

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 3:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was present but arrived late.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Milly Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda for this April 21, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, April 21, 2008  
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for April 21, 2008, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for April 7, 2008, meeting  
Motion on March Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. John Blevins  
RE: DSS Lease  
Annual Report  
C. Gerald Leftwich  
RE: LEPC Annual Report  
D. Recreation Department Annual Report  
E. Wellness Center Annual Report  
F. Larry Davis  
RE: Maintenance/Transfer Facility Annual Report  
Transfer Facility Budget  
G. County Business  
1. Budget Amendment—Building Inspections  
2. Budget Amendment—Training Facility Assessment  
3. Budget Amendment—Sheriff's Department  
4. Pool Request  
5. Dates To Schedule Joint Meeting with Board of Education  
6. Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget Requests Summary  
7. Other Business  
8. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal  
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development  
9. Adjourn

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 7, 2008, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real property releases and refunds for March. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the auto refunds and releases for March. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public comments' portion of the meeting. He asked for public comments.

Paul Reeves asked the Board about the enforcement of the zoning laws. He asked if the laws aren't going to be enforced, then why have them. He talked about two junk yards; one in the Glade Valley flats and the other one on top of Twin Oaks

Mountain. He asked why have this ordinance if it isn't being enforced.

Brandon Hawks explained that he has been in a lot of activities since he was at the last Commissioners meeting.

County Attorney Donna Shumate joined the meeting at 3:37pm.

Brandon Hawks talked about the number of graduating seniors this year and years to come. He further talked about where these students go when they graduate. He talked about the number of students attending the community college and the need to work. He further talked about the need for a full-time economic developer. He asked the Board will this county be the same in 2015 as it is now. He thanked the Board for their time.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for further public comments. None were received. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

John Blevins, DSS Director, came before the Board to discuss the DSS lease agreement. He explained the differences in the new lease; length of lease, \$3,800 monthly, improvements requested to be made to the facility. He said that the Mr. Blevins is in full agreement to the lease/improvements.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Attorney Donna Shumate discussed that Appendix I should be referenced in the lease under item number 9.

John Blevins stated that this will meet their needs for five years.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed getting out of the lease before the five years are up and the need to have further discussions with Mr. Blevins in regards to changing the term, if needed.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the next major discussion with John Blevins will be additional space for DSS. He further explained that he ran the numbers of building a facility versus leasing a facility. He said that the numbers showed the difference in one year is about \$41,000 to build a building rather than leasing it.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the lease. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins presented the DSS annual report. He presented the highlights; Health Choice program review, food/nutrition program, foster parents, child support applications, reduced back log of foster homes, number of adoptions, need of foster homes, guardianship program. He reviewed the current trends including child abuse numbers, Medicaid caseload increases, Medicaid benefits increases, applications for Medicaid, adoption assistance, foster care, special assistance, food/nutrition caseload increase, child support collection increased, number of calls/visitors monthly, child daycare spending, work first case loads and benefits and Medicaid transportation.

Chair Ken Richardson thanked John Blevins for the report.

Gerald Leftwich came before the Board to present the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) annual report. He reviewed the highlights of the LEPC report.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Gerald Leftwich for his report.

David Evans, Recreation Director, came before the Board to present the annual report for the Recreation Department. He discussed the types of sports offered and the number of participants per sport. He talked about the Duncan Recreation Center will be opening this summer. He explained his ideas about starting other activities. He talked about conversations through Linda Hash about creating a natural wetland environmental area near the Ropes Course.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he has received questions about mountain bike trails through Sam Brown Park.

David Evans explained that they have applied for a trail grant. He talked about how the grant would work.

The Board thanked Mr. Evans for his report.

Joe Potts with the Wellness Center came before the Board to present their annual report. He stated their appreciation to the Board for their support. He further stated that he has taken another position, and Ted Orton will be taking his place at the Wellness Center. He explained activities at the Wellness Center. He talked about their membership numbers and fundraising activities. He talked about the increase in utilities. He urged the Board to come meet the new director. He reiterated his appreciation to the Board.

Chair Ken Richardson thanked Joe Potts for his service to Allegheny County.

Larry Davis came before the Board to present the Maintenance/Transfer Facility annual report. He reviewed the activities during the past year for Maintenance, Animal Control and the Transfer Facility.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Larry Davis talked about waste water.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Larry Davis talked about the scrap tire program.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the Business after Hours held at the Senior Center. He thanked the Maintenance Department for their work.

Larry Davis continued his annual report.

County Manager Don Adams presented Transfer Facility budget amendment #1 in the amount of \$14,900 for grinding wood waste.

Larry Davis talked about having to make the place to store the wood waste smaller due to regulations. He further talked about the ice and wind storms plus the burning ban has brought in more wood waste.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the inspector has said the County needs to grind more often. He further talked about regulations that are changing about the Transfer Facility regarding the wood waste.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about ways to work with the wood waste pile and the mulch piles.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve Transfer Facility budget amendment #1 in the amount of \$14,900. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #31 in the amount of \$4,528 for the Building Inspections auto repairs.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #31 in the amount of \$4,528. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #32 in the amount of \$6,800 for the training facility. He talked about this is coming from the General Fund and when the 911 revenues are budgeted, that will offset this cost.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #32 in the amount of \$6,800 for the training facility. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented General Fund budget amendment #33 in

the amount of \$2,825 for the fingerprint printer.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #33 in the amount of \$2,825. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams provided an update on the pool project about what has been completed to date. He talked about the plaster problems. He stated that they should be here tomorrow to finish chipping out the plaster and re-plaster by the end of the month. He talked about the additional costs needed for the pool in the amount of \$5,393; fencing \$2,515, lifeguard chair \$1,370, 12 lounge chairs \$1,008, 2 weather proof picnic tables \$500. He explained that there had been \$4,000 originally budgeted to replace the boiler. He further explained that amount will not replace the boiler, and they are refitting the boiler. He talked about ways to address the floor to make it not so slick when it is wet. He further talked about taking the boiler money to fix the floor. He said that the County will have to fix the boiler when it is needed later.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to allow the County Manager to go forward with the request. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented potential dates for a meeting with the Board of Education.

The Board of Commissioners discussed dates. They decided on May 15 at 6:30pm at the County Administration Building.

County Manager Don Adams presented the General Fund 2008-2009 budget requests in the amount of \$16,596,133. He reviewed the special appropriations, requested new positions/salary increases and capital/capital improvements. He further reviewed the group benefits insurance renewal rates and the alternates.

Commissioner Warren Taylor asked about how the 2% cost of living raise (COLA) compares to alternate #4.

County Manager Don Adams explained that it is hard to compare because each employee is different.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about alternate #5 savings and providing the money for the COLA with that savings.

Commissioner Warren Taylor explained that the alternate #5 is closer to the retired State employees plan.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that this is helpful information, and the Board needs to review it before decisions are made.

County Manager Don Adams explained that a decision has to be made by June 1 in order to comply with the NCACC's requirements.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about discussions she had with farmers and the County Manager about the grass that is growing at the Transfer Facility. She explained a process of offering the hay land to farmers; interested farmers can submit their name and use a lottery drawing to award the hay.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Commissioner Milly Richardson discussed the condition of the land being suitable to mow.

Chair Ken Richardson asked could this be a liability issue.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated people would sign a liability waiver.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the hay scenario. The Board stated that they don't have any problem with this.

County Manager Don Adams presented information from Bryan Edwards regarding Tommy Edwards' sewer issues. He explained that he had just received this information about 3:00pm today. He further explained that Tommy Edwards will pay the Town for the sewer usage. He passed out information to the Board regarding the area. He explained the area that the Town is asking for a right of way from the County is on the Fairgrounds property. He explained the concerns he had.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that after reviewing the information, she didn't see a problem with this.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that he didn't feel comfortable approving this until the County Manager has time to review it.

County Manager Don Adams talked about allowing Bryan Edwards to proceed without doing anything on County property.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve this with the condition that the County Manager doesn't see an obstacle when he reviews it. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to enter into closed session at 5:10pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (4)—economic development. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:53pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

County Manager Don Adams presented a proposal from Applied Resource Management in the amount of \$7,940, which is \$3,400 for professional service, \$2,400 for drilling and \$2,200 for laboratory costs. He explained that this is prompted by positive test results at the Transfer Facility, and the County has been requested by the State to perform these tests.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the expenditure. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman