

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 7, 2011, 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.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 7, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, November 7, 2011
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for November 7, 2011, meeting
Motion on Minutes for October 11, October 17, and October 31, 2011, meetings
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. April Hamm
RE: Drug & Alcohol Policy Updates
Surplus Van
Open Position Personnel Request
- C. Dr. Pablo De Vincenzo
RE: Alternative Medicine for the Community
- D. Carolina Nunez
RE: Building Permit Fees
- E. Building Inspections Annual Report
F. Emergency Management Annual Report
G. Board of Education Annual Report
H. General Business
1. Tourism Development Authority
2. Transfer Facility Scales Use Policy
3. Budget Amendment—Elections
4. Budget Amendment—Child Care, Social Services
5. Budget Amendment—Crisis Funds, Social Services
6. Budget Amendment—Energy Assistance, Social Services
7. Budget Amendments—New River Service Authority
- I. Commissioners Business
1. Investigation into New River Service Authority—Commissioner Goudreau
2. Archiving Video of County Commissioners' Meetings—Commissioner Goudreau
3. Smoky Mountain Center Resolution—Chair Richardson
- J. Closed Session—NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (4)—economic development
NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (5)—contracts
NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
- K. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 11, October 17, and October 31, 2011, meetings. Commissioner Roten 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 discuss that last Wednesday the minutes from June, July, August, and September from Smoky Mountain Center (SMC) were made available. He talked about conversations about New River (NR) were held in closed session. He further talked about NR was discussing changing LME's from SMC and that Brian Ingraham/SMC was not going to allow that to happen because SMC had spent a lot of time/money on the Medicaid waiver and the high paying jobs would be gone. He read information said by Chair Richardson about NR leaving SMC. He asked how Chair Richardson had information that the CEO of NR didn't have. He talked about the board appointments from the County Commissioners regarding the library appointments being the same person, and one would think the same with mental health but Larry Cox got NR and the Chair got SMC. He asked who benefits from the death of NR; SMC does. He explained reasons why SMC would

benefit. He talked about the amount of Brian Ingraham's salary and moving expenses plus SMC has ignored his request for information. He further talked about at the last meeting, the Chair tried to get the Commissioners to approve SMC purchasing a piece of property. He asked where is Chair Richardson's loyalty, SMC or Allegheny County, and provided examples of why he is asking. He talked about different people/groups to sue that were involved in this situation; SMC, NR's former CFO, auditing firm. He asked why the Board didn't fight for Lawson Services. He said that Daymark also gets to benefit from the death of NR and explained how. He talked about information reported in the news and a letter from Billy West. He said that it seems like the Commissioners have been manipulated and played as pawns in something much larger than the fall of NR. He talked about mental health across the State. He explained that at the last meeting he asked the Board to remove Chair Richardson from SMC and since the Board didn't, he has to assume that each of the Board members knew what was going on and are in agreement with Chair Richardson on SMC and if this isn't the case, make a motion, then if there is no second that is fine because at least the people of Allegheny County will know, if a motion is made but is defeated, that's fine at least the people of Allegheny County will know who supports the Chairman, if no motion is made then the people will know you support the Chairman, if you remain silent you will be voting in the affirmative to support Chair Richardson. He said the people of Allegheny County deserve to know. He talked about this is the biggest, dirtiest mess in Allegheny County. He further talked about people need to draw their own conclusion about the removal of prayer in the meetings. He read a prayer that was offered before the United States Senate.

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

April Hamm, Transportation Director, came before the Board to discuss changes to their Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. She reviewed the changes; pre-employment testing, reasonable suspicion testing, random testing, additional assessment, new medical review officer, back-up substance abuse professional. She stated that this has been presented to the County Attorney.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the changes. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith asked a question about the drugs that are tested for. April Hamm stated that this is the list according to FTA. They talked about certain drugs were added to the policy last year.

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

April Hamm explained that she is asking for three vans to be declared surplus to be sold at a surplus sale or sealed bids; 2006 Ford lift van, 2007 Ford lift van, 2007 Ford conversion van.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm explained that she has an open full-time driver position. She explained the pay grade/pay for the position, and the monies come out of transportation fund.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to grant the request. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams said that this is not a new position; this is to fill an open position.

Dr. Pablo De Vincenzo came before the Board to talk about the quality of life of people in Allegheny County. He talked about the papers that the Commissioners have that has a description of the science they practice, who they are, what they do and what they want to do for the community. He further talked about Sparta is special in many ways. He stated that they are here to help improve the quality of life through educational lectures, workshops, conferences through physical, emotional and mental alternative medicine treatments, and they need Allegheny County's help to achieve this goal. He read a statement from Virginia Foxx. He said that he would like to ask the Board of Commissioners to review what they have been doing the last six months. He invited people to visit their website. He stated that there are offering consultations four days a week. He provided a list of all of the things that they have done in the last six months including listing everyone that he has met with during that timeframe. He said that he would like to meet with the Commissioners about how to meet the needs of the community for the Alternative Medicine Center of Sparta. His wife provided a pamphlet to everyone about learn how to achieve a happy and productive life. He thanked everyone for their assistance since they have been here.

Commissioner Smith asked Dr. Pablo if alternative medicine is becoming more popular. Dr. Pablo explained how the alternative medicine field is increasing including in the last six months they have had 120 calls.

Commissioner Smith asked if there are regulatory standards. Dr. Pablo explained the standards, and how they treat patients without medications, seeing a lot of people with depression, which they can change, and they can work as a team.

County Manager Don Adams provided a quick update about the building permit request where a commercial building permit was issued and then the contractor on the job was changed. He explained that when a new contractor comes in then a new permit has to be issued, and the current policy is that the County has collected the permit fees. He said that this is a rare occurrence.

Frank Dillard explained that they are asking for it to be transferred from Hutchins to Dillard since the permit fees have already been paid.

Carolina Nunez explained that the permit was issued on August 2. She further explained the issues she ran into with the contractor, terminated that contract, permit already paid for, asking to waive the fee for the new permit. She stated that they are trying to better the community for the kids to have somewhere to go. She talked about this will be a good asset to the community, and their objective is to bring people into the county.

County Manager Don Adams said this is a fairly new permit and advised the Board to look at this on a case-by-case basis. He explained that if someone gets one inspection a year the permit can go over several years. The County Manager asked Randy Blankenship if a new permit is issued to the new contractor then the fees are to be collected. Randy Blankenship answered that's correct, and they are asking for an exemption on the permit fees. The County Manager asked if granting this request will create additional work. Randy Blankenship said a little paperwork will have to be completed. The County Manager talked about looking at this on a case-by-case basis and would not advise developing a policy for every situation.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager talked about this is a commercial job. The County Manager said if a residential situation occurs then that can come back before the Board but this one is commercial.

County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about if the Board addresses the problem but is not changing policy just would be granting a variance, the Board will be setting a precedent under circumstances in this particular case. She stated that she doesn't think the Board is locking themselves into always have to grant a variance. She talked about the permit is roughly 90 days old, not much has happened, inspector says it is just a little bit of paperwork that would be needed.

Chair Richardson and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the wording of the motion; grant a variance to waive the fee to issue a new building permit in this particular case

Commissioner Smith made a motion to grant a variance to waive the fee to issue a new building permit in this particular case. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cox asked the policy is that we don't do this. The County Manager explained that a new permit must be issued when contractors are changed according to State law. The County Attorney talked about this is granting a variance on this one case and this action will say the Board will consider these on a case-by-case basis. The County Manager and County Attorney talked about different scenarios where it has been two years, a residential job, and the inspectors have to go in to inspect additional things which would allow the Board to make a different decision.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (Larry Cox).

Randy Blankenship, Chief Building Inspector, presented the annual report for the Building Inspections department. He talked about the amount of inspections are inline with how many they were doing when the economy was booming. He talked about the number of miscellaneous permits are up. He explained that Toni is a Level I building inspector, Brain and Travis are working on their Level II certificates. He stated that complaints have been down.

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the annual report for Emergency Management including they conducted a county-wide tornado drill, hosted a managing land search operations class, placed a booth at the County fair to distribute information to the public, one petroleum product release, citizens complaints are up and other general statistics. He explained that the six-mile fire insurance rating districts will become effective December 1, 2011.

Commissioner Smith and Gerald Leftwich talked about if there are questions about the insurance districts to call Gerald Leftwich's office for additional information.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, presented the annual report for the school system. He explained that they maintained a graduation rate over 80%, national adequate yearly process (AYP) results where three out of four schools met AYP with Sparta School and Glade Creek School being a School of Distinction, Piney Creek School being a School of Excellence and explained what that means. He talked about they received a Golden Leaf STEM grant. He explained that the \$350,000 grant is to continue to move forward in science, technology and math. He talked about groups went to Washington, DC, and teams of teachers are working on the initiative. He explained it was recently announced about the 21st century classrooms' initiative and explained what will occur. He named the teachers that got the classrooms, which will be starting in January. He explained that the State is undergoing core curriculum changes in English, language arts, math, and every state is joining together to decide about the core curriculum across the nation. He provided a quick snapshot of State funding cuts during the last three years, amount of federal stimulus money received since 2009/10, federal stimulus money will be gone this year, amount of State monies that has to be provided back in discretionary cuts, cut is already built into 2012/13 budget, total amount cut over the last three years including 35 positions. He stated to get another \$443,000 cut in funding will be about 10 positions more but it will be deeper than that so it will be almost twice that many positions because of things like unemployment and other associated items like that. He said that he told the Commissioners that when harm was coming to the students he will be before the Board, and this is to put everyone on notice about the lack of funding. He talked about they are at the point where additional cuts will start to diminish the quality for the children. He stated that despite the cuts, they have terrific employees, students and their families. He said he is proud to be here and be a part.

Commissioner Goudreau asked for an update on the capital projects like the bricks at the High School. Dr. Cox stated that there will be an update at their meeting tomorrow night, and the conversation will be coming soon regarding the bricks at the High School/lights at Jarrett Field/Piney Creek School septic, and he will be glad to bring numbers back when he has concrete information.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). He reviewed the information in the packets regarding the TDA including the resolution of the creation of the TDA. He reiterated that the TDA will be five members with at least two who are affiliated with businesses that collect the occupancy tax and three are individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Alleghany County.

Commissioner Roten asked if this is the total list of people recommended. The County Manager answered yes. Commissioner Roten talked about going down the line. The County Manager reviewed the people on the list, their qualifications, who nominated them and stated that these people have not been called yet to see if they are willing to serve on the TDA; Jim Connor/bed & breakfast owner/Chamber, Chris Davis/merchant & artisan/Tom Burgiss, Joe Edwards/Christmas trees & Blue Ridge Gallery/Tom Burgiss, John Goudreau/Sparta Florist owner & member of Cascade Highlands/Chamber, Katee Hettleman/restaurant owner/Chamber, John Kilmartin/Alleghany Inn manager/Chamber, Amy Lucas/Extension Service/Evergreen Trail, Shirley Richardson/realtor/vacation rentals/Chamber, Charlie Scott/ACTV/Tom Burgiss, Mary Teague/restaurant owner/Tom Burgiss. Commissioner Roten said that he sees three that meet the collection requirement and need at least two. The County Manager agreed.

Chair Richardson asked if each Commissioner went through, marked five and gave it to the Manager to call them. The County Manager talked about the process if going that direction.

Chair Richardson asked if anyone has any better ideas.

Commissioner Roten and Commissioner Smith talked about the requirements in the creation of the TDA.

Bob Bamberg, Chamber of Commerce Director, stated that the people recommended by the Chamber are willing to serve.

Commissioner Roten asked if there is anyone else here tonight that wants to serve on the TDA. No one spoke.

County Manager Don Adams explained that information was sent out to all of the people who collect the tax about the new rate and the process for being on the TDA.

Chair Richardson asked if the term is for one year then staggered terms. The County Manager answered yes.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about Tom Burgiss's recommendations.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about what if the Board brings the list back at the mid-month meeting, contact them in the mean time and then put the lists together.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Transfer Facility scales use policy. He explained the reason for bringing this before the Board is people coming to the Transfer Facility to use the scales for their personal use. He said he received a complaint where a business in direct competition with the Transfer Facility is using the scales for their business use, and the money the Transfer Facility receives from the white goods help off-set the overall costs at the Transfer Facility, and why would the scales be allowed to help a company when it takes money away from the Transfer Facility. He asked then how does that equate to pumpkins and Christmas trees. He said he doesn't know if there is a right answer but he is looking for guidance.

Chair Richardson asked does he feel that anyone except the County, Town, State be the only ones to use the scales.

The County Manager answered if it is looked at that way then it should only be the County because no one else puts money into the upkeep of the Transfer Facility. He explained that he has talked to Larry Davis and at one time there was a fee for the use of the scales. He talked about allowing open use to the people in Alleghany County or set up some type of fee schedule to weigh in and out for county businesses. He reiterated that there are all kinds of uses.

Commissioner Roten talked about people use the scales to make sure they aren't overweight. He mentioned charging a dollar or two.

Chair Richardson talked about the County Manager developing a fee schedule for scale usage with a minimum fee charged.

Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Cox and the County Manager talked about the usage of the scales and the County Manager's conversations with Larry Davis. The County Manager talked about setting the fee temporarily at \$2 and approach it again in two weeks.

DW Miles talked about this would be very helpful. He provided an example of having to go to Wytheville for the use of scales and using Blan Bottomley's scales. He said that he would be glad to pay for it, and reiterated that this would be very helpful to the community to have.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to temporarily charge \$2 to use the scales. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams said he will follow up and get Mr. Bottomley's fee schedule to begin the conversation at the next meeting.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$560 for the storage boxes for Elections that was approved at the last meeting.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$560. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$39,895 for Social Services. He explained that this is an additional Smart Start allocation for child care.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$39,895. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #11 in the amount of \$45,281 for additional public assistance monies for Social Services. He explained that this is the remaining balance of crisis funds available for this fiscal year. He further explained that this is for people's heating and power, as examples.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #11 in the amount of \$45,281. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cox asked if this is pass through monies. The County Manager answered yes.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #12 in the amount of \$15,557 for additional public assistance monies for Social Services. He explained that this is the Federal low income home energy assistance funds. He said it is for the same purposes as the previous budget amendment but this one is Federal funds rather than State funds.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #12 in the amount of \$15,557. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$7,428, and budget amendment General Fund #14 in the amount of \$112,654 or \$115,066, depending upon which one the Board may chose. He provided a summary of the request for the last round of funding for New River. He explained that budget amendment #13 is basically where New River Service Authority (NRSA) is requesting the five counties to allow bringing in another audit firm to audit the NRSA books. He passed out a letter of engagement from Martin Starnes and Associates, described their background and reviewed the proposed letter of engagement including payment terms will not to exceed \$60,000 and they are requiring a retainer in amount of \$10,000 because of the volatile condition of NRSA. He explained that they are hoping they won't use the entire \$60,000.

Commissioner Cox talked about listening to Bryan Starnes with Martin Starnes and Associates and they will be using the \$10,000 then will stop around \$8,500 and explain where they are/what they are finding/ask about going forward. He further talked about NRSA is under investigation for Medicaid fraud, and Martin Starnes and Associates have the capability to do a forensic audit. He explained conversations with Bryan Starnes and conversations about the SBI becoming involved, if needed.

County Manager Don Adams talked about they are going to question management and the procedures, and as of right now he can say that he has not seen anything criminal. He further talked about trying to get a forensic firm in to look at this. He talked about Lowdermilk and Church and the LGC will be involved in this process. He further talked about looking at getting the management to start vetting these questions. He said that there are basic questions that everyone wants to know and hopefully can get these questions answered. He urged everyone to use caution about jumping to conclusions.

Commissioner Goudreau asked if Martin Starnes is going back farther than one year because they need to go back to 2007. He talked about procedural issues, and he doesn't think they will find what they are looking for in this year only.

County Manager Don Adams said it depends on what you are looking for.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about losing money and using their fund balance.

County Manager Don Adams said he doesn't think this is the end all be all.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about they can burn through \$60,000 in a hurry and won't undercover what caused these issues.

County Manager Don Adams explained that something didn't happen in a one-year period. He further explained that this is going back to June 30, 2010, which is 2009/10, then looking at 2010/11 and 2011/12. He said that they will look as far back as you want if you want to spend the money.

Commissioner Cox talked about their business model didn't change. He further talked about their projections versus actual amounts received. He stated that these didn't change in one day, and the business model remained pretty much the same.

Commissioner Roten asked how the other members felt about involving the SBI.

Commissioner Cox said they were open but wanted to do this audit first.

Commissioner Roten said that most people won't believe auditors but would believe the SBI.

Commissioner Cox explained his conversation with Sheriff Edwards about if something is found then he will start the process of involving the SBI.

Commissioner Roten said that hypothetically if nothing is found, he would like to hear from the SBI that there is nothing wrong. He talked about the amount of public money and doesn't see how they can decline being involved. He stated that it's a matter of public trust, and he doesn't think you have to allege anything.

Commissioner Cox said they seem to have forgotten whose money they are dealing with.

Commissioner Roten said he that is not saying anyone has done anything criminal.

Commissioner Cox said he isn't either.

Commissioner Roten said that he thinks the SBI should look into it and if the five counties request it he doesn't think they would deny it or at least to look over Martin Starnes information.

Commissioner Cox stated that he will take that to the NRSA's meeting.

County Manager Don Adams explained what he got from the five counties is what he is hearing from this Board and the citizens; what happened and if anything is criminal. He talked about there are two ways for the SBI to get involved is through the Sheriff or the District Attorney.

Commissioner Roten said he can't see if anyone asked the SBI that they would decline getting involved.

Commissioner Cox talked about writing a letter as a Board and asked is this something the County Attorney can do.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that she will do whatever the Board requests her to do.

Commissioner Cox stated at least writing a letter is a step.

Commissioner Roten stated that he would prefer it be the five counties because it would give it more creditability.

Commissioner Goudreau suggested recommending it to the other four counties for them to follow suit.

Commissioner Cox said he will be more than happy to.

Commissioner Roten made that motion. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson asked for clarification on the motion of asking the County Attorney to write a letter asking for an investigation from SBI.

Commissioner Roten said yes.

Commissioner Goudreau said that and to request the other four counties to consider the same.

Commissioner Smith asked at a minimum our County is requesting it.

Commissioner Roten said he thinks the Commissioners owe it to the citizens of Alleghany County.

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

Chair Richardson talked about going back to budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$7,428, which is Alleghany County's portion for the audit.

County Manager Don Adams agreed and explained the 12.38 percentage. He asked before the Board moves on this budget amendment to consider budget amendment General Fund #14 first because if there isn't staff or a building for the auditors to go into then there isn't anyway for an audit to happen.

Chair Richardson reviewed the two amounts for budget amendment General Fund #14 amounts; \$112,654 or \$115,066.

County Manager Don Adams explained the funding spreadsheet and why Alleghany allocated less than the original amount. He further explained that \$112,654 is going back to the original amount

requested. He stated that Wilkes, Watauga and Ashe counties have allotted their money for the second request. He explained that the \$115,066 is the \$112,654 plus the difference of first allocation paid of \$110,242 instead of the \$112,654.

Commissioner Cox talked about this would cover payroll and this would be covered by a deed of trust.

County Manager Don Adams explained the goal was the transition on November 1 and provide the services that was provided, employment update where 11 people employed by NR, 9 were hired by Daymark, long-term stability, real property was leased from the present until June 30 for \$3 per square feet and how that compares locally, done by NRSA so the buildings will be there until June 30, effective October 31 the vast majority of people are not employed by NRSA, NRSA kept 10 employees as a skeleton crew, next meeting is November 18 in Wilkes County at 9:00am, vehicles, telemedicine equipment, discussions with the LME and State Medicaid people, going to have to get a detailed accounting of how the assets were funded because we are running into issues about how the equipment was funded. He provided an example of the CJPP funding; local/regional staff has identified all of the equipment associated to Alleghany County CJPP where the County should get it back. He talked about an upcoming CJPP meeting. He further talked about direct grant funds from Crossroads and that equipment must go back. He explained that a portion of the vehicles will be leased for \$1 for the next 90 days by Daymark, and Daymark will provide the upkeep. He talked about the telemedicine was directly purchased off a grant from SMC, that must go back to SMC, telemedicine services were given to Daymark. He talked about both of those decisions were made because of the continuing of services. He stated that when they know which vehicles can be sold they will sell them. He reminded everyone that the last funding was to make payroll and certain expenses on October 15 for the employees through the end of September, and this one coming is for the October payroll. He talked about they have a significant amount of back payments. He said that these discussions are to get certain questions answered. He talked about the second goal of the Board was to protect the employees. He further talked about other costs coming up; rent in the Boone office, telephone and power, current level of funding will get through payroll and NRSA had to make rent payments because if not paid then staff was going to get thrown out of the building. He talked about they have got to make the e-Notes payment. He explained that the conversations on November 21 will be to finalize the retirement and the rents because the rents are for past amounts. He said hopefully \$20,000-\$25,000 should get through Christmas and into January. He further said that hopefully will also get the County Attorneys to where they can talk about liabilities to each of the counties. He stated that no one has admitted to any liability.

Commissioner Cox, County Manager Don Adams and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the amount on the deed of trust with the maximum being \$283,100.

The County Manager explained that if the \$115,066 and \$7,428 are approved and if the Board continues with the \$20,000-\$25,000 will leave about \$25,000 remaining on the deed of trust. He said he is trying to let the Board know what he knows. He stated that this is agreements with the five counties, and the other counties are following through with deeds of trust. He talked about the option of not making the last payroll would free up monies.

Commissioner Cox talked about this is for services employees did in October.

Chair Richardson asked for a motion on budget amendment General Fund #14 in the amount of \$115,066.

Commissioner Cox asked has anyone complained that Alleghany did not pay their portion in the first allocation.

County Manager Don Adams talked about other than they know Alleghany County didn't pay their fair share.

Commissioner Roten stated that Alleghany County has been paying more than our fair share to begin with.

Chair Richardson asked for a motion on budget amendment General Fund #14 in the amount of \$115,066.

Commissioner Cox stated for purposes of discussions he made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #14 in the amount of \$115,066. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$7,426 on one condition; freeze participation with Smoky Mountain Center (SMC) until the outcome of the audit/investigation is known. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson said that this is aimed at him to get him off the Board and is a backdoor approach to get him off the SMC board.

Commissioner Goudreau said if that was what he wanted then he would have made that motion. He further said that he believes this is the best way to go.

Chair Richardson said you no longer would have anyone speaking for Alleghany County.

Commissioner Goudreau said he understands that.

Chair Richardson stated that hurts Alleghany County in asking SMC for assistance. He said he doesn't have any problems with the criticism about what SMC has been doing. He further said that everyone needs to remember decisions made about the Medicaid waiver's decision was made by a previous County Commissioner and Dr. Cahn so trying to tie him into that and take away Alleghany County's voting authority, he thinks is short sided and is a negative approach to what SMC is doing. He asked how best can you determine what is going on with SMC if there are not two board members going to the meetings.

Commissioner Cox said that he understands the motion. He further said that Alleghany County doesn't need to diminish our representation there, he doesn't trust SMC and the need for eyes and ears there for Alleghany County, paying attention to what they are doing and trying to steer Mr. Ingraham in the right way. He said that he thinks they need watching.

Commissioner Roten agreed on that aspect and said that it behooves him that the Chairman won't stand up and step down, which is what he would do. He further said that he is not saying the Chairman has done anything wrong and isn't accusing anything; it is a matter of perception. He said that the Chairman should consider it.

Chair Richardson stated no unless the Board goes behind his back like before and does it.

Commissioner Roten said he was on that Board, it wasn't behind the Chairman's back and is sorry he feels that way.

Chair Richardson said that this is an opportunity to have two good board members; Dr. Cahn has been representing mental health for 30 years and he has been representing mental health for 11 years. He further said that he has the ability to evaluate what goes on at SMC. He explained that he and Commissioner Cox meet on a regular basis and share information that is beneficial. He said that it is very beneficial to everyone in Alleghany County, and if you cut off that communication you are not providing valuable information to him. He said that he thinks that Commissioner Cox will tell everyone that it has been invaluable to have input from himself and Dr. Cahn.

Commissioner Cox said it has. He stated that these things go back to before he was on the Board. He reiterated that he thinks we need to keep our eyes on Brian Ingraham and their operations.

Commissioner Roten stated that there has been a motion on the floor and a second so call for a vote.

Commissioner Smith said he watched previous meetings from two years, and he cannot see how one person is that powerful. He further said he is not going to go along with that. He stated the need for someone on the SMC board.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 2:3 (Larry Cox, Ken Richardson, Tom Smith)

Chair Richardson asked for a motion on budget amendment General Fund #13.

Chair Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$7,426. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Steve Roten).

Commissioner Goudreau said he thinks the next topic has already been covered by previous conversations about the SBI.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about archiving the video of the County Commissioners' meetings. He said he thought the meetings were kept and that they were archived but that isn't the

case. He talked about archiving them for four years and keep them at the library. He stated that Imaging Specialist has agreed to keep them from now on. He further talked about the County having access it them.

Commissioner Cox said he thought the Board had a conversation about having them online.

County Manager Don Adams provided an update about the contract with ACTV, and funds are available to put meetings online. He said he needs to get time, maybe three/four days, to sit down with Charlie/Travis/Karen to start getting them online.

Chair Richardson and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans talked about the written minutes are the official record of the Board's meetings.

Chair Richardson said he doesn't have the support for the next topic.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to enter into closed session at 9:30pm under NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (3)—legal, (a) (4)—economic development, (a) (5)—contracts, (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn closed session at 10:20pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith 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 the meeting at 10:21pm. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman