

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 16, 2013, 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 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.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this September 16, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, September 16, 2013
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for September 16, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for September 3, 2013, Meeting
- 10:05 A. Rita Miller - Tax Administrator
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 2013 collection rates through August as compared to 2012 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of August 2013. 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 – Alleghany in Motion (AIM) Director
1. Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant – Ms. Hamm will be presenting financial information for the FY 13-14 Rural Operating Assistance Program grant funds in the amount of \$107,269. A public hearing is scheduled for October 7, 2013. No action requested.
 2. Capital Resolution – Enclosed in the packets is a resolution authorizing the purchase of a desk, replacement lift van, replacement conversion van and 2 logos. These purchases were authorized in the previous FY 12-13 budget but have not become available to purchase until now. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed resolution.
- 10:25 C. Clark Hunter – Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director
RE: Mr. Hunter will be appearing before the Board to discuss recent economic development activities. No action requested.
- 10:40 D. Kate Cosner – Board of Elections Director
RE: Ms. Cosner is appearing before the Board to present information on new voter ID requirements. Ms. Cosner will also highlight basic information on how new State laws will influence the election process during the current FY 13-14. Ms. Cosner recommends a work session between the County Commissioners and the Board of Elections to discuss in detail how new State laws will impact the current and future election processes.
- 10:55 E. Jayne Phipps-Boger – Wilkes Community College Annual Report
- 11:05 F. Tammy Taylor / Debbie Welborn –Senior Services Annual Report
- 11:15 G. Brett Liverman – Chief Financial Officer, Alleghany Memorial Hospital
RE: Alleghany Memorial Hospital is appearing before the Board to request that the remaining budgeted \$50,000 be dispersed to them in the month of September 2013. Action Requested – Vote on dispersing the remaining \$50,000 to Alleghany Memorial Hospital in the month of September 2013
- 11:25 H. General Business
1. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Report.
Required status report on housing program. No action requested.
 2. Tourism Development Board Appointment
Joe Edwards' term on the TDA will expire on November 5. Mr. Edwards represents the tourism industry on the TDA. Discuss the appointment.
No action requested.
 3. E-911 Budget Amendment
E911 Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of \$8,000. This is to budget for a software upgrade with training and wireless messaging.
Action Requested—Vote on E911 Fund Budget Amendment #1.

4. Emergency Management Budget Amendment

General Fund Budget Amendment #5 in the amount of \$16,795. This is to budget for part-time salary to be paid at \$20 per hour and FICA for part-time fire inspector III/assistant emergency management coordinator to work 20 hours or less per week. Action Requested—Vote on the hiring of a part-time fire inspector III/assistant emergency management coordinator at \$20 per hour and General Fund Budget Amendment #5.

- I. Commissioner Comments
- J. Public Comments—30 minutes
- K. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the August auto releases.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the releases regarding the debt expired per NC Debt Set Off.

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

Rita Miller presented the August auto refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the August real property releases.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about the different types of the releases.

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

Rita Miller presented the August 2013 collections' report, the enforced collection report and the payment agreement report.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about the Debt Set-Off Program.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the Tag/Tax system and how it is going.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented information about the upcoming Rural Operating Assistance Program grant. She explained the funds for 2013/14; EDTAP \$48,555, EMPL \$4,867, RGP \$53,847. She stated that the public hearing will be at the next meeting.

April Hamm talked about a capital budget revision for her 2012/13 budgeted capital. She presented the resolution and the budget revision. She talked about the total additional costs will be \$6,914 for Alleghany County's cost being \$691.

April Hamm and County Manager Don Adams talked about these revised budget numbers are in the current budget. The County Manager explained the reason for the resolution.

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

Clark Hunter, Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director, talked about Pat Mitchell will be the new Assistant Secretary for the Department of Commerce. He further talked about his meeting with Pioneer Eclipse last week, and they have hired 15 people. He talked about his recent activities; meeting with Secretary Decker, gearing up on the economic development plan. He explained that next Monday and Tuesday the facilitation team will be here working with us on the economic development plan. He invited the Commissioners to attend. He further explained the survey and activities for Monday and Tuesday. He said that this is reaching out to the stakeholders. He stated his appreciation for the participation. He talked about the BDC is going good, and is currently working with hospice. He further talked about the Mountain Heritage Festival will be on Saturday. He talked about upcoming Halloween activities. He stated his appreciation to the Town. He further talked about the Miles Job Fund/Take a Break Interstate/TDA/community calendar.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned that Trasa Jones won the Workforce Development Board regional award and is the Chairman's appointee. He congratulated Trasa Jones and stated his appreciation for her efforts.

Kate Cosner, Elections Director, appeared before the Board to answer some questions that the Commissioners have about recent legislation and how it impacts elections.

Commissioner Smith and Kate Cosner talked about 2014 will not require a photo ID. She explained that Elections staff will ask people to show their ID and if people doesn't have their ID they have to sign a No ID Waiver but they can still vote. They talked about the Elections office will reach out also, and they are working on a website to include that information along with additional information. She provided more information about voter ID. They talked about the mobile DMV unit for counties that do not have a full-time DMV office, and they are working on a schedule for those counties.

Kate Cosner explained the acceptable forms of ID; unexpired NC driver's license or non-operators license, US passport, US military/veterans affairs card, tribal enrollment card if the tribe is recognized by the state or federal government and out-of-state drivers license if voter registered to vote within 90 days prior to the election.

Commissioner Smith and Kate Cosner talked about not knowing the percentage of voters that are without ID until after the primary.

Commissioner Leys and Kate Cosner talked about an example of an elderly person no longer having a valid driver's license and no birth certificate. Kate Cosner explained the one exception is a valid driver's license at age 70 can be used. Kate Cosner further explained that if they don't have a drivers license or a birth certificate, then using a certified copy of the marriage license. Kate Cosner stated that it is her understanding that the Register of Deeds and DMV will waive their fees for these items if only used for voter ID purposes. They discussed the dates/hours for the Alleghany County DMV location.

Commissioner Smith and Kate Cosner talked about counties cannot provide any ID's.

Commissioner Leys and Kate Cosner talked about there were no discussions about changing precinct places. They further talked about having the mobile DMV unit in the upper parking lot at the Administration Building.

Kate Cosner talked about looking at changes in the Election's budget because of these changes, and the local Board of Elections recommends holding a work session with the Board of Commissioners about what is needed along with the impact from the legislation.

Chair Cox and Kate Cosner talked about the current voting machines have a paper trail and the new law requires an individual paper ballot, which is what will require Alleghany County to purchase new machines by 2018. Chair Cox mentioned that Raleigh is still working on it. Kate Cosner stated that is not what they are being told.

Chair Cox talked about putting this on the next agenda

County Manager Don Adams suggested how to proceed.

Jayne Phipps-Boger presented the annual report for Wilkes Community College. She talked about they have had an increase in students for two years in a row and the Alleghany center has seen a little drop. She explained their Career and College Promise program stats. She talked about the equipment in the basement didn't have enough day time enrollment but are having night classes. She further talked about the new things that they are getting into; bee keeping and agriculture. She talked about awards recently won by Alleghany students; Brittany Broman and Dustin Shaw. She explained that they are working with public schools anyway they can. She talked about the Board of Elections is offering classes, and held voters registration with the students. She further talked about the State mandated changes regarding testing procedures. She explained that the biggest issue is students from high school aren't test ready. She further explained the new testing standards.

Commissioner Leys and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about workforce development working with public schools. Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about Clark Hunter, Trasa Jones and herself are the three board members on the workforce development board, and explained things that they work on and what they are. They talked about working on the agriculture business side.

Commissioner Smith and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about the increase in students include everyone.

Chair Cox and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about being fortunate to have Wilkes Community College here, and having a need for people to earn a living without a 4-year degree.

Tammy Taylor presented the annual report for the Appalachian Senior Services. She explained there are two programs; foster grandparents and senior companions. She further explained the programs and the statistics from last year including examples of people they serve. She talked about the senior companions work 20 hours a week.

Debbie Welborn explained the importance of these programs and said what the foster grandparent is to the child and the senior companion to the seniors. She thanked the Board for the continued support. She talked about their fundraisers held during the year to add to the County money for the required match. She further talked about offering other services to the community and their involvement with the aging population.

Commissioner Leys and Debbie Welborn talked about a health screening they held and the amount of services they offer.

Commissioner Leys and Tammy Taylor talked about the function of the foster grandparent program.

Commissioner Smith and Tammy Taylor talked about the process for the foster grandparents and senior companions. She reviewed all of the items that people are subject to. Debbie Welborn talked about the trainings held every month.

Commissioner Leys and Tammy Taylor talked about the number of foster grandparents and senior companions.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:10am.

Brett Liverman, CFO Alleghany Memorial Hospital, stated their appreciation for the \$100,000 allocation to the Hospital. He said that he believes the Hospital shares the Commissioners' objective and goal to improve the Hospital's financial situation. He explained that it is their understanding if they were close to meeting their cash covenant that the Board would entertain a request to authorize distribution of the additional \$50,000. He said that they have worked very hard to increase their cash position. He explained the days of cash increased from 27 days to 34 days as of end of July but at the end of August it was down to 30 days, and they are estimating it to be 32 days at the end of last week. He said that it is hard to predict projections. He stated that projections say if they hold on averages they will be at 35 days on September 30. He provided examples of why the averages change. He said that they request the Board to authorize the remaining funds to meet the September 30 target.

Commissioner Leys and Brett Liverman talked about the September 30 deadline is a requirement for the loan.

Commissioner Goudreau and Brett Liverman talked about what happens if the cash is less in the upcoming budget by explaining that the requirement is only on September 30, which is the end of their fiscal year.

Commissioner Leys and Brett Liverman talked about being at 32 days at the end of last week. He explained they have made great strides and provided examples.

Commissioner Leys asked about the new clinics. Brett Liverman explained that there are three new clinics. He said the feedback from the community and patients have been great. He talked about the convenience factor for existing patients, specialists are hopeful that the clinics will increase and go to more days. He explained the revenues from the clinics.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the request is budgeted and the County is fine at a cash-flow point, and it is a policy decision on how to allocate these funds.

Commissioner Leys, Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the wording of the motion.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to forward \$50,000 ahead of schedule to Alleghany Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation for the work done by the Hospital Board to improve the bottom line. She said the Hospital is an important part of the community.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented the August 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Scattered Site Program. He explained that everything is on schedule. He talked about the grant will be closing in the next couple of months.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a Tourism Development Authority (TDA) board appointment for Joe Edwards will be expiring soon. He explained that the TDA has met on this, and Joe Edwards has indicated his willingness to continue to serve.

Chair Cox talked about he is one of the original appointees.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the requirements of the TDA board members.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about his time serving on the TDA that Joe Edwards does a lot of work, was good and a good asset to remain on the TDA.

Chair Cox stated that the Board is waiting on the letter from the TDA.

County Manager Don Adams presented E-911 Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of \$8,000 along with a memo from Wendy Williams about the request. He explained the request is for an upgrade to the mapping system, upgrade is free with training costs of \$1,250, and the other part is for texting capacity.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about these are 911 monies, those monies can only be spent on approved 911 expenses and these are allowable expenses. They discussed the texting portion of the request and how it will enhance the current system.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve E-911 Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of \$8,000. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$16,795 for a part-time Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Inspector. He reviewed this budget amendment is for part-time salary to be paid at \$20 per hour and FICA for part-time Fire Inspector III/Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator to work 20 hours or less per week. He explained retirement rules are that Gerald Leftwich cannot work during the month of September then can come back 20 hours a week. He further explained once the new person is hired, then starts completing their certifications the less Gerald Leftwich will work.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$16,795. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he needs a motion to hire the part-time Fire Inspector listed at the bottom of the part-time pay plan.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the County Manager's recommendation. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis talked about he and the County Manager attended a lunch where Gerald Leftwich received a Director's certificate from the Director of the State Emergency Management. The County Manager talked about it is a rarely received award.

Commissioner Goudreau encouraged everyone to attend the Mountain Heritage Festival this weekend.

Commissioner Leys talked about the symphony is coming on Friday, and tickets are available at the Chamber and the Library. She encouraged everyone to buy some Brunswick stew at the Festival. She talked about the Carter art presentation on September 27 at 5:00 and invited everyone to come. She explained that several of us have been involved in the CEO search with the Hospital, and they are continuing the search. She talked about a lot of good work that Aaron Ray Tompkins is doing. She further talked about the Miles Job Fund is meeting with the five-town group. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce is working on major changes including a master calendar.

Chair Cox talked about the Western Highlands merger is going forwards on the October 1 date. He further talked about he noticed in the *Winston-Salem Journal* that CenterPoint is talking about merging with Smoky Mountain Center. He reviewed his comments from the last meeting about only having three or four local management entities for mental health. He stated his appreciation for Josh Greene and his crew for their work on the Veterans Park. Commissioner Leys talked about Charles Pugh has said he will volunteer to design the flag area at the Park.

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

Dennis Smith talked about last Wednesday, 9/11, was the 12th anniversary of the World Trade Center was destroyed. He further talked about as a result of that event, the government has been at war for the past 12 years and the amount of money spent, people killed or disabled. He said there are multiple unanswered questions regarding these events and the official story. He reviewed one question concerning the planes that hit the World Trade Center. He read a prayer from the soldiers and sailors prayer book.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn at 12:00pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman