

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 3, 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.

Chair Cox talked about Harold Jones needs to be added to the agenda under General Business #2 for appointment to the Long-Term Care Advisory Board.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this March 3, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, March 3, 2014
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for March 3, 2014, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for February 17, 2014, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Smoky Mountain Center Annual Report
- 6:50 B. Cherry Lane Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
- 7:00 C. Alleghany Community Television Annual Report
- 7:10 D. General Business
1. Courthouse Security
Enclosed in packets is a letter from Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Edgar B. Gregory requesting that permanent security personnel be placed at the Courthouse. Discussion purposes only. No action requested at this time.
 2. Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care
Louise Law has indicated her willingness to be appointed to a one-year term to serve on the Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Action Requested – Vote on the appointment.
Harold Jones (added)
 3. Legal Services of NC assistance to citizens enrolling in the Affordable Care Act.
Representative will be in the Board Meeting Room on March 13 to meet with citizens on an appointment basis to provide assistance in enrolling in the Affordable Care Act. Appointments can be made by calling 1-855-733-3711.
 4. Request to fill a vacant position for an Income Maintenance Caseworker
Enclosed in packets is a letter from Social Services Director to fill a vacant position for an Income Maintenance Caseworker II due to resignation. This position is a pay grade 65 with a starting salary of \$29,660.79 or a Caseworker I, Grade 63 at a starting salary \$26,902.85. The final classification will depend upon the applicants' qualifications. Position is funded 50% Health Department, 25% State and 25% County. Action Requested – Vote on filling this vacancy.
- E. Commissioner Comments
- F. Public Comments—30 minutes
- G. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.1 (a) (3)—legal
- H. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Shelly Foreman came before the Board to present the annual report for Smoky Mountain Center (SMC). She talked about SMC acquiring additional counties and their board has been redeveloped and Chair Cox is one of the at-large members. She explained their purpose. She explained that SMC serves 23 counties and how the merger came about. She reviewed the current map and list of board members. She talked about the creation of the County Commissioner Advisory Council. She explained other actions that are occurring in the mental health field including recent Medicaid reform recommendations that will include working with two other LME's to form the western portion.

Chair Cox and Shelly Foreman talked about getting additional maps showing the additional counties. They talked about how after the mergers are completed, SMC will serve 35 counties. She reiterated that this is a State mandate.

Shelly Foreman explained how the merger impacts Allegheny County and the citizens including having individuals working in the county.

Chair Cox stated as the western region gets bigger; his fear is that Allegheny County will get left out. He asked will there be a rotation of the board members. Shelly Foreman explained that yes, there will be rotation cycle of Commissioners serving two 3-year terms. She talked about being available to assist the County.

Commissioner Leys and Shelly Foreman talked about Ms. Foreman's title/position at SMC. They talked about the term length of Chair Cox's current term, and being eligible to serve an additional term. Shelly Foreman talked about the transition and continuing to work to serve the people.

Chair Cox talked about a recent meeting where it was mentioned that hospitals are doing the same thing of going to larger areas as the mental health.

Commissioner Leys and Shelly Foreman talked about substance abuse services available in Allegheny County. Chair Cox talked about asking Billy West to come to meeting to explain the services offered.

Commissioner Smith asked about the timeline to establish the County Commissioner Advisory Council. Shelly Foreman explained they will be coming back within the next several months. She further explained that they are working on developing this and how no one else has one. She said that the board met for the first time two weeks ago. They talked about there will be four LME's across the state.

Chair Cox and Shelly Foreman talked about the County Commissioners Advisory Council and how to develop the Council.

Commissioner Leys explained how it is a burden for Chair Cox to attend these meetings because it is in Asheville and he travels it in one day. She stated her appreciation.

Brian Edwards came before the Board to present the annual report for Cherry Lane Volunteer Fire Department. He presented the number of calls in 2013 and types of calls. He explained their mutual calls by numbers and types. He talked about the items they have applied for in their capital grant including putting in two generators in the event it is needed during a power outage. He thanked the Commissioners on behalf of the fire department.

Chair Cox and Brian Edwards talked about how the fire department had looked previously at performing rescue operations and that they aren't probably going to do that at this time.

Commissioner Smith and Brian Edwards talked about there are 28 members and 2 junior members. Commissioner Smith stated his appreciation for all of the work.

Chair Cox and Brian Edwards discussed that Wilkes Community College is offering fire classes.

Brian Edwards talked about they have to have 36 hours of training annually.

Charlie Scott came before the Board to present the annual report for Allegheny Community Television's annual report. He talked about how the County Manager recently explained their activities when he presented the additional PEG channel. He explained that Channel 22 started today, and it is a government channel. He stated he is contacting other counties to ask about putting their meetings on air. He reviewed their viewing area. He explained they put the meetings online, have them in chaptered form for each meeting and will be offering those services to the other counties. He talked about they are working to film the upcoming local basketball game in Greensboro.

County Manager Don Adams and Charlie Scott talked about the viewership is approaching 7, 500. Charlie Scott explained that is the number of drops and what that means.

Charlie Scott talked about having new shows that is being developed for Channel 21.

Commissioner Smith and Charlie Scott talked about going online today and haven't talked to the other counties. They talked about the basketball game will be tape delayed.

Chair Cox and Charlie Scott talked about how he tapes a lot of the library's programming but a lot of their information is copyrighted. Charlie Scott discussed the students that he has working with him and their activities.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Edgar Gregory regarding permanent courthouse security that each Commissioner received as well as the County Manager and the Sheriff. He reviewed the highlights of the letter that he is requesting that the Sheriff of Allegheny County provide a deputy for security purposes at the front door of the Allegheny County Courthouse during all hours the Courthouse is open and request the Allegheny County Commissioners to provide funds for the Sheriff of Allegheny County to cover the expenses of this deputy and request that this action is to be taken by the first day of April, 2014. He explained that this letter is open for public inspection. He summarized the letter. He talked about Judge Gregory asked that this be provided, now has written a letter with a deadline. He explained that he doesn't know what the resources needed are. He referred to the letter that Judge Gregory said one deputy, and he can provide numbers for one deputy but he doesn't know what is actually needed. He said that he is putting this on the next agenda for further discussions.

Chair Cox talked about it looks like we need to invite the Sheriff to come and explain what is needed.

Commissioner Leys talked about the short timeframe.

County Manager Don Adams explained the need to wait until the March 17th meeting and then maybe have a special meeting after that, if needed. He stated this isn't an order. He talked about he thinks Judge Gregory will allow a motion at the 17th meeting and approve the budget amendment at the first meeting in April.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the costs of a deputy. He explained he hasn't ran the numbers because he doesn't know what the Sheriff is going to ask for. They talked about asking for Sheriff Edwards to attend the next meeting and explain what is needed to honor this request. She asked the County Attorney if the Board can ask the Sheriff to provide the numbers in advance to allow time for the Board to review the numbers prior to the meeting.

County Attorney Donna Shumate answered you can request it.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to have the numbers by March 11 to have it for the agenda.

Commissioner Smith asked if all of the alternatives have been reviewed. The County Manager explained at one of the courthouse security meetings he asked that question and was told there are no other alternatives. They discussed the methods of security that are at the courthouse currently.

Chair Cox said the motion dies due to lack of a second.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about the letter was addressed to the Sheriff, each of the County Commissioners and the County Manager, and the letter was dated January 27, 2014. He further talked about the need to respectfully ask the Sheriff to come and provide the information.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he has asked and was told it is the numbers in this year's budget recommendation. He said this may not be the appropriate time but he has been requested to get an update on the Jail Pak system.

Commissioner Goudreau recommended the County Manager to bring those numbers to the next meeting so the Board can vote on it.

Commissioner Leys ask that the numbers be available prior to the next agenda to be in the agenda packets.

Chair Cox talked about the need to keep an open mind for the safety of everyone involved. He said it seems like the Commissioners need to hear from the Sheriff about this request.

County Manager Don Adams said he is putting this on the next agenda to move forward towards the April 1 deadline.

County Manager Don Adams presented two letters from Julie Wiggins requesting that Louise Law and Harold Jones be appointed to serve on the Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care.

Chair Cox explained that he talked to both of them, and they were planning to attend this meeting until the snow occurred. He talked about why this is important.

Commissioner Smith and Chair Cox discussed this is a 6-member board and there are 2 other people in the works coming to the Commissioners soon to be appointed.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to appoint Louise Law and Harold Jones to serve on Alleghany County Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation for the people serving on this board.

Chair Cox stated that Julie Wiggins will come to explain more about the board if the Commissioners would like her to do so.

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

County Manager Don Adams informed everyone that Legal Services of North Carolina will be providing assistance to citizens enrolling in the Affordable Care Act with a representative who will be in the Board Meeting Room on March 13 to meet with citizens on an appointment basis. He provided the phone number for people to call for appointments.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about advertising in the newspaper.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Social Services John Blevins requesting permission to fill a vacant position for an Income Maintenance Caseworker II due to a resignation. He explained that this position is a pay grade 65 with a starting salary of \$29,660.79 or a Caseworker I, Grade 63 at a starting salary \$26,902.85 depending upon the applicants' qualifications. He reminded everyone that this is the position that is shared with the Health Department regarding the CAP program.

Commissioner Leys added that one portion is working to keep people in their homes rather than going to a nursing home. She explained that she is on both boards, Social Services and Health Department, and both directors stressed the importance of having someone in this position.

County Manager Don Adams explained the urgency to fill this position including having someone in this position works on CAP program, which is income for the Health Department and the Health Department will lose more money the longer there is a waiting list.

Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this position is shared with the Health Department and the job functions at Social Services for this employee.

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

Commissioner Leys talked about how she attended Black History event at the library last week, and it was a beautiful program. She offered her praise to Amy Lucas for doing a radon presentation for the Rotary Club, free radon test kits are available from the Extension Service, and encourages everyone to get their test. She talked about her participation in the recent Polar Plunge, which was a fund raiser for Special Olympics that raised \$7,500 this year. She provided additional information regarding the event.

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

Bryan Maines talked about his appreciation to Alleghany County's rescue squad and fire departments for their service and dedication and working with all of the agencies for the citizens. He further talked about conversations he had with an insurance company about the 30%-60% insurance

impact by not having a volunteer fire department close. He asked if these agencies cease to exist what will happen with a fire. He reiterated his appreciation for the emergency response volunteers.

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal at 7:56pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:33pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated that no actions were taken in closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 8:35pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Larry Cox
Chairman