

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 16, 2016, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

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

Chair Smith said there were some addition to the agenda if the board agreed.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the addition of the July Meeting to the agenda. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the addition of Fuel Oil Bids to the agenda. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions for this May 16, 2016, meeting. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, May 16, 2016
10:00 AM

10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for May 16, 2016, Meeting
Motion on minutes from March 7, 2016 and April 18, 2016

10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator

1. April 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. April Collections Report - Monthly 2016 collection rates compared to 2015 and 2014 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of April 2016. No action requested.
4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
5. Board of Equalization
 - a. Review Minutes. Action Requested—Vote on Minutes from Equalization and Review Board.
 - b. Equalization and Review Appeal. Action Requested—Make a decision on the appeal.

10:20 B. Nick Hawks, Lieutenant – Sheriff’s Office

RE: The Governor’s Crime Prevention Grant.

The current Federal grant that funds two deputy positions expires June 30, 2016. The Sheriff’s Office has been awarded additional funds for FY 16-17 for these two positions. The Federal government has decided to change the award of the grants to coincide with the Federal budget process that runs October – September. This will cause a funding shortfall gap for three months. Lieutenant Hawks will be presenting options on how to deal with the shortfall. Action Requested – Vote on how to deal with the 3-month gap in funding.

C. First July Meeting (Addition)

10:30 D. General Business

1. Law Enforcement Center Budget Amendment

General Fund Budget Amendment #23 in the amount of \$72,850 to budget for Law Enforcement Center damage. There will also be additional information

on proposed repairs that are in addition to the repairs covered by insurance. Examples of these additional repairs include repairing concrete sidewalk on side of building and replacing finishes in that section of the building while it is vacant. Actions Requested—Vote on General Fund Budget Amendment # 23. Vote on the additional repairs that will be presented at the meeting.

2. Request for NCDOT State Maintenance

It has been requested that NCDOT take over maintenance of Joe's Place Road. The sections are located off of Fox Ridge Road and Little Pine Road. Two separate resolutions are required to submit this request. Actions Requested – Vote on the resolutions requesting that NCDOT to take over the two sections of Joe's Place Road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

3. Budget Hearings

It is requested that Budget Hearings be scheduled for June 1, 2 and 3 2016. Action Requested – Vote to schedule the budget hearings.

4. Fuel Oil Bids

Action Requested -- Choose from the bids which the County should use. (Addition)

E. Public Comments—30 minutes

F. Commissioners Comments

G. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve minutes for March 7, 2016 and April 18, 2016. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator explained the Auto Refunds for April in the amount of \$591.79.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained the April reports from the old vehicle tax release in the amount of \$92.36 and request for refund in the amount of \$35.28

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained the April real property release in the amount of \$7,042.11.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained the real properties refunds in the amount of \$1,033.09.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained the collection report for April was 97.17%. The amount collected under motor vehicles in April was \$56,920.02. Under the enforced collections the total delinquent taxes to date is \$409,480.32. She then went over the April non payments list as well as the minutes from the April Board of Equalization and Review.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept minute from the April board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained a case that had not been closed in the Board of Equalization and Review meeting last month and Mr. Miles had until this meeting to come up with the forestry management plan on the property. She said she had received a letter stating that he applied for a forestry management plan for the property in question on May the 11th, 2016. Rita went on to explain that in the letter there were 2 requests, the first one was for a refund of deferred taxes due to a clerical error by the Tax Office the second is the be reinstated into the present use value program. She then asked the Board if they would like to make a decision on either the topics or wait till a later date.

County Manager Don Adams asked Rita if the application was to be accepted in June if that would change her recommendation for the refund.

Rita Miller answered no, her recommendation is to not allow the refund because the rollback was done per State Statute there was no clerical error.

Commissioner Irwin asked if this plan was the one they said they had when they came before the Board at the Equalization and Review Board.

Rita Miller said yes, but evidently they did not have it since they are now applying for it.

Commissioner Irwin stated from looking at the application the plan was applied for just a few days ago.

Chair Smith went over the 2 requests again to make sure he understood to move forward with the correct one. The late application will be dealt with when it comes in and asked for thoughts on the refund.

Commissioner Irwin asked Rita Miller what her recommendation was.

Rita Miller explained she would not recommend giving a refund.

Commissioner Evans said he just wanted to clarify that all this started when he sold a portion of the property and he said the property should have been a part of the present use tax because he had a forestry management plan in place. Commissioner Evans asked Rita Miller if they had ever seen a copy of the plan he said was in place at that time because he recalled asking Mr. Miles for that at the Equalization and Review Meeting.

Rita Miller said no they had not seen a plan until they produced this application where they are trying to get a plan in place.

Commissioner Leys asked if there was record of a plan for this property at all in her office.

Rita Miller answered no, not for this property.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to support the Tax Administrator's recommendation and not give a refund. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Nick Hawks, Lieutenant of Sheriff's Office, asked the Board for permission to reallocate \$16,000 from their budget to cover 3 months of salary for 2 domestic abuse and sexual assault officers until October 1. He explained the reason this has occurred is because the funds are moving from state dollars to federal dollars and the Federal budget year begins in October whereas the state budget year is July which is leaving a 3 month gap in funding.

Chair Smith said so basically the grant cycle is on a different rotation so there is 3 month missing. He asked, from the numbers the Sheriff's Office feels like they can absorb the cost in their current budget.

Nick Hawks said yes, according to the numbers the Sheriff's office feel that they can cover the funding from their current budget.

Commissioner Evans asked what the overtime actual looks like compared to the budgeted amount.

County Manager Don Adams went over the numbers, the budgeted amount is \$45,000 and year-to-date is \$21,600. He explained at the end of this year they should have around \$15,000-\$16,000 left.

Chair Smith asked to clarify that this will be a one-time request.

Nick Hawks said yes. It is only happening because the money was coming from the state which is on the same budget year as the County July 1 to June 30, whereas now the money is coming from the federal government and they begin October 1 ending on September 30.

Commissioner Irwin said this is happening now because the grant cycle funded by the state is now off from the federal budget year which is where the money comes from.

Commissioner Evans asked how the money will match up if the new pay raise occurs.

County Manager Don Adams said the two salaries are grant funded not county funded, but that if the raise does occur then there will be a line for the grant funded positions so they will be comparable to the other employees.

Commissioner Irwin stated the new grant is for the remainder of 16 and part of 17. So next year you'll be back with the same problem.

Nick Hawks said no since they're changing their budget year from July 1 to October 1 with the federal budget year they will be lined up and be able to give us the money.

Commissioner Irwin stated the most important thing is that the Sheriff's Office is not asking for any new funds.

Nick Hawks said correct, this is a one-time unforeseeable situation that has occurred and that will be taken care of through our current budget.

County Manager Don Adams explained the main reason he is here to go ahead and decided this so that these two deputies don't have to wait till the day funding runs out before they know if they will get a paycheck.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to accept as presented. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Smith explained that the first meeting in July is traditionally cancelled.

Commissioner Evans said we would have to move it anyway.

Chair Smith made a motion to cancel the first July meeting Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained General Fund Budget Amendment #23 in the amount of \$72,800 covered by our insurance company. He explained the drawing so that the Board could visually see what was to be done with the insurance money.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve General Fund Budget Amendment #23 Commissioner Davis seconded.

Chair Smith asked these are insurance dollars correct.

County Manager Don Adams said yes.

Commissioner Evans asked so will the insurance cover this whole amount.

County Manager Don Adams said from his conversations with the insurance company they would go to the driver's insurance company for the full amount, but can't be certain what will happen from that.

Commissioner Irwin asked if that includes the deductible.

County Manager Don Adams said yes they are also going after the deductible. He explained he would like to go ahead and say yes everything is going to be taken care of by insurance, but can't be certain.

Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained the additions to the Sheriff's Office renovation plan past what insurance will take care of.

Commissioner Irwin asked what the total number the Sheriff's Office was looking for.

County Manager Don Adams answered about \$6,400.

Commissioner Irwin asked why it needs to happen now.

County Manager Don Adams explained that it is better to do it while everything is already messed up with the current renovation and it would make it easier and cheaper in the long run instead of having to come back later and do it.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the additional funds for the Sheriff's Office renovations. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained the next item in the packet which was an application to the NCDOT to take over maintenance of Joe's Place out in Ennice. He explained he had spoken with DOT and they will look at it and take over the maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

Chair Smith wanted to clarify that the NCDOT would be inspecting it to make sure it meets their qualifications.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the applications for Joe's Place to be added to state maintenance secondary roads system if seen fit by the NCDOT. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams asked the Board to schedule some budget hearings in the month of June. He explained he had to present on June 1st and after that there would need to be a couple days for presentations from departments and community groups.

Chair Smith stated the Board will be having budget meeting starting on Wednesday June 1 at 4 PM and Thursday June 2 at 9 AM for budget presentations. June 14 at 10 AM and June 15 at 6:30 for budget meetings and then a public hearing date for June 22 at 6:30 PM.

County Manager Don Adams went over the bid papers from both companies. He recommended for the County to go with Home Town oil.

Commissioner Evans asked who the county was currently using.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Home Town Oil won the bid last year.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept Hometown Oil's bid for County usage of Fuel Oil, Off Road Diesel and Kerosene. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

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

Commissioner Irwin asked what is going on with the Sparta Main Street in front of the school and if that was part of the streetscape project.

County Manager Don Adams said he thought it was just regular maintenance not part of the streetscape project.

Commissioner Irwin reminded everyone of the meeting tomorrow with the Blue Ridge Parkway superintendent at the

Being no further business Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair