

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 5, 2015, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Vice-Chair Karen Leys and Commissioner Mark Evans were absent.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this October 5, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

AGENDA
Monday, October 5, 2015
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for October 5, 2015 Meeting
Motion on Minutes for September 21, 2015, Meeting
- 6:35 A. April Hamm—Transportation Director
1. Present information about the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) grant.
 2. Public Hearing -- Chairman opens public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed ROAP grant. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
 3. Action Requested – Vote on the ROAP grant.
 4. Present grant information regarding the Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant for 2016/17.
 5. Public Hearing – Chairman opens public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed CTP. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
 6. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed CTP grant application.
 7. Present information about the Section 5310 (ED) grant program. Action Requested – Decision about applying for the grant monies.
- 6:50 B. Joseph McGrady, Chief with Sparta-Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department
RE: Annual Report
- 7:00 C. Jeremiah Hampton, Veterans Service Officer
RE: Annual Report
- 7:10 D. General Business
1. Library Architect Agreement
Enclosed is the agreement with Hemphill-Randel Associates for architect services for the library renovations. Action Requested – Vote on the Agreement.
 2. BB&T Resolution and Agreement for Deposit Account
Resolution to change the authorized people who have signature authority with BB&T due to the recent retirement of the Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer. Action Requested – Vote on the Resolution.
 3. Open Dispatch Position
Request to fill an open dispatch position, Grade 61, \$24,401.85. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
 4. Drug Agency Fund Budget Amendment
Budget amendment Drug Fund #1 in the amount of \$50,000 to budget for rollover drug agency funds. Action Requested – Vote on the budget amendment.
 5. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board Appointment
Request is to appoint Caleb Dalton to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board. Action Requested – Vote on the appointment.
 6. Library Board Appointment

Request is to appoint Bobby Fender on the Library Board to replace the vacancy created from the resignation by Paula Presnell. Action Requested – Vote on the appointment.

7. Planning Board Pay

The Planning Board is requesting that the County consider approving a \$30 per meeting stipend. Action will be requested at the next meeting.

8. Sales Tax Discussions

Discussions regarding recent sales tax changes and the local option sales tax. No action requested.

E. Public Comments—30 minutes

F. Commissioners Comments

G. Adjourn

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) grant application. She reviewed the breakdown of the grant; EDTAP \$45,170, Employment \$5,140, RGP \$42,483 for a total of \$92,793.

Chair Smith and April Hamm talked about the grant's match comes from the fares. They reviewed the difference between this year and the grant.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing at 6:35pm and asked for public comments regarding the proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) grant application. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:36pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve applying for the ROAP grant. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented the Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant application in the amount of \$156,832. She reviewed the breakout of the budget for the grant including the required 15% match. She stated that the application has been frozen at \$154,273 for 7 years. She reviewed the total costs to the County is \$9,437.75 for the administration of the transportation program.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the indirect costs included in the application, and \$9,437.75 is actual cash costs.

Chair Smith and April Hamm reviewed the reimbursement amount, indirect costs, costs shown on the application and actual cash costs to the County.

Commissioner Irwin and April Hamm discussed the dispatch position and the budget has been capped at this level for 7 years.

April Hamm presented the capital portion of the grant application for 2 replacement vans in the amount of \$111,900 with a required local match of \$11,190. She explained that the match normally comes out of the operating budget.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing at 6:45pm and asked for public comments regarding the proposed Community Transportation Program (CTP) application.

April Hamm said that there are Voluntary Title VI Public Involvement Forms available for anyone who wants to complete one.

Chair Smith asked for additional comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:46pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to apply for the CTP Grant. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

April Hamm presented information regarding the Section 5310 (ED) program including the State's priority is to capital projects and operating projects will not be funded unless there are funds left. She presented additional information about applicants should be prepared to provide a 20% capital match in the case State funds are not available. She reviewed the grant program summary for 2014/15 for a total costs of the ED program of \$34,659. She said the ED van is old, needs to be replaced and currently has over 160,000 miles on it. She stated that a new van must be purchased if the program continues. She reviewed the costs to purchase the van at a 20% match is \$11,700 or a 10% match of \$5,850 in addition to the operating costs.

County Manager Don Adams talked about if the grant stayed the same including the costs of the van it would cost \$22,650. He further talked about the first conversation regarding the State isn't funding operations unless there are monies remaining and capital reimbursement of 20%. He reviewed the worst case scenario is the ED program would cost \$48,000. He said if the Board wishes to move forward then a public hearing will need to be held at the first meeting in November.

Commissioner Irwin and April Hamm talked about we may not know until after July 1 about the funding amounts.

County Manager Don Adams and April Hamm talked about the program could be paused until the County knows about the funding because this program isn't required to start on July 1.

Chair Smith and April Hamm talked about we can apply for the funds and decide at a later date.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about April Hamm needs permission to pursue having a public hearing the first meeting in November if the Board wishes to proceed. April Hamm talked about the public hearing can be held on November 2, and the grant is due November 6.

Chair Smith and April Hamm talked about the issues on July 1 could be from the citizens if these services aren't offered.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to hold the public hearing on November 2 regarding the Section 5310 ED program. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

April Hamm said that 300 people qualify to use the program and around 200 actually use it. She provided the number of trips.

Joseph McGrady, Chief with Sparta-Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department, presented their annual report including the number/types of their calls. He talked about they are building up their first responder program. He continued to present the number/types of calls. He presented the number of members, fire rating inspection coming up soon and the fire prevention parade is Thursday.

County Manager Don Adams explained they are a level higher than first responders because there are really medical responders.

Chair Smith talked about the amount of training and stated his appreciation.

Commissioner Irwin talked about the fire departments are all volunteer fire departments, and people need to realize how much more the fire departments do. He said without the volunteers the County would be hurting. He stated his appreciation.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned getting the safety training facility renovations started soon. He talked about getting the renovations completed so the training can continue to be offered.

Jeremiah Hampton, Veterans Service Officer, presented his annual report including his office location, office hours, accreditations he earned earlier this year, his work as an advocate for veterans and their families, number of people assisted, types of assistance he provides, per capita population is 10%, and number of veterans per conflict/war. He stated he appreciates the opportunity to work with the veterans and their families.

Commissioner Irwin and Jeramiah Hampton talked about assistance provided to the veterans regarding transportation including working with the VFW and Alleghany in Motion. They discussed about half of the veterans are registered through the Register of Deeds office. They talked about veterans not realizing the importance of filing their discharge papers with the Register of Deeds. Commissioner Irwin asked if there is any way to let the veterans know along with advertising in the newspaper. They discussed every veteran in Alleghany County enrolled in the VA Healthcare should have received a choice card. Jeramiah Hampton explained how the choice card works regarding healthcare services including the VA sets up the appointments and payments.

County Manager Don Adams and Jeramiah Hampton talked about the choice card allows veterans to get medical services closer to their home.

Commissioner Irwin said he thinks there are some misinterpretations on the travel pay. Jeramiah Hampton stated who qualifies for travel pay. Commissioner Irwin said he has used the choice card and he doesn't understand why Alleghany Memorial Hospital isn't hooked up with the VA to offer services. Jeramiah Hampton mentioned to talk to them to see about their participation.

Chair Smith asked if there are a lot of veterans in the County eligible for services and not receiving them. Jeramiah Hampton said yes more often than not.

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed Library architect agreement. He reviewed the highlights of the agreement including the construction budget of \$730,000, additional services of site visits, length of project, architect-engineering redesign will costs more, compensation in the amount of \$72,175, hourly rate schedule, and reimbursable expenses. He explained his experience with this firm regarding renovation architectural services. He said they are the original designers of the building so they are ahead.

Commissioner Irwin asked about omissions and errors insurance. County Manager Don Adams said yes because they have to have insurance to cover themselves, and are held liable.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the County Attorney is happy with this contract. County Attorney Donna Shumate said yes she has read it and is fine with it.

Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the number of trips, architect has already visited the facility, and will visit another couple of times before they start the stamped design work.

Commissioner Davis and County Manager Don Adams talked about the floor system in the facility.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the architect agreement. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a resolution to change the authorized people who have signature authority with BB&T due to the recent retirement of the Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer. He explained that the County will have to continue to do this until the positions are filled. He stated that the vote removes the others from the signature cards.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams said there is a request to fill an open dispatch position, Grade 61, \$24,401.85.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to accept the Sheriff's request of filling the open dispatch position. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented Budget Amendment Drug Fund #1 in the amount of \$50,000. He explained that they thought the money would have been spent last year and wasn't so this budget amendment puts the money back in place.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Drug Fund #1 in the amount of \$50,000. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council requesting to appoint Caleb Dalton to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve appointing Caleb Dalton to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from the Allegheny County Public Library requesting to appoint Bobby Fender to fill the vacancy created from the resignation by Paula Presnell on the Library Board.

Chair Smith said this was voted on by the local library board.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the appointment of Bobby Fender to the local Library Board. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned that the Planning Board has requested a \$30 per meeting stipend. He explained that he will have this on the next agenda. He reminded everyone that they are volunteers, getting more applications, spending more time and meet once a month. He said that he would budget \$2,100-\$2,200 for an entire year. He reiterated because of the length and complexity of their meetings, they are requesting a stipend.

Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams discussed some months they don't meet.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned that the extra money will allow for additional assignments. He said it will be less money this budget year since part of the year has passed.

Chair Smith said we are asking a lot from this Board. He further said that the Commissioners will vote on it at the next meeting.

County Manager Don Adams said that he is planning to put this next topic on the next agenda. He explained that he was waiting on the State to pass their budget and is still waiting on the County Commissioners' Association's (NCACC) budget summary. He further explained that he should be getting a finalized summary from NCACC later this week. He stated that the General Assembly did approve the State budget, expanded sales tax out to certain services, for 2016/17 Allegheny County's proposed additional sales tax amount is \$227,000, and these additional funds can be used for education, community colleges and economic development.

Commissioner Irwin asked who decides that. County Manager Don Adams said the Governing Body does.

County Manager Don Adams explained he needs to get some exact data when it becomes effective because we may not see the \$227,000 next budget year. He further explained that another part of the conversation is this amount of money is based on projections since these are new services. He said that he would not recommend allocating the monies until the monies are received since they are estimates.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about the possibility of allocating some each month.

County Manager Don Adams said he will recommend setting up a separate fund since the monies can only be used for the three items and that would allow it to rollover between the years because otherwise it would be an annual conversation. He reiterated that this way would separate it from the schools and the community college's current allocations.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams discussed that the redistribution of these taxes would have to be rescinded in order to remove them. The County Manager explained since it is new he would remain cautious. Commissioner Irwin said the Board can't do much until

we know more specifics. County Manager Don Adams talked about we need to go through some process to decide.

County Manager Don Adams talked about having a discussion about having the ¼¢ sales tax on the ballot. He mentioned that the Article 46 sales tax would generate approximately \$168,000. He referred to previous discussions if put on a referendum it would be for general purposes. He reminded everyone that the wording is mandated and can't state what it is for. He said that the next general election is March 15. He talked about the timeline and would have to provide notice to the Board of Elections 60 days prior to the election. He recommended the Board have conversations now and not wait.

Chair Smith said if this goes on the ballot and passed, people would need to know what the money will be used for and the Board isn't obligated. County Manager Don Adams said that is correct.

County Manager Don Adams talked about letting everyone know that these are the discussions that are coming. He said that communications, safety, capital needs, and several things will be discussed.

Chair Smith talked about the people will decide.

Commissioner Irwin asked about the map showing it has passed in the counties around us. The County Manager said he will get it before the next meeting.

Chair Smith asked about having a particular need. County Manager Don Adams said he would not recommend putting it out there without a need. The County Manager said he will bring up items regarding safety/communications, and others will be bringing other needs. The County Manager talked about the communications study and the need to look at all of the areas of communications prior to trying to obtain grants dollars.

Chair Smith said this will be on the next agenda and will have more details on communications. He encouraged other ideas to be brought to the County Manager.

Commissioner Davis asked do we have to spend all of the funds in one year. The County Manager asked if he is talking about new sales tax. Commissioner Davis said yes. The County Manager said no the Board doesn't have to, could save money and have a big expense.

Chair Smith opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked for comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Irwin said he is very interested in the local option sales tax and programs that it could help.

Being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair