

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 15, 2010, at 3:30pm 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 and welcomed everyone.

Commissioner Milly Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened with a prayer.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 15, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, November 15, 2010
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for November 15, 2010, meeting
Motion on Minutes for November 1, 2010, meeting
Motion on October Tax Releases and Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: LGC Application
C. Mary Walker
RE: Tax Appeal & Tax Administrator's Settlement
D. George Sheets
RE: Tax Appeal
E. Jim & LuJean Keefer
RE: Fluoridation
F. Dennis Smith
RE: Fluoridation
G. Shelda Upchurch
RE: Fluoridation
H. Jerry Brooks
RE: Fluoridation
I. Linda Chekanow
RE: Water Fluoridation
J. North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services
RE: Fluoridation Presentation
Kevin J. Buchholtz, DDS
Ricky L. Langley, MD, MPH
K. County Business
1. Water Authority Discussions
2. Operation Inasmuch Solid Waste
3. Water Service Request for Savannah Church
4. Social Services Budget Amendment
5. Solid Waste Management Plan Update—Electronics Recycling
6. Alleghany in Motion Minivan—Insurance Claim
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real and auto refunds for October. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real and auto releases for October. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for public comments.

Bob Bamberg provided handouts to the Board about the 1997-2007 age adjusted suicide rates and other suicide-related data. He discussed suicide rates in Alleghany County. He further discussed Alleghany Lives is a group that is working on suicide prevention.

Julia Simmons provided charts and explained the charts to the Board about what Alleghany Lives focuses on for the prevention of suicide.

Sherry Cahn talked about past and upcoming events/information that Alleghany Lives has been doing including an event this weekend.

Julia Simmons provided information about ways to get in touch with them.

Lou Zella, Director with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, came before the Commissioners about their most recent group; People for a Clean Environment. He said that he has looked over the information provided by them, and it is concerning. He explained his concerns about fluoridation and reasons for their opposition to fluoridation.

Lucas Pasley stated that he is a teacher at Alleghany High School, father of three and lives in town. He explained that two weeks ago was the first time he had attended a Commissioners' meeting, and he has done a lot of thinking since then. He said that he appreciates the Board members stepping up to serve as County Commissioners. He further said that there is a time for government to impose upon the will of the people. He gave an example of the seatbelt law. He said that he imagines the Board is struggling with the decision to impose this upon the will of the people. He talked about options for people who want fluoride. He said that the vast majority of the Commissioners are not on town water and won't be personally affected by the decision of fluoridation. He talked about issues if the Board forces or plays a part in forcing him and his family to have fluoride and don't force the Board's own to do the same.

Shelda Upchurch asked the gentlemen with the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Service if they can guarantee that no one will be harmed by ingesting fluoride. She further asked if the Commissioners are willing to accept the responsibility and risk of the death of one infant or child due to fluoride and would they be willing to accept that risk for anyone in their family.

Iboya Pasley stated that she is a mother of three children. She asked the Department of Health & Human Service people about fluorosis. She displayed a graph showing fluorosis in fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas. She said she would like for the State people to address this matter. She talked about where fluoride falls in water pollutants. She further talked about she is from the Netherlands where they have stopped fluoridation. She talked about raising the standards regarding people's teeth.

Jim Wyatt stated that he lives in the Pine Swamp community and worked at Magnolia. He said that before this came up he was not educated about fluoride. He further said that he understands there are a lot of negative comments about fluoride. He talked about the number one thing that fluoride is supposed to do; protect your teeth. He further talked about there are two types of people; one that practices good dental hygiene and one that doesn't. He asked is fluoridating the water going to help those who don't take care of their teeth already so why put it in the water.

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

Elizabeth Perot stated that she has been a resident here for 20 years and volunteers at the pregnancy center. She explained that she called Gerber about a product called pure water for parents to use for their infants in place of fluoridated water. She further explained that having to purchase this product for formula will create a financial hardship for a lot of their clients.

Eula Ray Cook read a few quotes about fluoride and stated the sources of the quotes. She talked about studies done show children are receiving overdoses of fluoride because of the multiple ways they receive fluoride including toothpaste and water. She further talked about studies done that show poverty has more to do with tooth decay than fluoride.

Jerrie Howell talked about information that she ran across last week about fluoridation was exposed as lethal which is noted in the congressional record.

Chair Ken Richardson proceeded on with item B on the agenda; Local Government Commission public hearing.

County Manager Don Adams explained the purpose of the public hearing is for the additional \$418,230 for the Glade Creek Elementary School project. He reviewed the resolution to proceed on with the loan closing and the memorandum of understanding between Allegheny County and Allegheny County Board of Education stating that the Board of Education will make the debt payments out of their mandated sales tax amount.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing at 4:03pm regarding the Local Government Commission's application for the proposed QSCB financing for Glade Creek Elementary School and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 4:04pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the resolution for providing final approval of terms and documents for the QSCB school improvements financing. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding concerning the loan repayment between Allegheny County and the Allegheny County Board of Education. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to discuss a tax appeal on a discovery for property owned by George Sheets/Lois Sheets/Susan Murphy.

Rita Miller, Assistant Tax Administrator, stated that they received a phone about the value of this property and found one building that hasn't been taxed. She explained the timeline.

Mary Walker explained the value of the property, met with Mr. Sheets onsite and described the discovery notice in the amount of \$4,640.88. She discussed the sales and value study of reviewing comparable sales. She explained how they arrived at their value.

George Sheets provided papers to the Board and explained that in 1984/85 they built a group home for five kids which had a building in the back for their use, and when they left, it was turned into apartments. He further explained that when they received the discovery notice, they saw they hadn't been paying taxes on the building but was paying too much on the land. He said that the tax office adjusted the value for the last four years. He clarified that they are asking for the value to be adjusted for the entire six years and for any assistance on the solid waste fees and penalties.

Mary Walker stated that the tax office doesn't have the authority to go back beyond the current schedule of value, which was adopted in 2007.

Chair Ken Richardson and Mary Walker talked about if this Board agrees can the tax office go back six years since Mary Walker doesn't know because this has never happened. Chair Ken Richardson stated that if the tax office would like time to research that with the County Attorney; the Commissioners can table it.

County Manager Don Adams asked why there are two different amounts. Mary Walker stated that she provided the starting point of the original discovery and George Sheets provided the adjusted amount.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked if the tax office agrees that he was being charged too much for his land and not enough for his buildings.

Rita Miller stated it has been adjusted.

County Manager Don Adams and George Sheets talked about he is only requesting the last two years be adjusted.

Commissioner Randy Miller asked can the Board find out if this can be done and table the matter until the answer is known.

Commissioner Steve Roten said to remember that it will be a different board.

Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Doug Murphy and Mary Walker talked about finding language in the General Statutes about this situation.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to give them what he is asking about adjusting the two other years.

Rita Miller asked how the Board wants it adjusted; at the 2007 values or a percentage.

Commissioner Steve Roten answered a percentage in fairness.

Rita Miller stated that she is going to apply the same influences to 2005 and 2006 as she did the others.

Commissioner Steve Roten agreed and stated that's his motion. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker stated that as the Board knows this is the last time she will be here as the Tax Administrator. She passed out information to the Board. She talked about the outstanding balances as of today for real property and autos for 10 years and back. She explained that this is called her settlement and is required by the General Statutes before she retires. She talked about autos and how the taxes are paid. She further talked about the language in the General Statutes about collection of motor vehicle taxes can be released after one year. She explained that some counties release them every year. She said that she has vehicle taxes that go back to 1998 and 1999. She explained that these bills have never been released. She said that they are in the amount of \$36,757 and aren't collectible. She asked the Board to release these.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to grant the request. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Mary Walker.

Jim Keefer stated that he lives here in Sparta and made an attempt to follow up after the experts but since he has been reallocated he will discuss others points. He talked about having the hand-picked experts, and asked are they being paid to come here. He said he doubts that they are part of the group of scientists that oppose fluoridation. He further said that he has seen the letter to the Water Authority by eight local doctors, which approval is easy to obtain by just going to your doctor. He stated that none of the eight doctors are on town water. He provided examples of other harmful practices that have been stopped. He talked about a study done and an experiment on dogs that was supposed to occur on people but because of the results on the dogs they were unable to do the study on humans. He said our Town recently received almost a quarter million dollars for a pump station for Magnolia which uses humidity controlled air to produce their product. He explained that this would require the workers to breathe fluoridated air. He said that everyone was told by the County Manager that this wasn't looked into because they thought this was a common thing, which it is because the public isn't asked. He presented a petition of 669 residents that are opposing fluoridation. He talked about the current, latest data of the Town's water supply. He provided data to show overexposure to fluoride, and asked who is going to take responsibility for the overexposure; the local government. He said he was told at a Town council meeting

in June that it is almost impossible to consume too much fluoride. He explained where a community put 60 gallons of fluoride their water over a period of 1 ½ hours because equipment malfunctioned. He read a paragraph that he read to the Water Authority in June about fluoridation. He said he urges the Commissioners to vote against the proposal to fluoride the water.

Dennis Smith asked why anyone should accept what the Department of Health and Human Services says about fluoridation because they don't do any studies. He talked about dental fluorosis has increased according to the CDC. He said that it is the stated goal to increase the people drinking fluoride water to 75%. He talked about the evidence that fluoride is dangerous, and it doesn't matter about people's rights. He said that the public was told that H1N1 was a pandemic, larger employers told employees take the shot or be fired then the flu season was light so the pandemic was a hoax. He talked about other actions of the Department of Health and Human Services from 1929-1974 including mutations, and that wasn't repealed by the General Assembly until 2003. He explained his reasons for bringing this up. He provided some quotes along with their sources about doing things right. He provided a timeline of their activities starting June 1 at a Sparta Town Council meeting when Jim Keefer went before them. He talked about the video on the Town's website is missing that particular meeting. He explained what he found when he researched their minutes. He talked about a letter to Bryan Edwards from the Appalachian District Health Board endorsing water fluoridation. He further talked about Ken Richardson's name is on the letterhead of the Health Department. He said Mr. Richardson used his office to support fluoridation. He talked about Mr. Richardson instructed the County Manager to get experts to speak in favor of the fluoridation. He further talked about Ken Richardson's actions, and he did not state he had heard the other side. He asked what other influences have there been by the Chairman. He talked about requests for information that has been requested and not provided. He further talked about the decision to fluoride the water has already been made. He talked about the actions at the October 14 meeting where the Chairman rebutted Milly Richardson's motion by saying he wanted to hear the other side. He said that it is more than just a coincidence that the Appalachian District Health Director, Danny Staley, spoke right after they discussed fluoridation. He asked how he can not be biased on this issue. He further asked that the Chairman be removed from his position as Chairman and not to be allowed to vote on this issue and since it appears he has violated his oath of office that the Board take whatever action is deemed to be just and proper then the Board vote to oppose any fluoridation of any water system that serves Alleghany County now or in the future.

Jerry Brooks stated that he is coming before the Board as the Coordinator for the People for a Clean Environment, which is a non-profit group. He said that the Commissioners do not have their permission to do this. He further said regardless of what the professionals say the Water Authority made the decision to have fluoride without hearing from the public. He asked did they research fluoride issues, and what did they base their decision on. He further talked about there are dentists coming to talk about the safety of the fluoridation, which he thinks they are not knowledgeable about. He referenced a transcript of a letter from the California Board of Dental Examiners about adverse effects of ingested fluoride and what they say is it's not part of dentistry plus the question of will no individual suffer from any ill effects from fluoride and they state they cannot do that because that is a medical diagnosis. He said that the dental community has no formal training regarding ingested fluoride. He talked about blanket denials of any special interests groups/citizens while claiming that they are experts while they have no formal training about ingested fluoride. He read a letter stating that they are formally making requests to Ken Richardson, Chairman; Don Adams, County Manager; John Miller, Mayor and Bryan Edwards, Town Manager to request a list of documents regarding correspondences made or received in regards to the Water Authority; they agree to pay a reasonable fee not to exceed \$40; asked the Board to waive the fees because it is in the public's interest; if request is denied then he referenced a section of State law; reserve the right to appeal; appreciate communications be by phone not by the mail; reply within 10 days as law says; other requests for the Town include the video of the June Town Council meeting. He gave the letters to the County Manager and a member of the Town Council. He said once again he calls for a vote on the opposition of fluoridation and any delay would indicate being in favor.

Linda Chekanow talked about she learned a lot while gathering signatures in front of Food Lion. She explained the breakdown of the people she talked to in regards to how they

feel about fluoride. She talked about the number of people that signed the petition opposing fluoridation and the silent population. She further talked about a long-distance trucker talking about he has to have a haz-mat sticker. She said that she found that most people in town did not know that the water was going to be fluoridated. She talked about her research over the last month and a half, condensed the report and provided it to the Commissioners. She explained information in the condensed report including the 2000 Dr. Hirzy's report, a statement calling for an end to water fluoridation that was put before Congress, letter from a doctor in Tennessee who is a member of Congress that talked about opposing fluoridation, studies about issues that fluoridation causes, rebuttal about the positive use of fluoride, with the internet there are numerous ways to find information about fluoridation. She talked about the letter from the local doctors and the amount of significant information that was not cited in that letter. She read a portion of an end to water fluoridation. She stated that the pro-fluoride people here will show awful pictures which they are and there is a need for dental care but fluoridating the water isn't going to help those problems plus there are other solutions. She talked about although a Federal grant was obtained for the equipment, is it fair for the operating costs to fall to the taxpayers of this county when other needed services are being cut. She described a situation where a woman would have to purchase the product that was mentioned earlier and then part of her taxes will go to buy the fluoride that is poisoning her baby. She talked about numerous poisons that people have to deal with all of the time. She stated that the other issue is the ability to make a decision for her and her family rather than the governing bodies make that decision. She said if the Board ignores what has been discussed about fluoridation, it would show a healthy disrespect of the citizens and lack of fiduciary responsibility to spend taxpayer money. She talked about fluoridation comes from the Federal government, and they don't have a good track. She further talked about Congress just passed bills that wasn't even read. She said that big government isn't looking out for you or me just big government. She further said that she will not be made to feel powerless in the community that she has decided to live in. She explained that forcing water fluoridation on a community that doesn't want it is wrong. She asked that the Commissioners make a decision to pull out of this project before it is too late. She said to take the trust of the public in your hands, vote no and end the fluoride initiative.

County Manager Don Adams said he wanted to address that Alleghany County is not paying anyone anything to come before the Board of Commissioners.

County Manager Don Adams introduced Dr. Kevin Buchholtz who is Public Health Dentist Supervisor in the Oral Health Section of the North Carolina Division of Public Health and Dr. Ricky Langley who is a Medical Epidemiologist in the Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Section of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Kevin Buchholtz came before the Board to present a PowerPoint presentation regarding fluoridation. He stated that the Division of Public Health endorses fluoridation. He went through the PowerPoint presentation during which he talked about some fluoride is already in all sources of water, EPA maximum amounts, recommendations to EPA to lower the amounts, Public Health Division does not promote drinking water with high fluoride levels, adult consumption/children consumption, many studies show the effectiveness of fluoridation, most studies look at children, early studies show benefits/late studies don't show as much benefit, they put a lot of faith in what the CDC says, CDC tells them it works and is safe, what is fluorosis and babies under one-year old have increased risks. He reiterated that there are a lot of studies supporting the safety and effectiveness of fluoride, and they rely on the CDC.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Dr. Buchholtz talked about the amount of fluoride in toothpaste and the amount in fluoride tablets.

Dr. Buchholtz talked about he supports water fluoridation because it doesn't require a visit to a dentist since some people cannot afford to go to the dentist.

Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Doug Murphy and Dr. Buchholtz talked about parents controlling their children's intake has control over their children's cavities, parents can make those choices and the room could be full of pros/cons regarding this issue.

Dr. Buchholtz talked about 10 states mandate fluoridation.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked if the medical community looks at that.

Dr. Ricky Langley provided an example of chlorinated water.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Dr. Buchholtz talked about the program where dentists go into schools to apply sealants to children's teeth.

Dr. Langley presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the systematic review of fluoride including the definition and steps for preparing and maintaining the review. He talked about the quality of the study. He talked about the systematic review of the effects of fluoridation including the risks versus the benefits. He stated that they are waiting on a Harvard study that is coming out soon. He showed a graph showing fluoridation growth and bone cancer. He reiterated that they rely on the CDC. He talked about systematic reviews on fluoridation and other diseases.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about it takes a lot of different studies to reach a decision, looking at other people's reviews and the CDC for answers. Dr. Langley agreed.

Dr. Terry Johnson asked to read a letter by him and Dr. Flowers.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he doesn't vary from the agenda but the letter can be provided to the County Manager.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the documents in the Commissioners' packets regarding fluoridation. He provided an update on the Water Authority being eight members; two appointed by the County Commissioners, two appointed by Sparta Town Council, two appointed by Independence Town Council and two appointed by Grayson County, and currently all eight members are voting members. He explained that Alleghany County and Grayson County are not participates. He further explained that Alleghany County's original reason for involvement was to negotiate a fair and equitable buy in, which has been accomplished. He said that Alleghany County has two votes and the Water Authority has two customers; Sparta and Independence, who are financing this. He further said that the Water Authority did meet today and agreed not to proceed until these meetings are completed. He stated that until that occurs, the equipment has already been purchased and in the hands of the contractor, and is not moving forward on this issue. He further stated that the two customers (their representatives) have stated their desire to have fluoridated waters.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he has had a long time to think about this even before it came before the County Commissioners, and this isn't about the pros/cons about fluoride but it's about a freedom of choice. He explained that there are other mechanisms to get fluoride and people can make those choices to use the products or not. He said once the fluoride is in the water it is not a matter of choice. He stated that it has benefits and dangers but it is a matter of choice.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about she has dealt with the public for 30 years and don't recall seeing this many people concerned about an issue since the early-mid 1990s. She further talked about a lady stopping her on the street today about opposing fluoride.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion that as a Board to direct our two members on the Water Authority to vote against the water fluoridation. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Ken Richardson).

Chair Ken Richardson declared a brief recess at 6:22pm.

County Manager Don Adams talked to the Board about Operation Inasmuch where several churches got together to help people in the community with various tasks. He explained some of the projects. He further explained that they accumulated \$115.20 in solid waste fees, and he asking the Board to release those fees.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Savannah United Methodist Church requesting permission for water to be supplied by Grayson County, Virginia to the Church, which is located in Alleghany County. He read the letter.

Chair Ken Richardson asked why is this coming before the Commissioners.

County Manager Don Adams explained that part of it is to get permission and part of it is as a courtesy. He stated that the Alleghany County Board of Commissioners is the only ones that can offer water in Alleghany County.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to grant the request. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of (\$1,320) for daycare revenues/expenditures for Social Services.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of (\$1,320). Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams discussed two items with the Commissioners regarding the new electronic recycling law. He explained that one item is the solid waste management plan amendment which is required to be updated for the State and will make the County eligible to receive \$300/\$400 in grant funds, which is based on population, and can be used for a trailer and making the area more accessible. He further explained that the second item is the service agreement with eCycleSecure. He stated that they are one of three companies certified by the State to handle electronic recycling. He explained what the service agreement covers and how the service will work. He said that it only requires a 30-day notice to end the contract.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the solid waste plan update. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the service agreement. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams informed the Board about a deer accident regarding one of Alleghany in Motion's minivans. He explained that no one was hurt but the vehicle was totaled. He further explained the amount proposed from the insurance company is \$7,617. He said money to replace that van is already in this year's budget since it has 186,000 miles on it. He explained that the last minivan brought \$1,900 at a surplus sale. He explained that if the Board wants to accept the insurance company's amount then the van will need to be declared surplus.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to declare the van surplus and turn it over to the insurance company. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the upcoming scheduled joint meeting on November 29 and the Town has several members that cannot attend. He asked the Board about canceling the meeting.

The Board agreed.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the service of the outgoing County Commissioners. He presented a plaque to Milly Richardson for her 4 years of dedicated services to the citizens of Alleghany County~December 2006-December 2010. He presented a plaque to Doug Murphy for his 4 years of dedicated services to the citizens of Alleghany County~December 2006-December 2010. He presented a plaque to Randy Miller for his 4

years of dedicated services to the citizens of Alleghany County~December 2006-December 2010.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that she is proud to have served on this very unique, working Board. She said that the Board has approached issues with different ideas, discussed them, disagreed, compromised but worked like a governing body is supposed to work. She stated that she respects the fact that every Board member did what they felt they had to do based on their perception of the issues. She talked about the Board broke from a long pattern of being content to be on the same page, regardless of which page that might be. She stated that she challenges the upcoming Board to continue as a working Board. She further stated that she wishes the new Board and the staff all the best in the coming years. She thanked everyone on the Board.

Commissioner Doug Murphy thanked the people that elected him and hopes he has served them well because he has tried his best and done what he thought was best. He thanked Karen Evans for her assistance to him. He thanked Donna Shumate for her legal guidance. He thanked Don Adams for his work, and stated the County is lucky to have him. He thanked the members of the County Commissioners. He stated that the County is fortunate to have Ken Richardson, and he is a man he respects. He thanked his wife and his children for their support during the last four years.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about it has been a long and short four years. He further talked about in the beginning, he sat and listened and didn't say much. He said he votes the way he feels in his heart. He thanked the people who voted for him and those who didn't because this is the American way. He said he made some mistakes on some votes including his first meeting when he didn't vote and it counted as a yes. He talked about the Board basically crucified one of our own, Ken Richardson, and that was the wrong thing to do. He apologized to the people who work for the County. He explained that him, Ken Richardson and Don Adams worked hard trying to get merit raises and then taking away their pay because of having the furloughs. He talked about when you mess with people's insurance; you are messing with something that you don't know about because of what they are dealing with. He said he had a situation where he had to take the County insurance with the County paying for it, and he is sorry. He thanked Karen Evans and Don Adams for being such good friends. He said that he hopes the next Board will look at the insurance issue. He talked about Commissioners make \$250 a month, and he didn't do this for the money. He thanked his family for their support. He said that out of the surrounding counties Commissioners' pay the next closest one to us is Avery County at \$450 per month. He talked about thinking of Ken Richardson who serves on several different boards, been a friend since he was in school, and he is a man that really cares about Alleghany County and is the only one sitting here tonight that can travel as many miles as has for this County. He said that everyone should walk a mile in Commissioners' shoes before a decision is made.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the minutes from November 1, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 6:59pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman