

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at 6:00pm in the Board 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 Manager Don Adams, Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

County Manager Don Adams explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss renovations ideas to Sparta Elementary School and economic development.

Special Called Meeting
March 24, 2016
Agenda

6:00pm Meeting Called to Order
Motion on Agenda

Health Care Action Committee
Jennifer Green, MPH, Deputy Health Director
Appalachian District Health Department

Alleghany County Schools
Chad Beasley, Superintendent

General Discussions

Motion to Adjourn

County Manager Don Adams explained this meeting and what has happened at the previous meeting. He explained this meeting is to discuss the redistribution monies options between economic development and education.

Jennifer Green explained the eight main topics of her presentation and how the Health Care Action Committee wants to educate the community of opportunities and services. She went on to explain that they wanted to help people to understand that choosing local healthcare will also help their community. She went over a timeline depicting what all they were wanting to put together and she covered a few different groups that are willing to support their efforts. She then went on to cover the budget for the Committees marketing efforts and online resources.

Commissioner Irwin asked if there had been any consideration of working with Veterans Affairs representative.

Jennifer Green said no there has not, but that is a great suggestion.

Commissioner Leys asked if the Department of Social Services would be involved.

Jennifer Green said yes absolutely, the wellness center as well. She went on to state that they would have as many as possible they just need to see what groups are missing and have all of them involved to be able to make this grow.

County Manager Don Adams stated that they were not trying to take over other groups marketing strategies, but make bigger impact for everyone and help the citizens.

Commissioner Evans said that would be great to have that information in one place. I have people ask all the time things that will be incorporated in this plan.

Jennifer Green said that is exactly what we are looking to do.

County Manager Don Adams said if they have someone to maintain the website that would save some money on print cost.

Commissioner Leys asked if Watauga or Ashe had done anything like this.

Jennifer Green said no, not in this way. Not using it as economic development this is a great plan to see where we need to grow and what the citizens need.

Chair Smith said thank you for a very informative presentation.

Chair Smith introduced Superintendent of Alleghany County Schools Chad Beasley and thanked him for the tour on Monday.

Chad Beasley went over the needs of the school system. He stated that the highest of priorities is a 60 year old building. He went on to discuss the options for renovations of this building. He said they were looking at two phases to the building. The first phase would be to replace windows, bring the building up to code and HVAC throughout the building. He went on to explain the second phase which consisted of classroom renovation upgrade to restrooms, elevator as well as renovations to the auditorium even showed drawings of a new entrance to the auditorium coming in off the parking lot he explained the new entrance and the edition of restrooms for community events. He went on to say that nothing would be added to the building during these renovations just upgrading what is there. He stated he thought it would enhance the look of the building to Main Street.

Commissioner Leys asked Chad Beasley to explain what a QZAB loan was for those that do not know.

Chad Beasley said the money is available for renovations not to buy new things only renovations. He went on to say that the loan was with no interest.

Commissioner Leys asked over how many years.

County Manager Don Adams explained that they would have to get a bank to agree first and then apply through the state. He went on to say it normally ranges from 10-14 years.

Commissioner Irwin asked how many loans the County had with the school right now.

County Manager Don Adams said he didn't know right now.

Commissioner Leys said since the public doesn't have the picture can you explain a little about the drawing.

Chad Beasley explained that there would be a separate entrance for the auditorium opening in off the parking lot. He went on to say the plan is allowing for a foyer and restrooms out front so that the auditorium can be accessed as a completely separate building to be used by the community.

Chair Smith asked if all the chairs would be covered.

Chad Beasley said yes 2/3 of what is left.

Commissioner Leys said for public knowledge, why do the bathrooms need renovating and why does that building need an elevators.

Chad Beasley said the bathrooms in that building are nasty and outdated and would save money in the long run to help improve efficiency. He went on to say and the elevator is to bring that building up to code to accommodate the kids.

Commissioner Irwin said there are 900 seats currently, after the renovation is done what does the bathrooms and foyer do to the seat capacity.

Commissioner Evans said yes it is an old building, but it is very structurally sound so these renovations would be worth it to keep this building.

Commissioner Irwin said it would definitely add to the looks of Sparta.

Commissioner Leys said phase certainly needs to be done now and it would be great to have an addition to the community that would be such an asset like that.

Commissioner Evans said the four groups all sound great and the Board have a lot to process because all are important.

Chair Smith thanked the school representatives for their presentation.

County Manager Don Adams went over the expanded sale tax for next year being \$227,000 starting July 1. He went on to say that money can be allocated for economic development, higher education (Wilkes Community College), Alleghany County Schools k-12. He went over what the amounts requested amounts were \$150,000 goes to voting machines. WCC \$50,000 and continuing fund 50,000, Health care \$13,000 continuously, and \$127,000 for economic development one time plus long term depending what is decided. He went on to ask the Board if they want to stay inside the available funds or if they want to go outside those monies. He then went on to say that he would recommend another meeting to look at all the numbers before anything is decided.

Commissioner Evans added the salary study will need to be discussed as well.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the County Insurance will be coming on the 4th meeting possibly.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Tom Smith
Chair