

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 10:00am 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, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Chair Cox mentioned one change to the agenda; switching I and J under General Business.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this November 17, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, November 17, 2014
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for November 17, 2014, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for November 3, 2014, Meeting
- 10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. October Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. Actions Requested – Vote on releases and refunds.
 2. October Collections Report - Monthly 2014 collection rates through October as compared to 2013 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of October 2014. No action requested.
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
 5. Residential Solid Waste Fee Release – Request for solid waste fee release request. Action Requested – Vote on request.
 6. Schedule of Values – Request for the adoption of the 2015 Schedule of Values. Action Requested – Vote on request.
- 10:15 B. John Blevins –Social Services Director
1. Budget Amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$52,571 for additional child development monies. State funds - \$47,657. Required County matching funds - \$4,914. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment General Fund #8.
 2. Request an open position to be filled; Income Maintenance II, Grade 65, \$29,660.79. Action Requested – Vote on the request to fill the position.
- 10:25 C. Linda Edwards—EMS Administrative Director
RE: Update on Debt Set-Off. No action requested.
- 10:30 D. Board of Elections
RE: Election Night Results Delay
- 10:40 E. Health Advisory Council Annual Report
- 10:50 F. Consonance + Design Build Studio (ASU Students)
RE: Farmers Market Presentation
- 11:20 G. General Business
1. Budget Amendment – Transfer Facility #1
Budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$17,028 to budget for a Transfer Facility attendant and Budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$3,794 to budget for the transfer of medical insurance for the Transfer Facility Attendant’s position. This request was discussed at the last meeting. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment Transfer Facility #1 and Budget Amendment General Fund #9.
 2. Budget Amendment – General Fund #10
Budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$36,694 to budget for moving E911 salaries and benefits out of the County E911 fund to the General Fund Mapping budget per State E911 Board requirements. No General Fund dollars required and no additional E911 Fund dollars required. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment General Fund #10.
 3. Sheriff’s Gun and Badge

Due to the upcoming retirement of Sheriff David Edwards, it has been requested that his service weapon (Sig Sauer PA 229) and his badge be given to him as a token of appreciation for his service to Allegheny County. Action Requested – Vote to surplus the equipment and to dispose of for a nominal fee (\$1).

H. Public Comments—30 minutes

I. Commissioners Comments (switched with J.)

J. Commissioner Recognition (switched with I.)

K. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the October auto releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the October auto releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the October auto refunds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the October auto refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the October auto refunds under the vehicle tax system (VTS).

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the VTS October auto refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the October real property releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the October real property releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the October real property refunds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the October real property refunds. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the October 2014 reports; collections' report, enforced collection report, and payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented a request for a solid waste fee release for property owned by Patsy Bottomley on Fraser Road. She explained the property hasn't been occupied since 2008, and the owner has submitted a request for permanent power disconnect. She said it is her recommendation to release the fees, and she will state in the letter about notifying the Tax Office if the property is being occupied again.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to release the solid waste fee as recommended by the Tax Administrator. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller talked about the 2015 Schedule of Values. She said she is here along with Eddie Mitchum to answer any questions the Board may have. She stated that this is the 2015 Schedule of Values and the present-use values.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, provided a handout to the Commissioners for a topic not on the agenda that he will present after his agenda topics and come back at the first meeting in December to discuss further. He presented information about the General Fund Budget amendment #8 in the amount of \$52,571. He explained this is additional daycare monies, which requires a match for monies over \$25,000. He further explained the need for these monies.

County Manager Don Adams and John Blevins talked about if this is a trend since this is normally pass-through monies. The County Manager mentioned that we may want to talk to the County Commissioners Association and Social Services Association about this.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about anything over \$25,000 requires a match.

Commissioner Leys and John Blevins talked about this is for anyone who qualifies for subsidiary monies, and will help keep the waiting list from growing.

Commissioner Leys said that she has learned recently that Social Services has contributed to the General Fund's fund balance over the last five years.

Commissioner Leys and John Blevins talked about people on the waiting list, people qualifying for these monies can be working, and they use these monies to help maintain their jobs.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$52,571. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins presented information about his request to fill an open slot created by the upcoming retirement of Carolyn Cleary. He explained the workload of the income maintenance staff. He talked about a recent study regarding workloads. He stated that this is for Income Maintenance II, Grade 65, \$29,660.79 or Income Maintenance I, Grade 63, \$26,902.85. He explained the reason he listed both positions because it depends upon the qualifications of the person applying. He further explained that he is asking to allow him to fill the position and advertise now but would not start someone until January 1.

Commissioner Smith and John Blevins talked about the timeline of advertising and interviewing to select a person. John Blevins reviewed some other changes in Social Services regarding personnel.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys thanked Ms. Cleary for submitting her notice far enough in advance, and said that was very thoughtful of her.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve filling the slot. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins explained that the State has appropriated new monies for Social Services to hire a new employee performing child protective services duties. He further explained how the State looked at everything and Allegheny was identified as needing additional staff. He talked about the financial side of adding the new position of a Social Worker IA&T; State funding will cover the expenses for 2014/15 and there would be a shortfall of \$4,531.88 for 2015/16. He reviewed information that the State is also looking closely at the supervisor to worker ratio and Allegheny's current ratio is 7.5. He explained that he is going to request, in the 2015/16 budget, to hire a Social Worker Supervisor II, which will barely keep Allegheny in compliance with the State. He stated the costs to the County would be approximately \$22,780 assuming the 60% reimbursement.

Commissioner Leys explained that this has been a continual concern of John Blevins. She stated that Lisa is doing a great job.

Chair Cox thanked John Blevins for the information.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director, provided a brief update on the debt set off program with EMS. She stated that she sent letters out on October 6 to the people involved advising them they had 30 days to respond and this debt would be going to debt set off. She explained she collected \$2,077.27 and obtained insurance information for 2 others, who she was able to file with their insurance company. She stated that leaves \$95,609.76 that will be going to debt set off later this week. She said that she is still researching out-of-state debt collections, and hopes to come back soon with more information on that.

Michael Day, Director of Elections, thanked the Board of Elections for being present at this meeting. He thanked the Commissioners for allowing the use of this room for the one-stop voting. He read an email received from Commissioner Goudreau on election night. He answered the questions

addressed in the email; there was no delay in reporting because they did not commit to having the results posted by a certain time, delays on the internet were due to bandwidth problems not when they were uploaded, Commissioners don't have the right to demand a recount. He provided statistics regarding the recent election.

Commissioner Leys and Michael Day talked about the voting machine problems that occurred during the election. She asked were the votes compromised. He answered no, and stated that votes are recorded 3 different ways, and explained the different ways. She asked if they all matched. He answered yes. He said they had an audit last week. He explained that for the recount, one of the options may be a hand-to-eye count, and this will be a public meeting for anyone wanting to attend.

Commissioner Goudreau said that he is very appreciative for the work done by everyone. He stated he wasn't trying to be slanderous. He said that maybe the problems were due to the bandwidth problems. He thanked him for the report.

Jennifer Greene presented the annual report for the Health Advisory Council. She reviewed their current and upcoming activities including Project Lazarus, healthy cooking on a budget, supporting an active Alleghany County, supporting healthily eating in Alleghany County, increasing awareness about healthy eating and smoke-free air, and the State of Health in Alleghany County. She talked about the Community Health Assessment is currently available on the Health Department's website. She explained the purpose of the Community Health Assessment.

Commissioner Leys thanked Jennifer Greene very much.

Commissioner Smith and Jennifer Greene talked about the farmer's market and people will be making a farmer's market presentation later today.

Chair Cox and Jennifer Greene discussed the Community Health Assessment and trying to get the word out to people. They talked about Project Lazarus by her explaining Project Lazarus, how it works, its purpose and the importance of the Project. They talked about having a good amount of support locally.

Commissioner Leys and Jennifer Greene talked about there is a drop box located at the Sheriff's Department.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 10:57am.

Consonance + Design Build Studio (ASU Students) presented a PowerPoint presentation along with models showing their recommended design for the farmers market. During the presentation they explained the history, layout of the market, construction process and budget, the market could be constructed in 3 phases if finances aren't available for the entire project. They explained they have a schedule for the market to be built before their graduation in the spring.

Commissioner Smith and ASU student Hunter Smith talked about the students have been working with the County Manager, Town Manager and Aaron Ray Tompkins since the initial meeting with the Commissioners and Town Council in September.

Commissioner Leys and ASU student Hunter Smith talked about the number of parking spots and the size of the building.

Commissioner Smith and ASU student Hunter Smith discussed the phases the project could be built in. They talked about already having the money for the first phase.

Commissioner Davis and ASU student Hunter Smith talked about the concrete in the project and the gravel parking. They discussed the size of the area between the posts.

Commissioner Leys and ASU student Hunter Smith talked about the roof height and footers.

County Manager Don Adams explained there was a successful burn of the houses on the properties this past weekend and Larry Delp did a good job. He talked about the budget having \$36,000 left of the County's \$50,000. He explained that Aaron Ray Tompkins is looking for a grant for phase 2 of the project. He said that a couple costs that are left are the clean-up costs, and it may make sense to grade the site while cleaning up from the burn. He explained that grading isn't in the budget. He said that the long-term goal is for all 3 phases. He talked about other opportunities available including a

Department of Commerce grant that could be used for the construction of the building. He stated that if we are able to get these grants then all 3 phases are possible. He talked about grading costs. He said an additional \$5,000-\$10,000 is needed to ensure that we can make the budget for the first phase.

Aaron Ray Tompkins talked about the success of the area at the fairgrounds and the key is this is a centralized place and more visual for people.

Commissioner Leys and ASU student Hunter Smith talked about the type of wood for the woven wall.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this property is owned by the BDC, they will apply for the building permit, need a stamped structure plan and being able to do the work since it is being done by the owner/contractor. Travis Dalton agreed.

Commissioner Smith asked if this would be something the Town Council would support. Town Manager Bryan Edwards explained that they talked about it at their last meeting and there is 100% support from the Town Council. He talked about working with several groups, making sure the money is available and can't afford for it to stop.

Commissioner Smith said he agrees that it is a worthy project. He stated that it might be wise to look at the money set aside to not miss out on this opportunity. He said that he is optimistic about the grants.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the design and continue forward. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

County Manager Don Adams asked to clarify the motion. He asked if this is the additional \$10,000 for a minimum of getting the first phase completed or sticking with the original \$50,000. He said he will be having a conversation this week to grade the property and put gravel on it.

Commissioner Goudreau and the County Manager discussed that the additional \$10,000 would come out of the 30 fund not the General Fund.

Commissioner Goudreau amended his motion to include the \$10,000. Commissioner Smith seconded the amendment.

Chair Cox said this motion is to approve the design and allocate an additional \$10,000 out of the 30 Fund.

Commissioner Davis talked about grading while he is there to save setting up again.

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

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:50am.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$17,028 to budget for a Transfer Facility attendant that was discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$17,028. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$3,794 to budget for the transfer of medical insurance for the Transfer Facility Attendant's position.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$3,794. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$36,694. He stated this is not a new position. He explained that salaries and benefits for the Mapping/E-911 department are paid half out of the 911 fund and half out of the General Fund. He further explained that 911 reporting require these changes in regards to how the salaries are reported.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this is the 911 State board.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$36,694. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Captain Duncan regarding a request to provide David Edwards' handgun and badge as a token of appreciation for his service to Alleghany County upon his retirement. He talked about declaring the handgun surplus and disposing of it for a nominal fee of \$1.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about this type of request is traditionally granted for retiring officers.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to honor the request and offer sincere appreciation for his years of service. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith stated his appreciation.

Chair Cox echoed the comments regarding appreciation.

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

Chair Cox opened the floor for public comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Smith stated that it is an honor today to be able to recognize a couple of members; Larry Cox and John Goudreau. He talked about they serve the citizens of Alleghany County to best of their abilities, and he is proud to serve with both of them. He presented a plaque of appreciation to John Goudreau. He presented a plaque of appreciation to Larry Cox.

Commissioner Davis stated that it has been a pleasure to serve 2 years with them, and said we are making headway.

Commissioner Goudreau stated he has enjoyed his time serving as a Commissioner. He stated his appreciation to everyone. He said it has been a pleasure working with everyone. He talked about it is a tough job, enjoyed it, formed friendships, not always agree, and sometimes having differences of opinion. He thanked the County Manager, the County Attorney and the County Clerk. He further thanked everyone for putting up with him.

Commissioner Leys stated how much she appreciates the opportunity to be here, and for the camaraderie of the group. She said that the Commissioners don't always agree but the one goal is to do good things for the county. She stated that she appreciated John's comments. She talked about Larry Cox has always been special to her and provided reasons why. She said that the prayers have been wonderfully spoken, and thanked Larry Cox for his leadership and friendship.

Chair Cox thanked Ken and Betty Richardson for attending this meeting along with Mark Evans. He thanked the County Attorney, the County Manager and all of his colleagues. He stated his appreciation for everyone. He said that he has felt very gratified that he has been able to serve his community.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 12:15pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans, Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox, Chairman