

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 4, 2010, at 6:30pm 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 Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Doug Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the SHIIP program needs to be added to the agenda under county business.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this October 4, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, October 4, 2010
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for October 4, 2010, meeting
Motion on Minutes for September 20, 2010, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: 2010 Scattered Site Grant
C. Building Inspections Annual Report
D. Emergency Management Annual Report
E. Chamber of Commerce/Occupancy Tax Annual Report
F. County Business
1. Wildlife Commission
 2. E-911 Budget Amendments
 3. Scattered Site Project Ordinance
 4. Secondary Road Construction Program—Public Hearing Schedule
 5. SHIIP (added)
 6. Other Business
 7. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for public comments.

Stacy Hawks presented a certificate of appreciation from the Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission to the County Commissioners for their hard work and dedication.

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

Michelle Ball with High Country Council of Governments came before the Board to discuss the 2010 Scattered Site Grant. She explained how the grant helps low income people fix their houses. She talked about what the Scattered Site committee does for the grant. She further talked about they have been advertising for applications, and the deadline was October 1. She explained that the committee will meet on Wednesday to select the homes for the grant. She further explained that the grant is due by 5:00pm on November 15, 2010, with anticipated funding to be received by early 2011.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing regarding the Scattered Site Grant at 6:37pm and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:38pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Randy Blankenship, Chief Building Inspector, came before the Board to present the annual report for the Building Inspections Department. He reviewed the numbers for their inspections, permits, daily customers, daily phone calls, mileage for each vehicle, complaints, judicial consent

orders and having spent a lot of time on the Glade Creek Elementary School project and the EMS building during the past year.

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, talked about the requirement to have the Emergency Operation Plan updated annually and doesn't have any changes at this time.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adopt the Emergency Operation Plan. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Gerald Leftwich presented the annual report for Emergency Management. He reviewed his activities during the past year: trainings for Law Enforcement, Health Department, EMS, Rescue and Fire; county-wide tornado drill; hosting managing land search operation; presented 14 speeches to local clubs, daycares and special interest groups to educate them on advanced preparation; assisted the Extension Service with fire safety training for the schools; fire prevention week and fire prevention parade; two responses to petroleum releases; citizen complaints; number of fire inspections/permits. He talked about the eplan being available online to people wherever there is internet access.

Bob Bamberg, Chamber of Commerce Director, came before the Board to present their annual report. He provided information to the Commissioners about tourism activities in the county, where Alleghany County was one of six counties that saw a positive increase in tourism in 2009. He talked about recently celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Mountain Heritage Festival. He provided the Board copies of the 2010 edition of the Sparta magazine and pamphlets that they produced/distributed this year. He talked about the event calendar they created. He explained that they normally put brochures at 150 places in North Carolina, and this year they advertised with a company that places brochures in 2,000 places. He explained the brochures and postcards in the packets. He talked about the occupancy tax collections over the last five years and the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) requires them to report the occupancy tax expenditures quarterly. He further talked about how the NCGS requires them to spend the occupancy tax monies. He explained that they worked on radio ads this year. He played one of the radio ads. He talked about the guest book in the Chamber. He further talked about an increase in the occupancy tax that they are still working on and will come back later. He mentioned the Blue Ridge Parkway's detour coming through Alleghany County this summer.

Chair Ken Richardson acknowledged Bob's hard work on the Mountain Heritage Festival and the Blue Ridge Parkway celebration. He talked about an excellent point of bringing up what the NCGS says in regards to the occupancy taxes.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about this was the cleanest and best run Mountain Heritage Festival. He provided examples.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about she has had several conversations with people regarding the enforcement by the Wildlife Commission. She further talked about how much money comes to Alleghany County by people coming here hunt. She said that with everything that everyone does to keep people coming here; some of the enforcement efforts by the Wildlife Commission are stopping that. She talked about this is a fine line that has to be walked. She further talked about one officer in particular. She asked the Board to allow Mr. Andrews to share his experiences.

Tommy Andrews talked about one person who has had run-ins with one wildlife officer, and people will not come back if he is still here. He talked about actions of the officer over the last couple of years. He explained that this officer has costs the county thousands of dollars. He said we need enforcement but need someone who has the right attitude. He further said that the county needs to get another game warden like Mr. John Wishon and talked about what the County has now.

Larry Brown talked about an article in the paper about where people were selling deer meat, and he gave them a ticket. He said that maybe he is doing his job but there is a way to do things.

Jim Decker explained that he spent 2 ½ days in court and paid \$250 in fines about supposedly shooting a dummy deer, Mr. Blankenship did not tell the truth in court, Alleghany County is getting a bad reputation because of him and you spent thousands of dollars to get \$250. He talked about his experiences with him.

Tommy Andrews talked about they want enforcement in a fair way.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked isn't there proper channels to go through.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that she isn't sure the County can do anything because this isn't County personnel.

Larry Brown talked about the officer gave his grandson a ticket because the grandson was hunting on his property.

County Manager Don Adams clarified that expenses for court are not a County expense regardless of whether this issue is right or wrong. He said that he wanted to make sure that people understand that their property tax dollars are not paying for any court expenses.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked can we get someone here from the Wildlife Commission to come to talk about this.

Chair Ken Richardson asked the County Manager and County Attorney to research this and come back at the next meeting.

County Manager Don Adams presented E-911 Fund Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$4,057. He explained the budget amendment is for a card for the operation of the viper system and a chair in the dispatch.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve E-911 Fund Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$4,057. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the Scattered Site Grant project ordinance for the 2010 Scattered Site grant in the amount of \$400,000.

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

County Manager Don Adams talked about he received a phone call from the Department of Transportation about holding a secondary road construction program public hearing. He explained the secondary road construction program. He asked if this Board wants to have the public hearing or let the next Board hear it. He said that they can do it in November or the week of December 13.

Commissioner Doug Murphy explained that he doesn't mind doing it but it would be a good experience for the new Board. He said that he will do whatever this Board wants to do.

County Manager Don Adams agreed that this is a good learning experience about the secondary road program. He explained their time schedule.

Chair Ken Richardson asked if any of the current Board members have a problem scheduling this the week of December 13. No one spoke. He talked about scheduling the meeting on December 13 at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the State Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) program which Council on Aging (COA) recently announced that they were not going to continue. He explained the SHIIP program and reviewed all of the people that he has spoken to today regarding this program. He explained why COA made the decision to not continue offering the SHIIP program due to time allocations rather than money issues. He further explained that Allegheny Cares started looking into offering this service, and people have to be trained to offer these services. He said that Cares has one volunteer currently taking the training, and a couple of others working to receive access to the training. He talked about moving the computers for these services, have the volunteers work out of the Senior Center building, and this will be considered transitional time. He described how this could work.

Commissioner Randy Miller and County Manager Don Adams talked about the County Manager does not know whether the practice of going to people's homes that cannot come in will continue because that will be determined by the volunteers. The County Manager talked about the transportation program offers transportation services to those who need it.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about Karon Edwards cannot train the volunteers.

County Manager Don Adams reiterated that this idea has not been discussed by the COA Board. He explained that today he has attempted to keep the experience available for the time being and then sit down in June to see where the volunteers are and if they can take it over.

Commissioner Randy Miller and County Manager Don Adams discussed the \$3,000 would still go to COA this year.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about almost half or more of the workload is between November 15 and December 31.

Commissioner Milly Richardson agreed and said that this discussion should have occurred a long time ago. She explained that people may change their PART B Medicare between November 15 and December 31. She talked about the drug plans for citizens and the timing of this. She said that she wanted to let the public know that we will provide this service, don't panic because there will be help to get your drug plan fixed, and we will have volunteers up and running by November 15.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about he thinks it is great that Alleghany Cares is stepping up, and the Board has to make sure that the citizens have what they need.

County Manager Don Adams reiterated that there are still a lot of details to work out. He read an email from Alleghany Cares talking about the SHIP program's importance, their board has agreed to take on the SHIP program, and this scenario will allow access to the experience of Karon Edwards.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that Don Adams did a good job on this matter.

Chair Ken Richardson announced to everyone that the Appalachian District Health Department has been awarded \$1,350,000 for obesity prevention in the three-county area. He stated a special thank you to all of those involved with the grant. He explained that this is not a matching grant, and our health department and Pitt County are the only ones funded in North Carolina.

Chair Ken Richardson gave the Board a copy of information regarding the creation of a State Veterans Park in Cumberland County, and a letter from the Governor.

Chair Ken Richardson explained that he and Commissioner Murphy continue to work on the code of ethics and will bring back a code by the mid-month meeting in October. He further explained that this is something that has to be adopted by December 31.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the Wellness Center Pepsi challenge grant in the amount of \$50,000 for a permanent structure over the pool. They explained that the more responses a project gets then the better chances of getting the grant.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about he and Commissioner Murphy have a meeting about the school facilities at the Board of Education's office at 4:30pm on Thursday.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the turnout was great and was a fantastic program on Saturday for the Joe Roberts service. He thanked Karen Evans, Ken Richardson, Barbara Church and Laura Murphy for their work on this program.

Being no further business, Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman