

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 7, 2013, at 6:30pm 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.

Chair Cox talked about adding an item under General Business regarding the Federal budget effects to Alleghany County.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this October 7, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, October 7, 2013
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for October 7, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for September 16, 2013, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Carlton Edwards Presentation
- 6:40 B. Rural Operating Assistance Program Public Hearing
RE: FY 13-14 Rural Operating Assistance Program grant funds in the amount of \$107,269.
- 6:45 C. April Hamm
RE: 1. Rural Operating Assistance Program -- Ms. Hamm will be presenting financial information for the FY 13-14 Rural Operating Assistance Program grant funds in the amount of \$107,269. Action Requested – Vote on the FY 13-14 Rural Operating Assistance grant application.
2. Alleghany in Motion Annual Report
- 7:00 D. Bob Edwards
RE: Draft Farmland Preservation Plan presentation. No action requested. It is requested that this plan be adopted in a future meeting.
- 7:15 E. Michelle Pridgen
RE: Alleghany Farmers Market presentation and request. Ms. Pridgen will be presenting information in regards to the Alleghany Farmers Market. The Alleghany Farmers Market is no longer allowed to hold the Market at Crouse Park. They are requesting permission to hold the Market in the County parking lot at 348 S. Main Street. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
- 7:25 F. General Business
1. Property Transfer to Board of Education
The septic treatment facility being installed to serve Piney Creek Elementary School, New River Artisans and the Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department is nearing completion. The 2.518 acres purchased to provide a suitable drain field for this project is proposed to be transferred to the Alleghany County Board of Education. It is proposed that the Board of Education own and operate the system. Action Requested – Vote to give the Chairman and County Manager the authority to transfer the 2.518 acres from County ownership to the Alleghany County Board of Education.
 2. Tourism Development Authority Board Appointment
Recommendation from the Tourism Development Authority to reappoint Joe Edwards to serve on the Authority for a three-year term.
Action Requested – Vote on and/or discuss the board appointment.
 3. Farmland Preservation Advisory Board Reappointments
Recommendation from the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to reappoint Bobby Evans, Bradford Gambill and Milly Richardson for another three-year term. Action Requested – Vote on and/or discuss the board reappointments.
 4. Alleghany County Library Board Appointment
Recommendation from the Alleghany County Library Board to appoint Paula Presnell to fill a vacant slot on the Library Board.
Action Requested – Vote on and/or discuss the board appointment.
 5. August 2013 Real Property Refunds
Standard refund of real property taxes due to reasons listed on report. These were overlooked at the last meeting. Action Requested – Vote on refunds.
 6. Joint Meeting with Board of Elections

Meeting with the Board of Elections has tentatively been scheduled for Wednesday, October 23 at 6:00pm. Action Requested – Vote to hold the meeting on October 23 at 6:00pm.

6. A. Federal Budget Impacts (added)

7. Wellness Program Drawing

Drawing for employees who have completed the required health assessment.

Action Requested – Draw 20 employees' names for a chance to win a \$10 Subway meal card.

G. Commissioner Comments

H. Public Comments—30 minutes

I. Adjourn

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

Chair Cox presented a plaque to Carlton Edwards for his years of service and dedication to the citizens of Alleghany County during his law enforcement career.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented the Rural Operating Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$107,269. She explained the amounts for the grant; EDTAP \$48,555, employment \$4,867, RGP \$53,847.

Chair Cox declared the public hearing open at 6:35pm regarding Alleghany in Motion's Rural Operating Assistance Program and asked for public comments.

April Hamm said there are public involvement forms on the Clerk's desk for anyone who wants to complete one.

Chair Cox asked for additional comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:36pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about this is money that Alleghany in Motion (AIM) is relying on. They clarified none of these monies are Federal monies.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Rural Operating Assistance Program grant application. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm presented the annual report for AIM. She reviewed the members of her advisory board. She presented the number of staff for AIM, amount/type of trainings held, miles traveled, hours on the road, number of trips provided, serving almost 17% of the population, grants already awarded this fiscal year, and the recent safety audit.

County Manager Don Adams and April Hamm discussed the recent safety audit that took two complete days to conduct.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about how the cameras are working well. She provided examples.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about the number of citizens that use AIM.

Bob Edwards presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Alleghany County Farmland Preservation Plan including the Plan's value to the county, summary of Alleghany's agriculture, goals/benefits, intent, process, community meetings, personal interviews and recommendations.

Commissioner Smith and Bob Edwards talked about the concerns of the communities, how people were very supportive and about the enhanced voluntary district.

Linda Hash explained the enhanced voluntary district. Commissioner Smith and Linda Hash talked about the amount of acreage in the current voluntary district.

Commissioner Davis and Bob Edwards talked about the provisions in the Plan regarding continuing farming due to lack of funding.

Commissioner Smith and Bob Edwards talked about how once the Plan is approved then Alleghany don't have to provide the match for grant funds.

Chair Cox and Bob Edwards talked about the timeline for the Plan.

Commissioner Leys said she would like more time to review the Plan.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about a public hearing isn't necessary and that it is up to the Board about how to proceed.

The County Manager explained how the Plan coincides with the master economic development plan that is currently being worked on.

Chair Cox stated that this has been a great process.

County Manager Don Adams presented a map and a survey for the Piney Creek septic project showing the 2.518 acre tract that Alleghany County purchased for the drain field for the School. He explained that he is requesting the transfer of property to the Board of Education to be completed. He provided a brief timeline of the project being substantially complete in November and completed in December. He explained that in order to have the system permitted correctly it needs to be in the proper name.

Chair Cox said that this will require the Chairman and County Manager's signature to complete.

Commissioner Leys and the County Manager talked about how this must be done prior to the completion because of the permitting, and they hope get the permits soon.

Commissioner Smith made a motion allowing the Chairman and County Manager to sign the transfer. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Michelle Pridgen presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Alleghany Farmers Market including several pictures from the 2013 Market, activities held, number of vendors and customers. She explained that they need to find a new location, and they have looked at using the parking lot at the County Administration Building.

Commissioner Leys talked about the idea of moving to the County's parking lot and there aren't any restrooms plus it's not a good place for children. Michelle Pridgen explained that the Town Manager has said the Market can use the restrooms at the Town Hall basement, there are ways to set the tents up to be more kid-friendly and understands these are the valid concerns. They discussed other possible locations.

Commissioner Smith talked about how things have run smoothly. He stated he has talked to some people and there is a possibility of staying at the current location. He suggested the Commissioners hold off making a decision on this and sit down with people from the County/Town/Farmers Market to discuss this situation. Michelle Pridgen said that they would welcome that opportunity.

Chair Cox said that Crouse Park is a good location. He talked about his experience as a vendor when the Market was in the parking lot at the Administration Building, and how it was not ideal.

Michelle Pridgen talked about how they are split on the decision to move but are open to the idea.

Commissioner Smith reiterated his suggestion of the groups meeting to explore these options.

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

The Board agreed for Tom Smith to represent the County in these meetings. The County Manager talked about ways to proceed.

Commissioner Smith, Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the advisory board for the Farmland Preservation Program and ways to create the advisory board.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Jim Connor stating that the Tourism Development Board would like to nominate Joe Edwards for a three-year term beginning in November.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to reappoint Joe Edwards to serve a three-year term on the Tourism Development Authority. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board requesting that Bobby Evans, Bradford Gambill and Milly Richardson be reappointed for another three-year term.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to reappoint Bobby Evans, Bradford Gambill and Milly Richardson for another three-year term. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from the Allegheny County Library Board. He read the letter stating that Susan Murphy has resigned from their board and are requesting Paula Presnell as her replacement on the Library board.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Paula Presnell to serve on the Allegheny County Library Board. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the August 2013 real property refunds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the August 2013 real property refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned the joint meeting with Board of Elections. He asked the Board if October 23 at 6:00pm will work for the meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to hold the meeting with the Board of Elections on October 23 at 6:00pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he feels obligated to discuss these issues with the Board of Commissioners about how the federal budget impacts Allegheny County. He reminded everyone that the Federal budget is not in place, and everyone hopes that something occurs in the next couple of weeks but feels the need to start planning in the event it doesn't. He explained that Allegheny in Motion (AIM) has two areas of concerns; the ED van, which is \$3,500 a month and AIM administration reimbursement which covers 2½ people and the office operations run \$10,000 a month. He said that his recommendation is to have conversations starting November 1. He explained that Social Services (DSS) has pass through monies of the childcare subsidy of \$25,000 a month and social workers reimbursements that run \$30,000-\$40,000 a month. He asked at what point does notices need to be provided. He explained the need to do some planning going into November, and the need for approval from this Board to go past November 1 for \$65,000 for DSS and \$13,500 for AIM. He said that we may have to start having serious conversations about what to do.

Chair Cox said he is glad we are having these conversations now.

Commissioner Leys said she thinks the Board needs to hear from John Blevins.

John Blevins, DSS Director, explained that the DSS board met earlier today and agreed to not do anything quickly. He explained that counties are given the option to suspend services, some counties have sent a 10-day notice, and some counties have sent letters to suspend. He said that the DSS board recommends sending notices now with a November 1 date in order to allow time for parents and the daycares to plan. He reiterated that it is a \$25,000 per month cost. He said that this affects parents and daycares. He stated some programs are not impacted, and provided some examples. He further talked about the programs that are at risk. He said that this is a very difficult situation for all of us.

County Manager Don Adams and John Blevins discussed how the County's match will provide some monies for salaries, looking at all kinds of scenarios and to prioritize.

Commissioner Leys said that John Blevins is working from letters he received from the State about possible actions, and then receive reminder letters stating what is mandated. She explained that the DSS board wants to inform the parents early so they can start having discussions. She said that this will be affecting families/daycares/parents' jobs.

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Leys talked about the letters that DSS will send out to the parents.

Chair Cox said that nobody knows how long this will last and whether it will go back and pay.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about having more recommendations after November 1; this is very hard because of not knowing if they will go back to pay and how this is a difficult situation for everyone.

Commissioner Leys stated the DSS board will come to the Board of Commissioners on October 21.

Commissioner Goudreau agreed about sending the letters out, control the expense to the County for November 1 and suspend the operations for those areas that we can. He said that it is wise to send

the letters now. He stated that he hopes the Federal government comes to some resolution but Alleghany County cannot blindly go forward.

Commissioner Leys and John Blevins listed out the non-mandated services and reiterated the reasons for the notices.

County Manager Don Adams talked about everyone will be getting phone calls once these letters go out but those calls need to go to the Federal government.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about AIM's advisory board will meet on October 10th and transportation's staff in Raleigh has been furloughed so there is no one to ask.

County Manager Don Adams and April Hamm discussed the ED van and AIM's office staff and that there isn't a simple answer here. He explained that the transportation administration conversation is more difficult. She talked about the \$10,000 is the maximum for one month but there are things to do.

The Board of Commissioners conducted a raffle for employees that have completed the required health assessment for the County's wellness program.

Commissioner Leys talked about the Honor Guard's service yesterday to honor our deceased service members, which was a very nice ceremony. She stated that she recently attended the Farm Bureau annual meeting, and they are excited about farming and their mission. She said that she and Clark Hunter recently attended the listening tour by Secretary Sharon Decker. She talked about going to a meeting at Surry Community College to meet with Sam Brim, who is with business development, to discuss what Surry County is going. She talked about she is looking forward to a meeting with Wilkes Community College about things occurring here. The County Manager stated that the meeting will be on October 28 at 10am at the BDC with the Board of Commissioners and the Town Council to be invited. He explained that it will be an educational session with Wilkes Community College's small business director and customized industrial director.

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

Kingsley Booth talked about how he worked on the farmland preservation act from New Jersey and will be glad to supply information to the Commissioners about his works. He also said if you are going to send notices out about childcare you need to send them out now.

Commissioner Leys said they are going out tomorrow.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman