

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 4, 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 Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 4, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, November 4, 2013
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for November 4, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for October 21, 2013, Meeting and October 23, 2013, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Gerald Leftwich Presentation
- 6:40 B. April Hamm, Alleghany in Motion Director
1. Community Transportation Program Application -- Summary of the application to apply for \$159,042 in administrative funds with actual costs to the County of \$10,364.25 and \$118,078 in capital funds with costs of \$11,807.80 to the Transportation Operating Fund.
 2. Community Transportation Public Hearing – Conduct public hearing to solicit comments regarding the proposed application.
 3. Consideration of the Community Transportation Program Application. Action Requested – Vote on the application.
- 6:55 C. Michelle Ball, High Country Council of Governments Planner
1. CDBG: Scattered Site Summary – Information will be presented showing the houses that were replaced or repaired with the grant including the monthly performance report for October.
 2. CDBG: Scattered Site Closeout Public Hearing – Conduct a public hearing to solicit comments regarding the Scattered Site closeout.
 3. CDBG: Scattered Site Grant Closeout – Action Requested – Vote on allowing the Chairman to sign the closeout documents.
 4. Single Family Rehabilitation Program -- Program to help with more moderate home repairs with the focus being on energy efficiency. High Country Council of Governments is asking for support to apply for these funds. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
- 7:20 D. Kathy Murphy
RE: Commercial Solid Waste Fees – Kathy Murphy is appearing before the Board to question the difference in solid waste fees for home based businesses versus the fees for businesses not located in the home.
- 7:30 E. Ashley Weaver, Chamber Director
RE: “Santa on Main Street” event – Request to hold a “Santa on Main Street” event at 30 North Main Street on December 14 from 10am until 2pm and December 15 from 1pm to 5pm. Action Requested – Vote to allow usage of County property for the “Santa on Main Street” event.
- 7:40 F. Jim Connor, Tourism Development Authority Chair
RE: Everwondr Community Calendar – The Tourism Development Authority is requesting to enter into a 3-year contract with Pursuit of Happiness for the Everwondr Community Calendar for \$600 per year. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
- 7:50 G. General Business
1. Summary of Regional Bike Plan
Letter from Phil Trew and Executive Summary about the Regional Bike Plan. Plan will be presented for action at a future meeting. No action requested.
 2. Budget Amendment—Social Services
General Fund Budget Amendment #6 in the amount of \$22,542 for additional child development monies. No County match required. Action Requested – Vote on General Fund Budget Amendment #6.
 3. Propane Bids to supply County facilities
Bids are due on November 4, 2013, at 4pm. A summary of the bids will be presented during the meeting. Action Requested – Vote to award the bid.
 4. Sheriff’s Department Personnel Request

Request to fill open deputy position, grade 62, \$25,622.61. Action Requested –
Vote on the request.

- H. Commissioner Comments
- I. Public Comments—30 minutes
- J. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2013, and October 23, 2013, meetings. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox presented a plaque to Gerald Leftwich for his years of service and dedication to the citizens of Alleghany County.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented the Community Transportation Program grant application for FY 14/15. She explained items in the packets including the amount in the Transportation Fund's fund balance at the end of last budget year. She reviewed the administrative grant portion in the amount of \$159,042 with a total county cost of \$10,364.25.

County Manager Don Adams explained the indirect costs line item.

April Hamm reviewed the capital grant portion in the amount of \$118,078 for a cost to the Transportation Fund of \$11,807.80.

Chair Cox declared the public hearing open at 6:43pm regarding Alleghany in Motion's Community Transportation Program grant application for FY 14/15 and asked for public comments.

Kingsley Booth talked about the importance of keeping the ED van but he doesn't think we need to keep the entire transportation program.

Chair Cox asked for additional comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:45pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

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

April Hamm stated that there are voluntary public involvement forms on the Clerk's desk if anyone would like to complete one.

Michelle Ball, High Country Council of Governments Planner, explained the \$400,000 CDBG—Scattered Site grant that was awarded in 2010. She reviewed the highlights including 6 homes were treated and their locations. She talked about there were 8 emergency home repairs completed. She reviewed the breakdown of the monies spent; \$5,000.00 for clearance activities, \$71,596.00 for relocation activities, \$218,364.50 for rehabilitation activities, \$33,938.84 for Emergency Repairs and \$47,000.00 for planning and administration. She explained that it is a 6-month process to add homes to the list, which there wasn't enough time to add another home so \$25,135.96 will be de-obligated and returned to the NC Department of Commerce for use on other CDBG programs.

Chair Cox declared the public hearing open at 6:50pm regarding the CDBG—Scattered Site Grant closeout and asked for public comments.

Susan Miles talked about the Solid Rock Ministries has been able to use part of these monies to help people and the monies will be greatly missed. She further talked about these funds have made a huge difference in people's lives, and she hates to see it go away.

Chair Cox asked for additional comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:52pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Chair Cox and Michelle Ball talked about bringing houses up to code, as much as possible, for the homes that they work on.

Chair Cox asked about allowing the Chairman to sign the closeout documents.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to allow the Chairman to sign the closeout documents. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Michelle Ball explained that the new State budget redirected funds from the CDBG Scattered Site Program to fund only infrastructure projects, Alleghany County has received approximately \$1,600,000 in CDBG—Scattered Site funds since 2001, using these funds the County has rehabilitated 26 homes and emergency repairs on 16 homes. She further explained that the High Country Council of

Governments (COG) is looking to the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's Single Family Rehabilitation Program (SFR) to help counties. She talked about funding is available in a revolving cycle like the Scattered Site Program, and Alleghany can apply for the 2014 cycle. She explained that the High Country Council plans to be the applicant for the SFR program. She reviewed the highlights of the SFR program. She stated that they also intend to apply for Urgent Repair Program (URP) funds to supplement the SFR program. She explained URP provides funding to complete projects \$5,000 or less that are a threat to the homeowner's life or safety. She said that she is asking for a letter that will support their SFR application.

Commissioner Smith and Michelle Ball talked about there are 7 counties in High Country COG.

Commissioner Smith, Michelle Ball and the County Manager talked about the existing committee will serve as this grant's committee. The County Manager talked about the items the inspections department could assist with.

Commissioner Leys and Michelle Ball talked about the funding available in the SFR program being \$170,000 for each county then can go into the loan pool up to \$500,000 total. They talked about it is the same 2-3 years cycle as the Scattered Site program. Michelle Ball talked about she hopes to do 10 homes per county if the homes can be found.

Michelle Ball explained that the Housing Finance Agency does the title work.

County Manager Don Adams and Michelle Ball talked about pushing for the URP monies, that is what the Scattered Site's emergency repairs were based on, and these monies address the projects like Ms. Miles was talking about. She reiterated that it is for life threatening or safety needs.

Commissioner Leys and Michelle Ball talked about low-income neighborhoods for the water and sewer repairs. Michelle Ball explained that it is hard to find entire neighborhoods that qualify and that is where all of the Scattered Site monies are going; infrastructure.

Chair Cox talked about the County has no fiscal responsibility nor is the applicant. He said that this seems good for Alleghany citizens.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to support the COG in applying for these funds and allow the Chairman to sign the letter. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Kathy Murphy talked about she is a small business owner on Main Street. She explained her concern about solid waste fees that are charged to businesses in Alleghany County. She referenced a Solid Waste Ordinance from 2001/02. She stated she received an invoice for \$16.67 a month for her business and if the business was in her home then it would be \$5 per month. She explained her question is she is operating the same type of business and explained she doesn't even have a bag of trash per month and takes that home. She talked about some businesses have a lot of trash but some have none or very little. She asked the Commissioners to look at this about the type of the business rather than across the board fees. She said that \$16.67 may not sound like a lot of money but it is when a new business is just starting. She asked the Commissioners to look at this and make any adjustments. She said the bills started in May but she was only open 3 days a week but started in the house on June 29. She talked about those months should be waived until the ice cream parlor/gift shop was opened.

Chair Cox said that the Commissioners approve the fee schedule once a year in June. The County Manager agreed.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the business solid waste fees are availability fees that are not based on volume. He talked about the difference in a household business fee or a Main Street business fee. He said it is at the discretion of the Board to address this. He talked about the fairest way to charge at the Transfer Facility is to charge for everything that comes across the scales and any other conversation is about how to spread the burden. He provided an example of the household fee is spreading the burden across the board. He said the real discussion is how the Commissioners want to spread the burden across households/businesses or have conversations about reducing costs.

Commissioner Leys asked if the revenue comes in and is posted to each category. The County Manager agreed and explained how it credited and tracked. The County Manager explained when the Board gets into the fee conversation he can go down the fee schedule to explain how much each category brings in.

Ashley Weaver, Chamber Director, talked about they are working on a Shop Local campaign and would like to have Santa on Main on December 14 and December 15. She said she is asking to use

the Dysart building located at 30 North Main Street on December 14 and 15. She explained that they have looked at it and can use power from the Courthouse, if the Board will allow.

Commissioner Leys asked if they are willing to clean the building. Ashley Weaver answered yes they will clean and decorate it.

Commissioner Smith talked about he noticed some other activities. Ashley Weaver talked about having churches caroling and having a gift wrapping station at the Chamber office.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Chamber using the Dysart building for Santa on Main. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys thanked the Chamber for taking on this project and working on the building.

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

Jim Connor, Tourism Development Authority Chair, talked about him and Ashley Weaver presented a contract with Everwondr at the recent joint meeting. He explained there has been another presentation and the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) wants to enter into contract with Pursuit of Happiness for the Everwondr calendar, which requires a 3-year contract and the TDA doesn't have the authority to enter into a 3-year without the Commissioners' approval.

Commissioner Smith and Jim Connor talked about the next step is to start it and the start-up timeline.

Commissioner Leys explained her conversations with other people about the calendar, and it is \$600 per year for a lot of advertising.

Jim Connor talked about the advantages of the calendar.

Commissioner Leys talked about this is the right step to take.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to allow the TDA to enter a 3-year contract for the Everwondr calendar. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about the High Country Regional Bike Plan including a letter from Phil Trew and the executive summary of the Plan. He talked about the purpose of this is to get the information to the Commissioners for review. He said Phil Trew will be coming at a future meeting for the official presentation.

Chair Cox talked about Phil Trew has been here numerous times about the Plan, and he will be coming at a future meeting. He asked when he is coming.

Clerk Karen Evans stated that Phil Trew is on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Leys and Chair Cox talked about Chair Cox has worked with the group.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #6 in the amount of \$22,542 for additional child development funds. He stated that no county funds are involved.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #6 in the amount of \$22,542. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the propane bids that were received today; Blue Ridge Energies \$1.369 and G&B Energy \$1.479. He explained that he sent out the request for bids to all of the providers in the area. He said is asking the Board to accept the low bid and allow him to sign the contract for next year.

Chair Cox asked what last year's price was.

Clerk Karen Evans answered \$1.25.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve awarding the bid to the low bidder. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a request from the Sheriff stating a full-time slot is open due to recent resignation, and the Sheriff is requesting permission to fill the slot.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about this position is a grade 62.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys talked about a recent meeting went very well with Wilkes Community College (WCC) staff regarding business development, and good things will come from it. She named some of the attendees. She talked about coming up with different strategies.

Chair Cox said that Bobby Irwin, who is on the State Community College Board of Trustees, Duane Davis and Rita Woodruff, who are both on the WCC's Board of Trustees, attended the meeting, also.

Commissioner Leys talked about she learned several things including they offer numerous free seminars. She further talked about an upcoming event on LEAN manufacturing taught by Mike Pierce, it's free and to call Bonita Hampton to reserve a seat. She said hopefully they will advertise better.

Commissioner Leys talked about the upcoming meeting on November 7 at Sparta Elementary School. She said she attended the Social Services meeting today and had a good section about the Affordable Care Act. She stated that she hopes to have an opportunity for the public to learn about it. She talked about they learned more about the developmental daycare since the Easter Seals grant wasn't awarded and how they are working with the Easter Seals people. She said she attended a Health Department finance meeting, they are doing very good things and provided examples including they filled Eva Wooten's position, still looking for a nurse practitioner, and the activities of a new technology person. She talked about she will be attending the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area reception on November 13 in Asheville regarding a \$5,500 grant received for tourism.

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

Brandon Hawks talked about morality and the economy crossing paths. He further talked about The Humanitarian with the Guillotine he read by Isabel Paterson and explained his interpretation of the book. He talked about charity and people depending on charity. He further talked about the economy. He provided an example of a single mother with two kids that was getting ready to lose her HUD funding. He talked about the people who haven't paid their back taxes and why they haven't had their property sold. He used an example of someone whose names appears in the paper annually for people who have not paid their taxes. He read a portion of the US Constitution. He talked about granting people special privileges. He said he advises this Commissioner Board and the government of this county to tread lightly on these matters if that is happening because that is a nasty situation.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman