

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 2, 2016, at 6.30pm 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 and led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda for this May 2, 2016, meeting. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0

AGENDA
Monday, May 2, 2016
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for May 2, 2016 Meeting
- A. 6:35 Public Hearing
RE: Local Government Commission Application regarding the proposed Library loan. The proposed loan maybe up to \$360,000 to be paid back over a 10 year period at 0% interest. No action requested
- B. 6:45 Karen Evans, Finance Officer
1. Re: FY 2016/17 Audit Contract – Audit Contract with Martin Starnes and Associates for Fiscal Year 2016/17 in the amount of \$43,550. Action Requested – Vote on the audit contract.
 2. Budget Amendments for the Tourism Development Authority, Veterans Park, Library Agency, Register of Deeds and Revaluation Funds. These budget amendments are to budget for a correction in their fund balances per the audit. Action Requested – Vote to approve the Budget Amendments to match the audit
 3. Direct Deposit – Update regarding switch to direct deposit for all regularly scheduled employees.
- C. 7:00 General Business
1. Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance
Proposed Fiscal Year 16/17 workers compensation insurance costs are \$115,389. Proposed Fiscal Year 16/17 liability and property insurance costs are \$94,350. Fiscal Year 16/17 incentive for being in both pools is a \$3,885 reduction in rates. Action Requested – Vote on proposed insurance quotes.
 2. RPO Projects
High County Council of Government is soliciting Counties to submit eligible transportation priority projects. Action Requested – Vote on eligible transportation priority projects.
 3. Economic Development Plan
The Tourism and Business Development Action Committees requested that the County fund \$126,500 towards a comprehensive marketing strategy. Action Requested – Vote on reserving \$126,500 in the Economic Development Fund to be expended towards the comprehensive marketing strategy.

4. TDA Appointments

Steve Mason has volunteered to complete the remainder of the term that ends 11/21/2016. Tommy Maines and Shirley Richardson both have agreed to complete the terms that end 11/21/2019. John Kilmartin has agreed to be Chair. Actions Requested – a) Vote on the terms has described above. B) Vote on appointing John Kilmartin as Chair.

5. Veterans Memorial Fund Raising Committee

Discussions in regards to appointing a committee to be responsible for designing the proposed brick paver patio / walkway at the new Veterans Memorial Wall. This committee could also be responsible for selling the brick pavers. No action requested.

D. Public Comments—30 minutes

E. Commissioners Comments

F. Adjourn

Chair Smith opened the floor for the public hearing. Seeing no one he closed the public hearing.

Karen Evans, Finance Officer described the audit contract with Martin Starnes and Associates for the Fiscal year 2016/17 in the amount of \$43,550.

Commissioner Irwin asked about the County could look into a new auditor next year.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to accept the audit contract. Commissioner Leys seconded Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained the Tourism Development Authority Fund budget amendment # 1 an increase in the amount of \$5,408.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve budget amendment # 1 of the TDA fund Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained Veterans Park budget amendment # 2 for a decrease in the amount of \$66.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve budget amendment #2 of the Veterans Park Fund. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained the Library Fund budget amendment #1 a decrease in the amount of \$574.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve budget amendment #1 of the Library Fund. Commissioner Leys seconded Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained the Register of Deeds enhancement fund budget amendment #1 a decrease in the amount of \$2,874.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment #1 of the Register of Deeds Enhancement Fund. Commissioner Davis seconded Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explains the Revaluation fund budget #1 decrease in the amount of \$6,464

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve budget amendment #1 of the Revaluation Fund. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained why the Finance Office would like to move towards direct deposit be mandatory for full time and regularly scheduled part time staff. She explained that it would make the office more efficient.

County Manager Don Adams said he supports this idea to help make the office more efficient.

Commissioner Evans asked if it would cost anymore to have more people direct deposit.

Karen Evans explained that since the County is already set up with direct deposit it would not cost anymore to add the rest of the employees.

County Manager Don Adams talk about changing the pay week to give the Finance Office more than 2 days to get the checks out to employees. He explained that the Finance Office would wait until there are three pay periods in a month that's when it would be able to make a change that will affect the employees the least.

County Manager Don Adams explained the Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance and that there really is no change in cost of the insurance.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the Workers Compensation and Liability insurance. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained Rural Planning Organization (RPO) projects. He went on to say that the projects must be eligible and he explained the two projects in the County that are eligible as well as thinking about other projects

Chair Smith said the County will definitely want to pick some projects that will score well.

County Manager Don Adams said first we just need to brainstorm and get our ideas together first.

Chair Smith clarified this will take place a year from now.

County Manager Don Adams said yes, but we should think about the next 6 months with and try to get DOT involved to help figure out which ones are more likely to be eligible.

Commissioner Leys asked if they should these be prioritized.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to prioritize first Roaring Gap Mountain and second the intersection at 113 and 221. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams summarized what has been going on with the Economic Development Plan. Funding for the health care and K-12 and WCC will be allocated from the expanded sales tax. The request is to set aside \$126,500. He said the allotted amount does not have to be spent and there will be an understanding that progress reports are to be made all along the way.

Commissioner Leys asked if there was a focus to the plan.

County Manager Don Adams said there are multiple elements to the plan. First was branding, second was the County's assets and opportunities third portion was looking more at what needs to be done to bring business to the area.

Commissioner Irwin said there was a business recruitment section and he recapped the three parts of the plan.

Commissioner Leys said there is an idea in the community that this is for tourism. We should clarify that.

County Manager Don Adams said really tonight was to set the money aside to let the action committee know that the County is serious about proceeding forward with this.

Commissioner Leys said she didn't have a problem to reserve this money.

Commissioner Irwin asked before the money is given the committee will come give us a break down of the plan.

County Manager Don Adams said yes I will require them to come back to us.

Commissioner Evans said he was in favor of reserving the money for this plan. He said he was excited after Mr. Caveny presented, but he said he would like to be able to track and measure the progress

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to set aside the \$126,500 for the Economic Development. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Davis made a motion on the terms of Tourism Development Authority Commissioner Evans Vote 5:0

Commissioner Evans made a motion to appoint John Kilmartin as the chair. Commissioner Leys. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained how the Veterans Memorial committee began and what was wanted from the group now.

Commissioner Irwin said there needs to be a group to coordinate the future of the park not just the three groups doing their own things. He said he thought the Veterans needs more representation and wanted to form a formal committee. He said he would like for County Manager to get with these groups and see who would be willing to be a part.

Commissioner Evans said he would reach out to that initial committee. They did a great job and thought they might would like to stay active.

Chair Smith opened the floor for public comments. Seeing none he closed that part of the meeting.

Commissioner Evans said the Partnership for Children Executive Director Position is available.

Commissioner Irwin said the Veterans dedication went so well. He thanked the county employees and especially the Miller family.

Commissioner Leys said thank you to everyone you did the big planning for the wall dedication, it was a great day. She also went on to thank the wellness committee for the wellness fair that took place on April 22. She said it was a great event. She updated the Board on the DSS FNS processing rate for the Level 1 counties are at 70% and what is required is 85%. It is not just the urban areas that are slacking.

Commissioner Evans asked does that have to do with the timeliness of getting the paperwork done.

Commissioner Leys explained yes, and the way they will force the County to pay is by holding match money the state pays towards salaries.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Tom Smith
Chair

