

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 15, 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.

Chair Cox stated that closed session for legal needs to be added to the agenda; NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3).

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this September 15, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, September 15, 2014
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for September 15, 2014, Meeting
- 10:05 A. Linda Killon, Assistant Tax Collector
1. August 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. August Collections Report - Monthly 2014 collection rates through August as compared to 2013 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of August 2014. No action requested
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
- 10:15 B. April Hamm, Transportation Director
RE: Rural Operating Assistance Program Budget Cuts. Mrs. Hamm will provide an update on recent cuts to the Rural Operating Assistance Program, which includes transportation for the elderly and disabled. No action requested.
- 10:25 C. Joy Hines, Finance Officer
RE: Audit Budget Amendment—Budget Amendment General Fund #6 in the amount of \$2,750 for additional auditing services required by the State Auditor. Action Requested – Vote on the Budget Amendment.
- 10:35 D. Brandon Keener, County Forestry Ranger
RE: Forestry Service Annual Report – No action requested.
- 10:45 E. Susan Miles, Sparta Revitalization Committee's Chair
1. Landscaping at the Senior Citizens Center
 2. Dysart Building and Courthouse Yard Christmas Decorations
- 11:00 F. General Business
1. Joint Meeting Reminder
Reminder of the Joint Meeting with the Town of Sparta on Monday, September 29, at 7:00pm in the Board Meeting Room at the County Administration Building.
 2. Wellness Drawing for 2 Martinsville Motor Speedway Tickets
All employees who walked more than 500,000 steps in the June/July walking club are entered into the drawing. Action Requested – Draw 1 name.
 3. NCACC Legislative Goals
Proposed goals to NCACC are due 9/19/14. Review the proposed goals. Action Requested – Vote on the goals.
- G. Public Comments—30 minutes
- H. Commissioners Comments
- H.1. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal (added)
- I. Adjourn

Linda Killon, Assistant Tax Collector, presented the August auto releases.

Commissioner Smith and Linda Killon talked about the debt set-off releases are because the bills are older than 10 years.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the August auto releases. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Linda Killon presented the August auto refunds.

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

Linda Killon presented the August auto refunds under the vehicle tax system (VTS).

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the VTS August auto refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Linda Killon presented the August real property releases.

Commissioner Leys and Linda Killon talked about a release for MCNC because they are to be billed as a public utility.

Commissioner Leys talked about another property that should have been exempt. Linda Killon agreed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the August real property releases. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Linda Killon presented the August real property refunds.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the August real property refunds. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Linda Killon presented the August 2014 reports; collections' report, enforced collection report, and payment agreement report.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, explained information that she received for her Rural Operating Assistance Program's grant; EDTAP \$27,326, Employment \$4,874 and RGP \$41,846 for a total of \$74,046. She provided last year's numbers for a total of \$107,269. She talked about an email she received from Debbie Collins that additional monies are available in the EDTAP monies for a total of \$45,179, which is still a reduction. She explained she had a meeting with her advisory board last week, and have some recommended changes. She reviewed the recommended changes; in-county to stay the same, out-of-county set dialysis and cancer treatments \$5 round trip with a limit of 6 trips per week for Elkin/Ashe County/Galax, \$10 round trip for Elkin/Ashe County/Galax for other medical trips, \$20 for Winston/Mt. Airy, Statesville/Wilkes County/Boone, no single out of county trips for EDTAP/coordination of all EDTAP trips, Legra/Deacon Road area riders will be asked to meet at Buckaroo's.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about she had met with her board prior to learning about the new information. She explained she got this information around 3:00pm on Friday afternoon. They talked about the possibility of the funding changing again, and she would like to implement a couple of these suggestions. She talked about the amount of funding used for 3 dialysis patients for the month of July. She provided statistics for EDTAP last year.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the EDTAP monies are still short by almost \$3,400, and asked do all of these changes need to be made. He talked about conversations that he and April Hamm had about which recommendations to ask the Commissioners including keeping the Legra/Deacon Road pickup location. She reviewed her recommendations; keep in-county trips the same, limit out of county to 6 per week and the Deacon Road pick up area. She said that her board meets quarterly and will continue to monitor this data. They talked about they will evaluate this next quarter and could make changes at that time if EDTAP is losing money.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm reviewed Mrs. Hamm's recommended changes as previously stated.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about the Legra/Deacon Road pickup location.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about making sure Buckaroo's is ok with that change.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about the proposed changes.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about the number of trips per week for dialysis patients and if they need more than 6 trips then it goes to RGP rates. They talked about the number of trips for cancer treatment patients.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about these are the approved recommendations from her advisory board.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the significant cut to RGP funds. He talked about the recommendations to RGP because it is a \$12,000 cut.

April Hamm explained the recommended rates for RGP by her board; general public pick up areas currently go from \$3-\$6 and recommend a \$2 increase for each area, leave the VA trips the same, suggest going to full costs for airport trips, RGP out-of-county coordinated fares increases and are scheduled only if trips are already scheduled. She talked about the in-county rates have not changed since 2009 and the veteran rates were adjusted in August 2012.

County Manager Don Adams and April Hamm talked about these changes are recommended by her board. She explained that the Commissioners must hold a public hearing on the RGP rate changes and advertise for 30 days. The County Manager talked about the required 30-day notice and the requirement to provide RGP services throughout the year regardless of funding. He talked about the sooner the Board can talk about these rates, the better because Allegheny in Motion doesn't need to be out of money at the end of the year.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about April Hamm ran the numbers based on a January 1 start date. They talked about having a \$12,000 budget cut and these suggested rates will take care of that. Commissioner Leys asked about changing the EDTAP changes today.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the two EDTAP changes; limit out-of-county trips to 6 per week, the Deacon Road pick up area and in-county rates remain the same. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Chair Cox explained that he was approached by someone who is losing his sight, and asked would that qualify as EDTAP. April Hamm answered yes. Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about these changes won't affect him.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about 60 is the age qualification for EDTAP.

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

County Manager Don Adams talked about April Hamm's January 1 numbers are an estimate. He asked does the Board want to look at changing the RGP rates. Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about November 3 is the earliest the public hearing can occur.

April Hamm reviewed rates from the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the advisory board's proposal and hold a public hearing for increasing the pickups by \$2 per area, no changes to VA trips, increase the airport fares, out-of-county coordinated fares increase and the hearing be on November 3. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

The Clerk reviewed the motion.

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

Joy Hines, Finance Officer, explained an email she received from the auditors regarding additional work required. She reviewed the additional work. She said they are requesting \$2,750 for the additional work.

Commissioner Leys said this is another unfunded mandate.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this is something that came up after our contract with them.

Chair Cox and Joy Hines talked about this request came from the State Auditor's office.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the \$2,750. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Brandon Keener, County Forestry Ranger, submitted the Forestry Service annual report. He reviewed forest management statistics including the number of forestry management plans they assisted with including the number of acreage, logging plans, disease/insect infection sites, acreage of plantings, cost-share monies. He talked about fire control statistics including the number of fires with the acreage burnt and the causes of the fires.

Commissioner Smith and Brandon Keener talked about the burning permit procedures. They further talked about problems with people burning is more the time when they are burning. Brandon Keener explained people need to pay attention to the weather when they are burning. They talked about people are supposed to get a burning permit almost all times when burning.

Brandon Keener talked about turnover in our District including the new replacements. He explained now they have to charge for management plans with the new budget. He further explained the charges for the management plans.

Commissioner Leys and Brandon Keener talked about their website is ncforestry.gov. He talked about information available on the website.

Susan Miles, Sparta Revitalization Committee, along with Johnnie Whitlow, came before the Board to discuss landscaping plans for the Council on Aging facility. She reviewed the plans and the total cost of the plan is \$968.95 using the Town's backhoe. She stated that Sparta Revitalization Committee has committed \$200, and they are requesting the County to fund the balance.

Commissioner Smith explained the meeting with Council on Aging and their request to keep the maintenance as low as possible, and they were hesitate to act on anything except for the front of the building. Susan Miles explained the original drawing showed trees, and the decision was made to have the roses which won't have the root system as trees or interfere with vehicles in the parking lot. Commissioner Smith mentioned that Council on Aging approved money towards the project. Susan Miles agreed but explained they changed their minds because the roses take \$300 a year to maintain. They talked about she knows that from conversations with Karon Edwards. Commissioner Smith said he thought they should be involved in the conversations. Susan Miles reiterated that they have seen the plan with the trees but now there are roses.

Chair Cox asked did the Council on Aging board vote on this. Commissioner Smith said yes we met but they are saying that they have met with them since that meeting.

Johnnie Whitlow explained they didn't want the trees but agreed to the roses.

Commissioner Smith and Susan Miles talked about the prices for the plants and everything will be purchased locally.

Commissioner Leys explained the reason they asked the Town's maintenance staff for assistance, she met with Mark Carico, and they agreed to help.

Commissioner Davis talked about it needs to be dry before they get in there. Johnnie Whitlow explained they plan to plant in November. He talked the drain system under the bushes in the front of the building.

Commissioner Leys mentioned that Commissioner Davis met with Mark Carico too.

Chair Cox asked since the knock-out roses will be close to the road, are they resistant to salt spray. Johnnie Whitlow answered yes.

Commissioner Davis said the roses need to be kept where you can see the road. Susan Miles explained the roses are like the ones at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Leys explained the \$300 costs for the maintenance and what the costs covers.

Commissioner Smith asked about the other plantings being low maintenance. Susan Miles and Johnnie Whitlow agreed.

Susan Miles stated that the total request is \$768.95.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Davis asked where this money will come from. County Manager Don Adams explained it will come out of the General Fund through a budget amendment.

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

Susan Miles talked about the Festival of Trees that has occurred in the past and issues they ran into. She further talked about using the Dysart building for the Festival of Trees and putting 6 or 7 trees between the Dysart building and the Courthouse to make it look Christmas, trees range in size from 5 to 7 feet, Sparta Revitalization Committee will put the lights on the ones outside, will be in pots, stabilized with rebar and removed after Christmas.

Commissioner Leys asked what is the plan for the Dysart building. Susan Miles explained that it would not be open to the public because there is no power in the building. Johnnie Whitlow talked about having it open on the Friday and Saturday the weekend of the parade and the weekend after because of Choose and Cut.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about having power for the trees in the yard and power at the Dysart building. The County Manager said he doesn't see any issues with power for that limited time.

Susan Miles talked about this will be a lot less trees than before.

Chair Cox and Johnnie Whitlow talked about Santa Clause will be at a different location this year.

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

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:19am.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned the Joint meeting with the Sparta Town Council on Monday, September 29 at 7:00pm in the Board Meeting Room in the County Administration Building.

Clerk Karen Evans explained the wellness drawing is for all employees who walked more than 500,000 steps during June/July walking club for 2 Martinsville Motor Speedway tickets. Commissioner Davis drew and read the name; Jim Brown.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the legislative goals are due September 19. He explained the Commissioners can review and vote on each goal individually or discuss them as a whole. He stated his recommendation is to review them individually. He explained the first goal; Statewide Economic Development Program.

Commissioner Smith and the County Manager talked about a County Manager wrote a letter about addressing these issues, but it wasn't from the Managers' Association.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve this goal. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained the next goal; restore Rural Operating Assistance Program funding. He said he is glad it was restored but still needs work.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this goal to be put forth. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained the next goal; Use of 911 Funds.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve this goal. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained the next goal; ADM/Lottery Funds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this goal. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained the next goal; Unfunded mandates.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve this goal. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained the next goal; Medicaid Swap.

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

County Manager Don Adams talked about a goal requested by the Northwestern Regional Library about restoring funding to State Aid to Public Libraries Fund to the pre-2011 level of \$15.7 million, and eliminate special provisions that distribute State Aid outside of the equitable formula developed by the State Library Commission as requested by the library.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve this as a goal; restoring funding to State Aid to Public Libraries Fund to the pre-2011 level of \$15.7 million. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams asked is it the entire thing or just the first part.

Commissioner Leys and Chair Cox answered it is the entire thing.

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

Commissioner Leys encourage everyone to participate in the Mountain Heritage Festival on Saturday, and the Rotary Club will be selling Brunswick stew.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal at 11:40am. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:43pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated no action was taken during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 12:45pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans, Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox, Chairman