

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 14, 2009, 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 Milly Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was present but arrived late.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that item D needs to be removed from this agenda.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this September 14, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, September 14, 2009
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for September 14, 2009, meeting
Motion on Minutes for August 17 and 31, 2009, meetings
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Mary Walker
RE: Tax Appeals
C. Chris Barrett
RE: Subdivision Road Extension
D. Gretchen Carico (Deleted)
RE: Junkyard Concerns
E. Building Inspections Annual Report
F. Emergency Management Annual Report
G. County Business
1. Solid Waste Release
 2. Solid Waste Plan Update Revisions
 3. E-911 Contract
 4. RBEG Grant—BDC Lease and Budget Amendment
 5. Paramedic Job Opening
 6. Findings of Fact\Reimbursement Resolution regarding Glade Creek Elementary School
 7. Other Business
 8. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
 9. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 17 and 31, 2009, meetings. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented tax appeal letters. She discussed the letter from Ms. Joyce regarding a mobile home that doesn't have any water but has electricity.

The Board of Commissioners and Mrs. Walker discussed this request about the solid waste fee on the mobile home, disconnecting the power and the solid waste fee being an availability fee rather than a user fee.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to deny the request unless she wants to turn the power off. Chair Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented a letter from Mr. Bedsaul about the solid waste fee at 1113 Tayson Road. She stated that the property record card shows the value of the structure is \$5,200. She said that Mr. Bedsaul says the structure is without power and water plus is uninhabitable. She talked about the picture of the property that she saw.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the request of releasing the solid waste fee. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented a letter for late application for property tax relief. She explained that all of the paperwork has been turned in from the elderly exemption audit, and he does qualify.

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

Mary Walker explained that all of the paperwork has been turned in from the elderly exemption audit for Ms. Sheets. She further explained that Ms. Sheets had been sick and didn't get her paperwork turned in on time.

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

Chris Barrett came before the Board to discuss a request that was approved by the Commissioners in 2005, and the conditions were to widen the road and bring them up to county standards. He talked about he posted a bond for the roads. He further talked about he ran out of time to get the roads widen within the stated time period. He said that the two property owners submitted letters consenting for the road extension. He explained that he is asking for a 6-month extension to get the road improvements completed.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the County has an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$46,413.75, and the ordinance allows the Board to grant the 6-month extension. He further explained that the Board has two options; allow the extension or build the road.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to grant the 6-month extension. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Randy Blankenship, Chief Building Inspector, presented the annual report for the Building Inspections Department. He discussed the number of inspections, number of permits, number of customers and phone calls daily, number of miles per vehicle annually, worked on complaints on different subjects, working on the EMS building, and people are doing more renovations than new construction.

Chair Ken Richardson and Randy Blankenship discussed the number of inspections this year and last year.

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, came before the Board to present his annual report including the number/types of trainings held, number/types of speeches presented, petroleum release responses, working with citizen complaints regarding different NCDENR issues and number of fire inspections/explosives material permits/fire suppression system permits issued. He talked about the number of searches held this year. He further talked about the EPLAN is online, and the resource manual is completed and updated to NIMS standards. He stated that all five fire departments have had their successful 9S insurance rating. He talked about a meeting in Asheville regarding people with special needs and working to have the capacity to open shelters for those people. He further talked about receiving one of the special needs trailer that can be used for a shelter. He clarified that this is for people who need a wheelchair or other standard medical equipment.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Gerald Leftwich talked about the type of trailer for the special needs people.

The Board thanked Gerald Leftwich.

County Manager Don Adams presented information regarding solid waste fees from the tornado damage; Smith family \$8,661.90, Mike and Sherry Dawson \$18.60, Derrick Galyen \$342 at this time but he isn't complete with his house. He explained that there are a couple more out there that hasn't done anything with their property. He talked about releasing these fees to clear some of these accounts.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed the insurance aspect of these charges. The County Manager explained that these are out of pocket expenses for these people.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to release these fees. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about the proposed changes to the Solid Waste Plan. He explained that the State reviewed the Plan and is requesting a public hearing for these changes. He reviewed the changes requested by the State regarding the sections about used oil, motor vehicle oil filters, and recyclable rigid plastic containers.

The Board and the County Manager discussed the recyclable rigid plastic container law.

The County Manager continued reviewing the proposed changes; wooden pallets, household hazardous waste and disaster response. He said that the public hearing is scheduled for the 21st for consideration by the Board at that time.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about the E-911 contract. He talked about the County has received two quotes; Embarq and Wireless Communications. He explained that the County Attorney has the Embarq contract for review. He reviewed the costs of the contract of \$201,720.44 and \$3,844.68 for the maintenance for year one. He said that these costs will be covered by the E-911 fund. He talked about the command post will be removed from the costs covered by the E-911 fund because he is proposing to not let that hold up the contract, and he is going to ask Gerald Leftwich and Dispatch to find something agreeable for the command post to the 911 board. He explained that the NetClock is not an allowable expense; which is \$8,042 for the equipment and first year maintenance and \$585 annually after that.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed that the 911 Board considered the NetClock to be an administrative function.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked for a list of the members on the 911 board.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Southern Software portion of the quote which has been approved by the 911 board. He explained that he and Wendy Williams discussed contracting directly with Southern Software rather than going through Embarq because of already working with Southern Software. He said he doesn't know if he will have the contract by the next meeting but will have it by the October 5th meeting. He asked if the Board has any questions or concerns to let him know.

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed lease agreement with the Blue Ridge BDC regarding a van. He reminded the Board that this is a grant through USDA in the amount of \$30,000. He presented budget amendment Economic Development Fund #1 in the amount of \$30,000 for the grant. He discussed the lease agreement details for the minivan.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve budget amendment Economic Development Fund #1 in the amount of \$30,000. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the lease agreement

between Alleghany County and Blue Ridge BDC. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about there is a full time job opening for a paramedic. He explained that this is at a grade 64, starting salary of \$27,694.27. He reminded the Board of the current policy when there are job openings.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed how this position is being currently covered.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to allow the County Manager to advertise and fill the position. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a resolution supporting an application to the Local Government Commission for its approval of school financing arrangements for the County. He explained that he has been working with Bob Jessup who is working with BB&T about QSCB funds. He talked about the timeline of the 0% interest loans, and the requirement of having them issued by December 31, 2009. He explained that the Board of Education is waiting on final word from DPI about the monies. He continued talking about the timeline and the steps that will be required including a public hearing at a later date. He reiterated that this is the first step to move forward.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a form that is required by USDA for the training facility. He explained that this document needs to be signed before proceeding to discuss the conditions at the next meeting. He further explained that the letter of conditions is the last step.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about the EMS building including he held a pre-construction meeting with the metal bids' portion due on September 25 and the interior bids' portion due October 2. He presented a timeline to the Board about how the low bidders will meet with the insurance company prior to the bid being awarded. He talked about awarding the metal bids on October 5 and awarding the interior bid on October 19. He informed the Board that asbestos has been found in the tile, and he held another meeting regarding that. He talked about by mid October to be moving forward on the building. He further talked about having the contractors put in an alternate in the metal bid because of the size of the vehicles and the size of the doors. He explained that the doors need to be larger doors and redoing some of the structural beams to allow for more room for the vehicles.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams discussed the height and width of the doors versus the size of the vehicles.

County Manager Don Adams discussed a request about the Marine Band coming. He reminded everyone that they will be performing in a parade on September 26 and having a concert later that evening. He explained that a request has been made by the sesquicentennial committee to have fireworks after the concert. He further explained that \$500 has been committed from Skyline Telephone, Blue Ridge Electric and the Town, and they are requesting \$500 from the County.

The Board stated that they didn't have a problem with that.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about her birthday is tomorrow along with Bud Marion and Tom Smith. She further talked about proclaiming tomorrow to be Bud/Tom/Milly day.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to enter into closed session at 4:38pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson left the meeting at 4:58pm.

County Attorney Donna Shumate arrived at 5:10pm.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:26pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Vice-Chair Randy Miller stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 5:28pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman