

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 1, 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 Randy Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 1, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, November 1, 2010  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for November 1, 2010, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for October 18, 2010, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Public Hearing  
RE: 2010 Scattered Site Grant  
C. Public Hearing  
RE: E-911 Road Name  
D. Mary Walker  
RE: Tax Appeals  
E. Dennis Smith  
RE: Citizen Concern  
F. Jerry Brooks  
RE: Citizen Concern  
G. Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report  
H. Wilkes Community College Annual Report  
I. County Business  
1. Code of Ethics Policy Update  
2. Virginia/Carolina Water Authority Discussions  
3. Local Government Commission Resolution  
4. North Carolina Veteran's Park "Wall of Oath" Designation  
5. Ag Extension Agent—Budget Amendment  
6. Other Business  
7. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for public comments.

Vickie Smith came before the Board to discuss fluoride in the water. She said that as a registered nurse fluoride is worrisome. She stated that for those who live outside of town and have been exposed to fluoride are they really fine. She talked about it would be irresponsible to put the fluoride in the water.

Eula Ray Cook talked about fluoride in water causes several things including brain damage, lower IQs, numerous cancers, problems with bones, birth defects, damage to infants, suppressed thyroid and damage to teeth. She talked about the warning label on toothpaste. She further talked about fluoride is a byproduct and who wants to drink toxin. She said that people with certain health issues cannot shower with fluoridated water. She stated that people cannot get fluoride out of the water with a filter. She said that she has heard for many years that fluoride is good but it isn't, and it is a forced medication. She talked about there is so much information out there if people will just take time to get the facts. She further talked about if everyone thinks its good why have so many people have stopped using fluoride. She named the countries that have stopped using fluoride. She talked about not messing up the water supply and people's lives with fluoride.

Jim Keefer pointed out that six months ago he spoke to the Town of Sparta and the Water Authority about his concerns regarding fluoridation. He pointed out that most people don't care, some do and a rare part wants fluoride. He said that water fluoridation is very controversial and research leans towards it is harmful. He asked that the two water supplies be separated because the Virginia Department of Health supports this and the North Carolina Department of Health doesn't. He said he has a petition to be submitted to the Water Authority that has over 80 citizens' signatures.

Linda Chekanow read a warning on a tube of toothpaste. She talked about scientific studies are showing there are no benefits with fluoride. She further talked about the difference in the types of fluoride. She stated a list of things that go wrong with people's systems with using fluoride. She asked how someone administers a chemical to people when no one can regulate the amount everyone is getting because of differences between children/adults sizes and consumption. She said that people are just now seeing the effects of adding fluoride over the years. She talked about no countries in Europe have fluoride. She said that it is unethical to put fluoride in water without people having a choice. She talked about people getting fluoride in their foods. She further talked about letting people decide if they want fluoride then they can get it. She asked if dumping sodium fluoride in the ocean is illegal why put it in the drinking water. She talked about her reasons for coming to town which may decrease and reasons for living here. She asked the Board to consider the long-term health concerns of the people in Alleghany County.

Iboya Pasley stated that she is the mother of three small children and lives in town. She talked about being from the Netherlands and they stopped fluoridation when people complained to the government. She explained that she traveled all over the United States and people's teeth weren't as good as she was used to, which surprised her. She talked about making dental care affordable to help with people's teeth. She further talked about her family looks for all natural foods because neither people nor animals are made for chemicals. She said that she would love for this plan not to happen.

Elizabeth Perot stated that she has been a resident in Alleghany County for over 20 years and hasn't had a cavity during that time. She explained that she was a former nurse in Charleston when she talked to a doctor she met there and the comments at that time regarding fluoride. She said that she would like to add her name to the list of people opposing and wishes the Board would do the same.

Lujean Keefer talked about Dr. Hirzy's testimony, who's an EPA scientist, and he put his reputation on the line about the dangers of fluoride. She talked about the main source of fluoride is a toxic waste of industries. She further talked about things done with waste by turning it into a product. She explained discussions that occurred at a meeting in Ohio where a lady said that whether it is safe or not; it is her right to determine what she puts in her body. She said that if the Commissioners vote on this issue to remember the liberty and justice for all and there is no freedom in forced medication of an entire community.

Jerrie Howell read the directions on a tube of toothpaste. She talked about the ranking of drinking water contaminants with fluoride being between cyanide and lead.

Lucas Pasley stated that he is a teacher at Alleghany High School, father of three, lives in town and uses the town's water. He further stated that independence and self alliance is what defines us. He talked about every time we let the government may a decision for us; we lose a piece of us. He said to leave him the freedom that he can decide when and how much fluoride his family gets.

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 CDBG 2010 Scattered Site Housing Grant. She explained that this is the second required public hearing. She further explained that applications have been accepted; committee met and selected five homes with three alternates for the grant. She reminded the Board that the grant is due November 15.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing regarding the Scattered Site Grant at 7:00pm and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 7:01pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to submit the grant application. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Wendy Williams, 911 Coordinator/Mapper, came before the Board to present one road for the Board's approval; Yellow Finch Lane. She explained the road's location and fire district.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing regarding the 911 road name at 7:02pm and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 7:03pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the road name as presented by the E-911 Coordinator/Mapper. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to present an appeal regarding a discovery on a house for Mr. & Mrs. Rodriguez. She said that they are not appealing the taxes but the penalties. She explained that they have been paying taxes on the land but not on the house.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Mary Walker discussed how the house was missed since it was built in 2007, revaluation when into effect in 2007, and it got missed in the new construction revaluation process.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Mary Walker talked about the North Carolina General Statutes language for penalties for each year not listed as noted in §105-380. She said that the penalties are not debatable in her opinion and the Department of Revenue's opinion.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to deny the request. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that the property owner should have realized that he wasn't paying taxes on the house. Mary Walker agreed. Commissioner Steve Roten said that it bothers him that things like this are still missing.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked does he have multiple pieces of property. Mary Walker answered no.

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

Mary Walker presented a motor-vehicle appeal for a 2000 Chevrolet S-10 pickup. She explained that Francis Motors valued the pickup at \$1,900 because of its rough condition, and she agreed.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to accept the Tax Administrator's recommendation of \$1,900. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker informed the Board that she is retiring effective December 1, 2010, after almost 31 years of service. She stated her appreciation for the Board's support and cooperation.

The Board thanked Mary Walker for her work and years of service.

Dennis Smith came before the Board to talk about water fluoridation. He said that fluoridation seems to defy all common sense. He further said that toothpaste label says to call poison control if anyone has excessive consumption. He talked about fluoride is a political protected toxin. He further talked about using a common sense approach on fluoride. He referenced literature that was passed out to the Board including 50 reasons to oppose fluoride and quoted an article regarding the dangers of fluoride. He mentioned a 1987 study about the differences in tooth decay using fluoridated and non-fluoridated water. He talked about a book; Why I Changed My Mind About Water Fluoridation. He talked about tooth decay. He quoted the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked the Board have they ever thought about the words when they say the Pledge and to let those words guide them as decisions are made. He explained how the dictionary defines the words in the Pledge of Allegiance. He said if the Water Authority injects the poison of fluoride in the water is that following the Pledge and is it righteous. He reviewed each word in the Pledge and how fluoride doesn't apply. He reminded everyone that we pledge our honor every time we say the Pledge. He talked about the first 10 amendments are to protect the rights of individuals and asked has everyone forgotten them. He further asked the Commissioners to take a stand for the liberty and justice for all.

Jerry Brooks talked about if he can save one person in opposition to the fluoride, it is just. He further talked about any type of added fluoride compounds. He talked about USDA did a food study, and he only found one food that did not already have fluoride in it. He said that if you fail to oppose the fluoridation then you are in favor. He further said that if you oppose this, nothing is harmed; otherwise you have hurt the entire community plus wildlife/livestock will be affected. He

reiterated that oppose the fluoridation and there is no problem; if the Board doesn't oppose this and health issues arise then know that your decision affected this. He talked about taking a stand to protect everything and not add health risks to people here or downstream. He said if people want more information, call 336-200-1670. He asked the Commissioners for a resolution opposing fluoridation.

Larry Adams, Chief of Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department, came before the Board to present their annual report. He presented information including the number/types of calls, number/hours of trainings, number/types of trucks and information about the 4<sup>th</sup> annual payment on the tanker truck where a developer defaulted on the truck loan which left them to pay for the truck, number of current members and they are struggling to get volunteers, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fire district in the county with seven housing developments and the largest development having 101 houses and the number/type of fundraisers. He thanked the Board for the budget support. He showed how that amount is used quickly with four reoccurring payments. He explained that their roof is 99% complete with the installation. He stated their appreciation to the Board for the financial assistance with the roof and all of the volunteers doing the work.

Jayne Phipps-Boger, Director of Alleghany Campus of Wilkes Community College, came before the Board to present their annual report. She explained that she has three high school students that will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Jayne Boger talked about the class will count towards an associates degree or transfer to a university.

Courtney Spurlin, Caroline Choate and Amanda Cox presented a PowerPoint presentation showing what they have learned during their early childhood development class through the Community College. They explained that they worked with Alleghany Development Day for their class.

Jayne Phipps-Boger presented the Community College's information regarding the annual statistics including the number of current enrolled students and the amount of continuing education FTEs. She explained that they are working with the BDC about a computer access classes plus they are working with high school students about their schedules and financial aid. She talked about the small business center's activities at the main campus. She stated that they are involved in the NC Real Program.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about receiving the Golden Leaf grant for the equipment in the basement of the College. He explained that they are about half done with the renovations for the equipment. He talked about the State funding reduction for dual enrollment for general education classes but the technology classes are still offered under the old model for dual enrollment for high school students and how this equipment can greatly assist in that area.

Chair Ken Richardson and Jayne Boger talked about getting a schedule of classes for him to take to Raleigh.

Commissioner Milly Richardson thanked Mrs. Boger and the College for all of the work that is done with the students.

County Manager Don Adams presented a draft copy of the code of ethics and the items to consider.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he and Commissioner Murphy meet on a continued basis, and this is an on-going effort. He said that the list of items to consider is constantly updated and if any Board member has something to add get it to them or the County Manager or the Clerk.

Commissioner Doug Murphy agreed and said as you read through the policy if you have anything to add, bring it up.

County Manager Don Adams talked about he has been in contact with our health director, Danny Staley, about scheduling people from the State to come talk to the Board about fluoride at the November 15 meeting. He further talked about at the meeting on November 15 the Board will hear the North Carolina Health Department's point of view, and he will present local information from the medical community also. He said that he is attempting to show the Board the other side, and it has been confirmed that they are coming on November 15.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked why the Water Authority didn't do this type of research before making a decision. The County Manager stated that he can't speak for the entire board, but the Virginia Department of Health approached them about putting fluoride in the water,

and they thought that this is a fairly common practice. She talked about this decision was made because money was offered if the water was fluoridated, and the decision was made without consulting people. He reiterated that the Virginia Department of Health approached them, based their decision on this is a common practice, first decision was made to apply for the funds to proceed on, and there hasn't been one gallon of water sold with fluoride in it.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams talked about the Virginia Department of Health approached them first.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that she isn't really concerned about what the Virginia Department of Health wants.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the North Carolina Department of Health will be here on November 15 along with letters from the local medical community.

Commissioner Milly Richardson said that she proposes at this point to make a motion to advise our representatives on the board to oppose the fluoride being added to the water.

Commissioner Doug Murphy said he had hoped there would be someone here tonight from the other side. He said that he decided a while back for his family, and they don't use fluoride. He further said that it will be very difficult to persuade him to change his mind. He seconded the motion.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about one of the things the new ethics policy says is that the Board will get both sides on an issue before making a decision. He said one problem the County Manager ran into was scheduling, and he would love to hear both sides before voting on this.

Commissioner Doug Murphy said he is not opposed to hearing both sides of the issue if the entire Board wants to.

Commissioner Steve Roten said that he thinks the Commissioners are elected to represent everyone in the county, and it doesn't matter whether he is for it or against it; the Board should hear both sides before making a decision because the Board is supposed to be impartial.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 2:3 (Randy Miller, Ken Richardson, Steve Roten).

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about the progress of the Board of Education's request regarding Glade Creek Elementary School, and they have committed to pay the debt payment out of their mandated sales tax. He explained that he has talked to the Local Government Commission, bond counsel and BB&T. He presented and reviewed the proposed resolution, BB&T proposal with terms of 14 years at 5.29% and the tax credit rate at 5.35% which makes it 0% interest, and QSCB loan details. He said that this is not the final resolution, and there will be a public hearing on November 15. He explained that this resolution grants permission to file the Local Government Commission's application. He read section (b) in the resolution. He discussed the proposed timeline which includes a public hearing on November 15 and if the Board votes to pass the final resolution authoring the loan to be closed then it will be closed on in December.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed the amount of interest, \$165,932.74, for the loan which will not be an actual expense because of the lock-in rates cancel out each other resulting in a 0% interest loan.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked to the Board about the North Carolina Veteran's Park "Wall of Oath" designation and constructing an \$18,000,000 facility in Cumberland County. He explained the Wall of Oath including trying to get a casting of a veteran's hand in each county for the Wall. He said because of the short timeframe he needed to proceed so he and Ken Richardson met with the VFW and Marine League last week regarding this request. He explained that he is requesting the Board to appoint those two groups to go through the selection process to select which veterans to have their hands cast since they want one person's hand for the Wall and four others to be placed around the Park in different places. He further explained that they are sending an artist here to do the castings. He said that the veteran's name isn't identified on the Wall but this would still be an honor for the selected veteran.

Chair Ken Richardson added who better to select the people than those two groups.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to move forward by appointing these two groups. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$15,763 for an Ag Extension Agent. He reminded the Board about budget discussions in June about not knowing how fast the State would move forward in filling vacant positions. He explained that they, along with local representation, have gone through the interview/hiring process and have hired Teresa Herman. He described her experience as related to the Extension Service, and she was the only applicant that had experience in both fields related to the position.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$15,763. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he was approached by the Northwestern Regional Housing Authority about a mortgage payment program. He explained that people can get assistance through the Housing Authority who are in default on their mortgage. He described the North Carolina Foreclosure Prevention Program including that people need to meet with the Housing Authority, and this is a loan forgiveness program. He urged interested people to call his office at 336-372-4179 for the information.

Mark Smith, Alleghany News Reporter, stated that they have an article ready for the newspaper.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that there are two positions that Commissioners get directly involved in; County Manager and Tax Administrator. He talked about receiving the retirement notice from Mary Walker.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to accept the retirement. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated he thinks the Board needs to get both sides of the fluoride issue. He said that he is the commissioner on the Water Authority and either he wasn't at the meeting where the fluoride issue was discussed or it happened before he went on the board. He further said that he would never do anything to hurt anyone.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that it is tough seating here making decisions plus it is hard to not let individual feelings come in to play. He further stated that he agrees to a point that each side needs to have an opportunity to speak. He said that he truly hopes that the other side will be at the next meeting.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the Board has to analyze all of the information and decide what sources to give creditability to.

Commissioner Steve Roten said that it behooves this Board to make a decision either way at the next meeting because the next meeting will be the last time this 5-member Board will meet together. He further said that he always think you should hear both sides; that's the American way. He stated that his personal opinion is the ones to decide should be the consumers of the water. He reiterated that the Commissioners are elected to hear both sides.

Commissioner Doug Murphy thanked the people in the audience for sharing their opinion.

Being no further business, Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to adjourn at 8:33pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman