominate Chair Cox as the voting delegate for Alleghany County at the annual conference. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about having a county morgue located at Alleghany Memorial Hospital. He explained that this has been previously discussed, met with them a couple of times in the past couple of weeks, and Alleghany Memorial Hospital is agreeable to house the morgue if the County will purchase the equipment. He described the different types of equipment, and showed the type they are requesting be installed due to space. He said that the costs are \$18,105. He named the people who were at the meeting regarding the morgue. He described how viewings would be handled and protocols will be put in writing.

Chair Cox expressed his appreciation to everyone working on this because this has been a concern discussed numerous times. He said it is a need, and hopefully not used often. He talked about the County currently has an agreement with Ashe County, who has a 2-body arrangement, and will keep the arrangement in the event more than 2 slots are needed.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how previously 911 monies could have been used but now General Fund monies will have to be used.

Chair Cox and Commissioner Leys talked about the need.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about there will be a written agreement; the County will own the equipment and the agreement will be no more than a year or two at a time.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the County Manager has offered the County's assistance during installation.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve purchasing the unit to be installed at Alleghany Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys mentioned July 25 to July 27 the 70 miles of a road market. She talked about it is going to be a big deal, and has fliers to share with everyone.

Commissioner Leys said she attended a Rural Center event here last week with Amanda Sorrells discussing her ability to offer assistance to businesses. She stated that is hopefully the beginning of something good.

Commissioner Leys read a portion of an email from Brent Lammers, the CEO at Alleghany Memorial Hospital.

Chair Cox explained they were invited by the Superintendent to tour the GE plant in Ashe County, they are working to put curriculum in place for students to be able to work in that type business, which is highly trained jobs to mill aircraft parts. He said it was very impressive. He talked about they have a commitment here, Ashe and Grayson for an expansion of 105 job, for the young people. He explained the people that are able to secure a job there it will make a difference, GE people have a career. He said that they are going to have another tour August 1 and would encourage anyone who has an interest to go. He talked about using the machines in the basement at Wilkes Community College to help people, and this is an opportunity for a well

paying job that can lead to a career. Commissioner Leys mentioned that the beginning pay is \$16-\$17.

Chair Cox opened the floor for public comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel at 12:15pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:50pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated no action was taken during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 12:51pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman