

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 5, 2013, at 6:30pm 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 combining the BROCC Annual Report and Planning Annual Report because Stacy Hawks will be presenting both.

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

AGENDA
Monday, August 5, 2013
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for August 5, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for July 15, 2013, Meeting
- 6:35 A. BROCC Annual Report
- 6:55 B. Planning Committee Annual Report (combined with the BROCC Annual Report)
- 7:00 C. General Business
1. Labor Day Commissioners' Meeting
Discuss rescheduling the September 2, 2013, meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.
 2. NCACC Annual Conference and Voting Delegate
Conference will be held August 22-25 in Greensboro. Action Requested – Vote on voting delegate.
 3. Records Retention Schedules
The State has released new records retention schedules for the Register of Deeds, County Tax Administration, and County Management. Action Requested – Vote on the record retention schedules.
 4. Alleghany Memorial Hospital Allocation Schedule
Discuss how to allocate the approved funding to Alleghany Memorial Hospital. Action Requested – Vote on the allocation schedule.
 5. Sheriff's Department Personnel Changes
Sheriff Edwards is requesting personnel changes to fill the vacant slot created by the retirement of Carlton Edwards. Action Requested – Vote on the requested changes.
 6. Emergency Management Budget Amendment
General Fund Budget Amendment #4 in the amount of \$16,000 to purchase a 20kw mobile light tower. This 100% funded through grant funds. Action Requested – Vote on budget amendment #4.
- D. Commissioner Comments
- E. Public Comments—30 minutes
- F. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Stacy Hawks came before the Board to present the annual reports for BROCC and the Planning Committee. She talked about the different programs offered by Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROCC) and the economic impact/resources provided for these programs during the past year.

Commissioner Leys and Stacy Hawks talked about the amount of work completed and who does the work.

Commissioner Smith and Stacy Hawks talked about the round-up program and the number of people impacted by those monies.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the first meeting in September is scheduled on a County holiday. He asked the Board about rescheduling the meeting.

The Board discussed dates/times for the meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to move the meeting to Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about the NCACC Annual Conference on August 22-25 in Greensboro. He talked about the Commissioners picking a voting delegate for the Conference.

Chair Cox asked the Board who is planning to attend.

Commissioner Leys said she would like to go but can only plan a couple days ahead.

Commissioner Smith talked about attending on Thursday and Friday.

Chair Cox talked about the business sessions. He stated that he cannot attend Thursday.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Chair Cox as the voting delegate. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the new records retention schedules for the Register of Deeds, County Tax Administration, and County Management. He talked about the differences in the schedules.

Commissioner Leys, the County Manager and Clerk to the Board discussed keeping personnel records.

Commissioner Smith, the County Manager and Clerk to the Board discussed the Register of Deeds and Tax Administrator has already signed off recommending approval on these schedules.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the new records retention schedules as required by State law. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a letter from Brett Liverman, CFO for Allegheny Memorial Hospital (AMH). He talked about during the budget conversations it wasn't discussed how to allocate the money to AMH. He said he had to rely on the previous allocation schedule that was quarterly after they present an expenditure report. He reviewed the justifications in the letter about the bank requiring them to have 35 days cash on hand by September 30.

Commissioner Leys talked about the importance of the Hospital having the money because of the bank's covenant.

Commissioner Davis talked about continuing with the quarterly allocation schedule.

Chair Cox talked about ¼ of the money would not quite be one day.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone that last year it was paid at the beginning of each quarter. He reviewed what occurred on a quarterly basis and if that schedule is followed then by mid September it would be \$50,000.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about if the Board keeps the same method it would be \$50,000 before September 30.

Commissioner Goudreau stated that he voted against it so it's whatever the rest of the Board wants to do.

Commissioner Leys made a motion for AMH to receive quarterly allotments as normally scheduled and if they see that they are going to have a problem with the September 30 deadline they come to the September 16 meeting to explain why they need more. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Sheriff David Edwards talking about his requested personnel changes that stemmed from the retirement of Carlton Edwards. He reviewed the proposed personnel changes, the Sheriff is looking to promote within and fill the vacant deputy slot with a part-time employee.

Chair Cox and County Manager talked about the vacancy being filled by a part-time person after the other two people move up.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager talked about the part-time person.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #4 in the amount of \$16,000 for a mobile light tower. He talked about the specs are included in the packets. He explained that the light tower will be at the safety training facility and available for the fire departments. He explained the light tower. He said he can see it being used for multiple purposes.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this particular light tower was selected as part of the grant.

Chair Cox and the County Manager talked about this is a pass through because it was a grant.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #4 in the amount of \$16,000. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys asked about plaques for Carlton Edwards and Gerald Leftwich. Clerk Karen Evans explained that she waits until after their retirement and then coordinates a date/time for the presentation.

Chair Cox asked about the Rural Center being defunded and the impact to our Piney Creek School septic project.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Representative Elmore reached out to us about this topic. He reminded everyone of the Piney Creek School septic system project and what has occurred including the notice to proceed and contracts have been signed. He said that he cannot tell the Board that we have those funds. He explained that Representative Elmore is having conversations; he is having conversations and will have more conversations including sending letters about the project's funding. He stated that this isn't a contract he can stop. He explained why he can't because the project is going and trying to get the septic system replaced because of the moratorium on that school. He talked about following up with the legislators, Governor's office and the budget office. He said hopefully they will honor the contracts. He stated it is \$364,000.

Commissioner Leys asked can the County Manager forward this to Lyons Gray.

Chair Cox asked about the County Manager bringing information back to the Board.

County Manager Don Adams talked about hopefully they will honor their contract and reimburse us. He explained that he is getting a pay app this week and has no choice except to follow through and submit it. He reiterated that it's a project that can't be stopped.

Commissioner Smith asked does this Board have a problem using County letterhead. The Board agreed that's fine. County Manager Don Adams talked about the letters will be begging for the money.

Commissioner Leys talked about there is no choice or close the school.

County Manager Don Adams talked about they have a 5-member transition team. He explained that there are several others like us with their contract with the Rural Center.

Chair Cox reiterated that this is a project that the State says we have to do.

Commissioner Leys talked about having to have faith in people to honor the contract and to remind them of their commitment.

Commissioner Goudreau asked for the County Manager to email him the letters so he can work on it too.

County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about there are other things to do but this is the appropriate starting point.

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

Brandon Hawks referred to the economic progress and solutions from the economic developer at the last meeting and he is frustrated. He stated that it isn't one person's fault about the economy in the county and the nation but it is a collection of bad decisions and legislation that have gotten us where we are. He explained the economy is handled by individuals. He talked about the conversation between Commissioner Goudreau and Commissioner Leys about the role of government and unfunded mandates. He said this is something that needs to be discussed about what is the role of government. He stated that elections are one of them. He reviewed more of Commissioner Goudreau's comments

about we spend money on things we don't need to. He talked about how much debt the County has, the amount of the fund balance, recent adopted budget, the only way an economy can grow is a small government. He talked about the Election Director's issue with HB 607. He further talked about his research on the topic including he made some contacts in Raleigh. He said the bill never has been in the study bill or part of the omnibus bill in the Senate. He talked about his conversation with Jim Davis, who represents the 50th district, and Mr. Davis was confident that HB 607 would die if ever introduced on the floor. He explained that the Director seemed concerned about a bill that wasn't going anywhere quick. He talked about this is how the Senate and House operates. He said we don't need fear, emotional rises, or confusion when it comes to legislation and the political process. He further stated that calm heads, knowledge and common sense will go very far with everyone.

Dennis Smith said at a past meeting he talked about that it might be good to recruit a gun/ammunition manufacturing facility to the County, and that suggestion didn't go anywhere. He talked about Rockingham County liked the idea. He quoted an article in the Charlotte Business Journal about a gun manufacturer coming to them with 500 jobs in the next 5 years. He quoted several news agencies that reported on this subject. He said that he has read that Alleghany County had one of the best manufacturing facilities in the State and it would have met the needs of a company like this one that would have provided good paying jobs but the decision was made to turn that building into a refrigerator. He stated that it appears the powers to be have decided that the economic future will be tourism and the Parkway. He said that other communities promote tourism and since Alleghany County will be competing with all other tourism places, wouldn't it be to our advantage to have an attention grabber. He provided examples of other places. He provided additional examples for Sparta and Alleghany County. He talked about an opportunity available on the Parkway because the Bluff's Lodge and restaurant are available. He stated that the County should work out a contract for those locations and provided examples of what could occur for tourism and the possibilities are endless. He said that a gun manufacturing facility would provide a more secure future. He further said that as some have stated that it could be the case that corporatism is being used to destroy the economy of the United States and more easily move America into a unified world system. He explained that one thing the Commissioners can do to work against this is to work to get the county out of debt. He read a prayer offered by General Mark W. Clark.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 7:23pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman