

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 17, 2012, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Chair Richardson stated that the October meeting needs to be added under Item K and closed session for personnel needs to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this September 17, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, September 17, 2012
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for September 17, 2012, Meeting
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Larry Davis Presentation
C. Rita Miller
RE: August Releases and Refunds
August Collections Report
PUV Late Application Request
Commercial Solid Waste Fees Release Request
2015 Reevaluation Bids
- D. Sheriff Edwards
RE: Drug Abuse Coalition
- E. Bryan Edwards/Kevin Dowell
- F. RE: Town of Sparta/Bottomley Resolution
- G. Veterans Service Annual Report
- H. Forestry Service Annual Report
- I. Dr. Jeff Cox
RE: School Facility Meeting Update
- J. General Business
1. Proclamation for Older Worker Week
2. Medicaid Transportation Correspondence
- K. Commissioners Business
1. State of the Association Report—Chair Richardson
2. October Meeting (added)
Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel (added)
- L. Adjourn

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

Dennis Smith came before the Board to talk about his comments at the last meeting regarding BREMCO. He explained more information about coops. He started by reading from an article about coops. He presented more information about coops. He gave examples of things that the former Soviet Union has in common with Blue Ridge Electric. He read a story about interactions with Blue Ridge Electric that began with a press release about the Blowing Rock Arts Center. He talked about the Blowing Rock community and their Arts Center. He further talked about financing for the Arts Center. He talked about donations for the Arts Center. He asked if the Teapot Museum would have met the same fate. He said that it would be nice if the Board would challenge the proposed increase. He continued the story about the Arts Center, which has been purchased by Samaritan's Purse. He explained that the Center would have been constructed without BREMCO's money but is that a wise use of the money. He urged the Board to consider opposing BREMCO's rate increase. He read a prayer that was offered in the US Senate.

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

Chair Richardson, on behalf of the Board, presented a plaque to Larry Davis for his dedication and years of service to Alleghany County as an employee.

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

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

Rita Miller presented the August real property releases and refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the August 2012 collections' report.

Rita Miller presented a late present-use value (PUV) application. She explained that this is due to the property owner had been removed from PUV because they didn't submit their paperwork from an audit.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about her recommendation is to approve the request.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about this is for this year.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented a request to release some commercial solid waste fees. She explained that the business is closed in January and February each year but has been charged business solid waste fees. She talked about the amount of the release is \$448.78 for 2005-2009 and adjustments have already made for 2010-2011. She stated that the business has property taxes due since 2002 for over \$4,000.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about this release of \$448.78 would be a release and cannot be applied to the taxes owed.

County Manager Don Adams explained how the process works when complaints come before the Tax Office regarding commercial solid waste fees and the Board of Commissioners is the only one that can release it.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about the amount of taxes owed. He said she needs to do whatever she can to collect the taxes including attaching their cash receipts.

Commissioner Cox and Rita Miller talked about the debt set off doesn't apply. They talked about her recommendation is to release the fees based upon information from the Finance Office but she would like to have direction from the Board about collecting the taxes.

Commissioner Roten reiterated that he thinks the Tax Administrator should do whatever is necessary to collect the taxes.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about the use of the Dumpster services and the County charges for the amount of services provided by a private contractor.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about what is before the Board is to release commercial solid waste fees for the months the business was closed.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about this is not actually refunding money, it's a release.

County Manager Don Adams explained that it normally gets taken care of before it gets this far.

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

Chair Richardson said that he thinks the Tax Administrator is getting additional direction from the Board about getting the taxes paid.

Rita Miller talked about the 2015 reevaluation. She explained request for bids were sent to interested companies and four bids were received; Wampler & Eanes \$263,200, Tyler Technologies \$296,000, Pearson's Appraisal \$367,680 and Rasberry Shackelford \$415,000. She further explained her research regarding the bids and the companies. She stated that after consideration and research, she is recommending Wampler & Eanes be awarded the bid for the 2015 reevaluation.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about this is the lowest bid and she has spoken to Ashe County and Mitchell County where they have performed work. She explained that the only one negative feedback was about a field appraiser.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Tax Administrator. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cox and Rita Miller talked about their software will not change and this company will work with the current software.

County Manager Don Adams asked Rita Miller to explain why the bid is so low.

Rita Miller explained that the last reevaluation was a complete relist and re-measure and explained what was involved in that process. She further explained this company doesn't have to re-measure everything, only the changes.

Commissioner Cox and Rita Miller talked about new aerial mapping won't be available until 2015.

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

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about the amount of value that is currently on the books and reevaluation will come in at least that amount based upon how other counties are. She explained that we aren't going to see a huge drop and said that the last sales ratio was 104%. She further explained the Tax Office tracts all sales and it shows about 116% which is 16% over the value.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about 58% is PUV which is set by the State.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller talked about not seeing drops of 20-30% because the current data isn't showing that. She explained that 2013-2014 sales are what will be used.

Sheriff Edwards talked about they started a drug abuse coalition in Alleghany. He explained the purpose of the coalition and they are requesting the AB surcharge monies that went to mental health to be a line item in the Sheriff's budget to use for the drug task force.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about this will impact this year's budget.

County Manager Don Adams provided an update about the monies have been going to New River Behavioral Healthcare since prior to him coming here. He provided copies of the law. He explained that the monies are about \$1,800 per year. He further explained that he froze the monies when New River changed. He stated that it was \$1,344 last year and \$1,854 estimated for this year. He talked about if the Board approves this, the budget amendment would be \$3,198 and this would be rollover monies. He further talked about this local group has been active for a while.

Chair Richardson and Sheriff Edwards talked about they work with providers in the county, prescription drugs is the biggest problem, and doing anything to help educate people.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the last meeting he went to about the group working with the doctors about prescriptions.

Commissioner Cox and Commissioner Goudreau agreed about the comments that have been made.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson and Sheriff Edwards talked about the coalition meets on a regular basis.

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

Bryan Edwards, Sparta Town Manager, talked to the Board about a resolution that was recently adopted regarding Alleghany Industrial Park restrictions concerning property owned by Bottomley. He explained that the resolution referenced 7.56 acres and the acreage has changed to 7.87 acres. He further explained that the request before the Commissioners today is to approve a revised resolution showing the 7.87 acres.

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

Sam Nichols, Veterans Service Officer, presented his annual report including what his office does to assist veterans and their families. He reviewed the types of the benefits. He provided statistics over the past year.

Chair Richardson and Sam Nichols talked about how many veterans and families are in the county being approximately 1,250 veterans.

Brandon Keenan, Forestry Service, presented their annual report. He talked about forest management statistics, and they are looking at holding around the same numbers this year. He further talked about their fire control statistics. He stated that the fires were very small because of the help of the volunteer fire departments. He talked about information and education that they provide and classes held.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, provided papers to the Board. He explained that they are going to do the top four projects out of their fund balance. He further explained how they can and the things that enabled them to build up their fund balance. He described the projects that they are going to take care of; stadium lights at Jarrett Field & Woodruff Field--\$240,000, white brick façade at AHS--\$150,000, roofing project at old gym at AHS--\$41,000, new roof at central office--\$15,000. He explained that they have gotten bids on the lights and should be able to take care of these projects without additional assistance from the County.

Chair Richardson and Dr. Cox talked about the other projects listed are just for information purposes.

Commissioner Smith asked Dr. Cox about the timeline on the projects. Dr. Cox answered the lighting project will hopefully be before the last home football game, brick façade will be a summer job because of the nature of the job, and the two roofing projects are ready to proceed.

Commissioner Cox stated his appreciation for Dr. Cox coming to this meeting. He talked about the facilities committee meeting three weeks ago and was encouraged with the attitudes of everyone involved. He talked about reducing the number of lights at both facilities. Dr. Cox talked about they will be better lights, brighter lights, and they hope to break even on the power consumption. They discussed how the lights will be installed. They discussed the brick façade is the old building and the square, which is the white brick, and they are going to do something similar as the Piney Creek School gym. Commissioner Cox reiterated his appreciation and congratulations for taking this on and making it happen. Dr. Cox thanked him and talked about they realize what a tough budget year it is.

Chair Richardson talked about this is a perfect example of the two boards working together. He encouraged everyone to go visit Glade Creek School to see all of the work that has been completed there.

Dr. Cox stated his appreciation for both boards working together. He talked about the facility at Glade Creek School is outstanding. He further talked about all three elementary schools are in good shape for the next several years.

The Board took a brief recess at 11:04am.

County Manager Don Adams presented a proclamation for September 23-29 to be proclaimed as National Employ the Older Worker Week.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed Medicaid transportation letter that will go to the secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Transportation as well as our legislators.

Chair Richardson asked does anyone have any questions for the County Manager to address about the letter.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to allow the County Manager to send out this letter. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about an email sent to DMA requesting clarification. He reviewed the timeline that DMA sent out a policy change effective July 1 that transportation providers are to provide Medicaid direct enrollees and will bill Medicaid directly as of October 1. He explained his knowledge of this on August 24 and his conversations since that time. He said that there isn't a system in the State that bills directly. He used EMS as an example. He said that he had John Blevins and April Hamm to research this and they are not getting information about October 1. He explained he sent an email to DMA requesting that we have something in writing allowing the current billing system to be in place until more information is received. He explained the reason for bringing it before the Board now is we may have to stop

Medicaid transportation on October 1 because he can't run the risk of \$10,000 per month and not knowing if we are going to be paid after October 1. He said that he just needs something in writing that they will pay us after October 1. He explained his conference calls, understanding from phone calls, and John Blevins's understanding is October 1. He reiterated that he is just asking them to put it in writing what he thought he heard during the phone conversations.

Chair Richardson stated thanks for the update and to call the Commissioners if there is an update.

County Manager Don Adams said he will and reiterated that he wants to make sure everyone is comfortable about Medicaid transportation, which is deny Medicaid transportation as of October 1.

Chair Richardson talked about rescheduling the first meeting in October until October 8 at the same time. He asked if that works for the Commissioners. Everyone nodded

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to change the next meeting to October 8. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson talked about the State of the Association pamphlet that Clerk Karen Evans put in everyone's box. He stressed the importance of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He talked about \$198,000,000 has been returned to the counties through actions of the Association. He further talked about other information in the pamphlet. He explained that Alleghany County had almost \$600,000 returned in the past year including debt set off in the amount of \$27,000 returned in six months. He further explained through the Association's Risk Management workers comp and property/liability insurances are provided at a lesser rate. He reviewed some of the monies Alleghany County received; discount on insurance, enhanced EMS reimbursement. He explained that this pamphlet reviews the legislative goals that were achieved by the Association. He encouraged future Commissioners to be a part of this Association to help the counties.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to enter into closed session at 11:22am under NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn closed session at 11:48am and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 11:50am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman