

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 6, 2014, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chairman Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this January 6, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, January 6, 2014
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for January 6, 2014, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for December 16, 2013, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Dr. Jeff Cox -- Superintendent of Schools
RE: Glade Creek Elementary School construction project. The final construction costs have been settled. Dr. Cox is requesting that the sales tax reimbursements be used to increase the overall budget by \$31,797.
Action Requested – Vote on the request.
- 6:45 B. General Business
1. January 20, 2014, Meeting Date
Discuss rescheduling the January 20, 2014, meeting due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.
 2. 2014 Joint Meeting Schedule with Sparta Town Council
Discuss the 2014 Joint Meeting Schedule. Proposed dates are March 31, 2014 and September 29, 2014.
Action Requested – Vote on the Proposed Schedule.
 3. Occupancy Tax Budget Amendment
Budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$54,000 to comply with the LGC's requirement to receive occupancy revenues into the general fund then transfer into the TDA fund.
Action Requested – Vote on Budget amendment General Fund #8.
 4. Insurance Proceeds Budget Amendment
Budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$625 to budget for insurance proceeds for the Sheriff's Department, where a vehicle hit a deer.
Action Requested – Vote on Budget amendment General Fund #9.
 5. Jail Software/Hardware Budget Amendment
Budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$48,040 for the Jail Pak software/hardware previously discussed by the Board and Captain David Bare.
Action Requested – Vote on Budget amendment General Fund #10.
 6. Transfer Facility Mulch
Maintenance Director Josh Greene is requesting that the County sell the recently ground mulch. Proposed rates are \$5 per standard truck bed load and \$20 per dump truck load.
Action Requested – Vote on the proposed mulch fee schedule.
 7. Urgent Repair Program Letter of Support
Program to help with more small home repairs. High Country Council of Governments is asking for support to apply for these funds. Action Requested – Vote on the enclosed support letter.
- C. Commissioner Comments
D. Public Comments—30 minutes
E. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.1 (a) (6)—personnel
F. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, came before the Board to discuss additional funds for the Glade Creek School project to close it out. He talked about the final two bills are Hickory Construction with a remaining amount of \$2,555.88 and Pinnacle Architect for \$29,241. He explained the \$150,000

contingency line where the architect had included things like furniture and equipment but they had major expenses like Skyline Telephone and Blue Ridge Electric that had to come out of that money. He explained the reasons for the Skyline Telephone invoice is because they applied for e-rate funding to pay for putting the phones and other technology in but the funding wasn't received. He further explained that Blue Ridge Electric was because the electricity came in on the other side of the school and the need for additional electric services. He said that these two things came up to almost half of the contingency funds. He reviewed their major change orders; \$10,693 for the fire alarm system changes, \$5,048 to replace a rusty pipe and \$16,083 to remove trench rock from the building site. He explained they had to use their money for furniture and technology to equip the rooms. He talked about the County received around \$100,000 in sales tax from this project, and they request that \$31,798.88 from sales tax be used for these two final invoices.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the County has already received the sales tax monies.

Commissioner Leys said that she talked with Dr. Cox today, and she asked about their fund balance and they are at 8% of their budget. She talked about they did a lot with the small amount of contingency funds. She explained that they are at the mercy of the federal government for the e-rate funding. She said she believes the project was handled well. She talked about \$100,000 did come from the sales tax refunds. She stated that she is in favor of using the sales tax to pay for the two final invoices.

Commissioner Smith and Dr. Cox talked about the e-rate funding has to be applied for at the beginning and can't go back to apply again. They discussed the Blue Ridge Electric invoice for \$15,641.55. Dr. Cox explained why the separate connection was needed and this option was the lesser of the two options plus that amount was a negotiated rate.

Chair Cox and Dr. Cox talked about Pinnacle Architect's fees. Dr. Cox stated that they just waited until the end and the amount is discounted by around \$12,000. They talked about the second loan was only looking at construction alternates.

Commissioner Davis and the County Manager talked about Alleghany County has already received the sales tax and was reported in the audit.

Commissioner Smith asked Dr. Cox about the 8% fund balance. Dr. Cox provided a quick breakdown of their fund balance of undesignated and obligated. Dr. Cox provided the fund balance history and how much of their fund balance they are projecting to use this year and next year. Dr. Cox talked about they paid out some fund balance monies on capital outlay projects to take care of some safety needs. Dr. Cox explained that any excess money they have in fund balance they are putting on capital projects to save from coming back to the County. They discussed the high school project, which looks great. Dr. Cox explained that they are still working on the door locks and those projects identified as safety needs this year have been taken care of.

Commissioner Leys commended Dr. Cox and Cindy Holder for holding the costs down. She talked about payroll for one month is \$1,000,000. She further talked about the State recommends having at least 8% of the fund balance and Dr. Cox stated that next year they will be under that.

Commissioner Smith said coming in this meeting, he had been looking at Hickory Construction which is \$2,555.88 short, and he was comfortable with that. He said he wasn't aware of the fund balance and that is a difference maker to him. He further said that would be something he would probably reconsider tonight.

Dr. Cox talked about they have tried to be as transparent as possible with the Commissioners about their fund balance. He said he appreciates the Commissioners' consideration of this request tonight.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve \$31,796.88 to go to fund the two outstanding invoices. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Don Adams discussed that the next regularly scheduled meeting is on a County holiday. He asked the Board about rescheduling the meeting.

Commissioner Leys said she has a conflict on the following Tuesday and asked about moving the meeting to the 27th.

The Board talked about rescheduling the meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to reschedule the next meeting to January 27. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed joint meeting dates in 2014 with the Town of Sparta; March 31 and September 29. He explained these meeting are on the fifth Mondays and the other dates are June 30, which is the month that Commissioners have a lot of meetings already, and December 29, which the boards don't schedule meetings then.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to schedule March 31 and September 29 for the joint meeting dates. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$54,000 to comply with the LGC's requirement to receive occupancy revenues into the General Fund then transfer the monies into the TDA fund.

Chair Cox asked will this slow down the procedure. County Manager Don Adams answered no because it's just an accounting procedure.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$54,000. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$625 to budget for insurance proceeds for the Sheriff's Department, where a vehicle hit a deer.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #9 in the amount of \$625. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$48,040 for the Jail Pak software/hardware previously discussed by the Board and David Bare.

Commissioner Leys asked when this will be installed. County Manager Don Adams talked about they have to get everything ordered, currently the only thing signed is the software contract, this budget amendment has to be approved before the Finance Office can sign off saying money is in place, hopefully everything will get ordered and be installed within one month.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$48,040. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Josh Greene, Maintenance Director, is requesting to start charging for mulch at the Transfer Facility. He further explained the previous process. He talked about the current mulch is the best mulch we've had. He further talked about charging \$5 per pickup load and \$20 for per dump truck load.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams discussed he doesn't know how much it will generate, but it's worth a try. He explained we have to get rid of the mulch because we don't have any space for it.

Commissioner Smith and the County Manager talked about this wouldn't require any additional personnel.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the money will be collected at the scale house and there is a receipt process already in place.

Commissioner Leys said she wants to support Josh Greene but if it takes more time then it's not worth it.

County Manager Don Adams explained what we are licensed to do and we have no extra space out there plus Josh Greene thinks we can make a little money off of it.

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

Commissioner Goudreau said he views this as a tax so no for him.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Urgent Repair Program that Michelle Ball mentioned that High Country Council of Government (COG) will be applying for. He said they are asking for a letter of support on County letterhead. He reminded everyone that it's \$200,000 for Alleghany, Ashe, Avery and Watauga counties. He described examples of projects that can be done with these monies. He explained that High Country COG will administer the monies, but asked that they be able to continue to use the County's selection committee. He reiterated that they are asking for support letter to be approved.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about eligible applicants and examples of repairs.

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

Chair Cox asked for Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Leys thanked all of the employees for the Christmas cards, appreciate their good work, hope and pray that everyone stays warm and safe tonight in this weather. She read a card by Dr. Suzanne Irwin to the Commissioners.

Chair Cox mentioned that Aaron Ray Tompkins attended training in Raleigh all last week with a total of 25 people where only 10 passed the class, and he was one of the ones that passed.

Chair Cox opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for comments.

Diana Booth thanked the Board what they do and stated it's a lot of hard work. She said she has noticed that Dennis isn't attending the meetings; she misses him, and hopes the Board does too.

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

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 7:18pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn closed session at 7:45pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve hiring an interim deputy tax collector. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned in accordance with the Alleghany County Personnel Policy.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn at 7:47pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Larry Cox
Chairman