

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 5, 2012, 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 Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Chair Richardson stated that Item B needs to be rescheduled to another meeting.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this November 5, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, November 5, 2012  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for November 5, 2012, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for October 8 and October 15, 2012, meetings
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report (deleted)  
C. Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report  
D. General Business  
1. Tourism Development Appointments  
2. Permit Renewal Fee Update  
3. Bank Bids—Equipment Loan  
4. Veterans Memorial Park  
E. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel  
F. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 8 and October 15, 2012, meetings. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Dennis Smith came before the Board to talk about having individual rights interfered in by the government, which can only happen if individuals chose to accept the propaganda of the criminal government. He explained he recently became aware of comments/actions of a young person. He continued talking about the beliefs of the young person. He asked the Board to consider the following; British marked down people who signed the Declaration of Independence. He gave examples of what happened to those people because of their support of the Declaration. He asked would we be willing to make any sacrifice to preserve our liberty or is our generation going to be the generation to lose the republic. He read a prayer that was offered before the US Senate.

Chair Richardson asked for additional comments. No one spoke. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Jimmy Church presented the Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department's annual report. He provided information about their special equipment; 2012 8-wheel amphibious vehicle and the air compressor to fill the air pack bottles and cascade system. He talked about the number of calls they responded to, which is down. He talked about their membership and its breakdown. He stated his appreciation to the Board for their assistance to their fire department.

Chair Richardson asked about Ashe County's fire tax and comments they get. Jimmy Church talked about their comments received are positive in both counties, it will be something that has to be looked at in the future, and individuals will pay out less in the tax than donations.

Commissioner Smith and Jimmy Church talked about their fundraising is becoming less because they can't get help in doing the fundraisers.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) appointments. He reviewed the criteria for appointments to the TDA. He further reviewed the current members, and they are willing to be reappointed on staggered terms; Jim Connor and Charlie Scott for 3 years, Amy Lucas and John Kilmartin for 2 years, Joe Edwards for 1 year. He explained that each appointment after these will be staggered appointments for 3 years.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the reappointments to the TDA. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about this was discussed at a TDA board meeting.

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

Chair Richardson asked about Section 2 of the resolution about selecting the Chair for the TDA. County Manager Don Adams talked about it is up to this Board to bring that up annually or how ever this Board wants to proceed. The County Manager reviewed how this was handled last time. Chair Richardson stated that he assumes this Board wants to leave Mr. Connor as the Chair and the TDA board to receive no compensation as was decided before. No one spoke.

County Manager Don Adams talked to the Board about a previous building permit request regarding a situation where a building permit was issued then the contractor left the job; the Board approved the request to not pay for another building permit. He talked about since the precedent has been set; he thought the Board needs to adopt a policy on how to deal with these requests. He read the proposed language of permitting renewal fee. He talked about this has been worked on with the Inspections Department.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to implement this policy as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about two resolutions that he handed out to the Commissioners about the bank bids. He reminded everyone about the bids are for an ambulance in the amount of \$113,709 and a wheel loader in the amount of \$154,682 for a 5-year loan with semi-annual payments. He reviewed the bids received; BB&T 1.63% with 1% prepay penalty, total interest of \$12,177, First Community 1.875% with no prepay penalty, total interest of \$14,032 and First Citizens 2.39% with \$500 prepay penalty, \$300 closing costs, total interest of \$17,954. He talked about it comes down between BB&T and First Community Bank and whether the Board thinks the loan will be paid off early. He explained that both resolutions are the same except the banks and interest rate. He talked about things to consider in selecting the bids. He explained that the resolution authorizes the Finance Officer to complete the loan documents.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to go with BB&T. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Don Adams talked about conversations at the previous meeting where he was authorized to spend \$9,500 for the engineering costs on the Veterans Memorial Park. He explained that he is at a standstill on the fundraising efforts.

Chair Richardson talked about the \$9,500 will come off of the \$57,479. County Manager Don Adams answered yes, that is the shortfall to match the PARTF grant.

Chair Richardson said that one reason he asked for this topic to be on this agenda is at the last meeting he hadn't received a letter from the Blue Ridge Resource Conservation Development Council, where they support the grant but they don't have funds right now for assistance. He passed out copies of the letter to the Board. He asked how this would assist when money is received. The County Manager stated that he doesn't know at this time. Chair Richardson asked if this money comes in at a later date would the money go back into the fund balance. The County Manager said you are asking something that he doesn't know right now.

Chair Richardson made a motion to move forward in constructing the Veterans Memorial Park. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:05pm under NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn closed session at 7:30pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 7:31pm. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman