

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 17, 2016, at 6.30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this October 17, 2016, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0

#### AGENDA

Monday, October 17, 2016

10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for October 17, 2016, Meeting  
Motion to Approve Minutes from June 6, 2016 meeting
- 10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator  
1. September Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. **Action Requested** – Vote on releases and refunds.  
2. September Collections Report - Monthly 2016 collection rates compared to 2015 and 2014 monthly collection rates. **No Action Requested.**  
3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of September 2016. **No Action Requested.**  
4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. **No Action Requested.**  
5. Request for Release of Residential Solid Waste Fee – **Action Requested** – Vote on the request.  
6. Motor Vehicle Appeal - **Action Requested** – Vote on the appeal.
- 10:10 B. Tim Dollyhigh, President of Carolina Lantern Lighters Camping Club  
Re: Request for Business Solid Waste Fee Exemption. **Action Requested** – Discuss the request
- 10:25 C. Dr. Jeff Cox, President of Wilkes Community College  
Re: Bond Monies.
- 10:35 D. Linda Hash, District Administrator/Conservationist  
Re: Environmental Educational project at the Veterans Park.  
**Action Requested** – Vote on the request.
- 10:50 E. Josh Green, Public Works Director  
1. Uniform Contract – The current Uniform Contract was extended, but due to the services and cost a new contract is being proposed. **Action Requested** – Discuss the proposed contract.
- 11:00 F. Karen Evans, Finance Officer  
1. Discuss insurance plan for post 65 employees effective 1/1/17. **Action requested** – Vote on the plan.  
2. General Fund Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$8,452 to budget for AFIR and OPEB reports as approved at the last meeting. **Action Requested** – Vote on the budget amendment.

- 11:15 G      Lisa Osborne, Director of Social Services
1. Annual Report presentation.
  2. General Fund Budget Amendment #3 in the amount of \$49,358 for additional child development monies received from Partnership for Children. **Action Requested** – Vote on the budget amendment.

10:55 F.      General Business

1. Record Retention Schedule Amendments

- G.      Public Comments—30 minutes  
H.      Commissioners Comments  
I.      Closed Session – NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)-Personnel  
J.      Adjourn

Commissioner Evans made a motion on the June 6, 2016 minutes.  
Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator went over the real property releases and refunds.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the releases and refunds for the month of September. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller went over the vehicle tax releases and refunds.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the vehicle tax releases and refunds. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller then went over the enforced collection report and payment agreement reports. She went on to explain the request for the release of a residential solid waste fee. She stated the resident was located at 19 Doe Run. She explained that this was a little different situation than normal because the house is still in good condition, but when the Department of Transportation (DOT) was working the Highway 21 project it effected the house by eliminating their septic system or any other potions to have a septic so the house was ultimately condemned.

Commissioner Leys clarified that the County taxes were currently up to date.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the request for release of the residential solid waste fee. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained that there was a vehicle appeal on a 1998 Dodge Durango. She went over the different estimates and explained why there was such a difference. She then said that her recommendation would \$1,710.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the recommended value for the motor vehicle appeal. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Tim Dollyhigh, President of Carolina Lantern Lighters Camping Club explained why he was asking for a business solid waste exemption.

Chair Smith clarified that the fee is for the opportunity to use the County facilities. He went on to ask the Tax Administrator and the Finance officer if all other campgrounds paid and they both concluded that yes out of all the campgrounds there is only one that doesn't pay and it's due to a county line issue.

Commissioner Leys said that the transfer Station is one budget that the County has to break even on and charging the fee gives everyone the opportunity to use it, but it is up to them if they do or not. She went on to say in knowing that she could not support the release.

Commissioner Evans said it is like the availability of use for the emergency medical services. He went on to ask about their non profit status.

Chair Smith made a motion not to approve the request. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Susan Nilo, Director of Alleghany Campus of Wilkes Community College spoke about the new organizational structure and the increase in headcount of students. She explained some of the priorities that have began to take place and things they would like to expand on. She went on to explain the Career and College Promise Program.

Commissioner Leys asked why in 2011 the numbers were so high and have continued to drop since then.

John Hauser, Vice President of Wilkes Community College stated that 2011 was the height of the workforce layoff and the number has continually declined due to people finding jobs and going to work.

Elizabeth Coleman, Alleghany Counselor explained the Career and College Promise Program

Dr. Jeff Cox, President of Wilkes Community College explained the tuition free opportunity provided by the Education Foundation through Alleghany County.

Commissioner Leys thanked Dr. Cox for all his hard work at the Community College and stated how much it had impacted Alleghany County.

Dr. Jeff Cox went over the Bond money and the matching money. He went over the change in the match amount from the county from \$50,000 to \$75,000. He asked the Board to have a

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to designate \$25,000 for the WCC project for next year's budget. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Evans asked where the building will go.

John Hauser explained on the concrete pad at the end of the building towards the high school, beside the applied technology area. John then went on to explain how the building would be set up and some of the goals for the building.

Commissioner Irwin said he went down to the Wilkes campus and was just amazed at all the equipment and the incredible nursing facility.

Linda Hash Soil and Water Conservationist, went over the environmental educational project she has been working on with the Forestry Service and explained the two options she had for signs and their cost.

Commissioner Leys said she thought it would be great to have it higher up to be more visible and to make it easier to maintain.

Commissioner Irwin said he would like to deal locally if at all possible. He went on to ask when this would happen.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the \$500 to help fund the project. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Josh Green Public Works Director, explained what the County was currently doing for their uniforms and went on to explain all the other options that he had gathered so far. He stated that he wanted to make sure it would be suitable to the Board before he continued.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the pursuit of new uniform contract. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans, Finance Officer, explained the change in the post 65 retirement insurance and the recommendations from Mark III.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept Mark III's recommendation with the post 65 retirement insurance. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve General Fund Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$8,452 for the price of reports. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans informed the Board that workers comp paperwork would be moving from Lauren Linker in Administration to April Hamm in the Finance Office, since she is now the County Human Resource Director.

Lisa Osborne, Director of Social Services explained General Fund Budget Amendment # 3 as additional child development monies received from partnership for children.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve General Fund Budget Amendment # 3 in the amount of \$49,358. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Lisa Osborne went over Social Services annual report and explained some of the different programs that they currently have and numbers of participants.

Chair Smith opened the floor for public comments. Seeing none he closed the section.

Commissioner Evans said he wanted to thank Michael Day for speaking on the local radio/television station to help communicate the information about the present consolidation.

Commissioner Leys thanked Agnus Joines for directing the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hillbilly Show to help people with their energy/heat during the winter. She went on to thank Beth Dixon for all her hard work.

Commissioner Davis wanted to remind everyone that one stop voting will be opening this Thursday and encouraged people to get out and vote.

Chair Smith wanted to discuss the problem of stolen road signs. He stated that it can be a hazard in the case of an emergency and it is an economic burden when people have business out in the County that visitors can't find. He encourage the Board to think of some ideas to keep the signs from getting stolen.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

The Board came back from closed session.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to appoint Michael James as the Alleghany County Manager. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker  
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith  
Chair

