The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 4:00pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cox Made a motion to approve the agenda for the June 15, and June 16, 2011, meetings. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA Wednesday, June 15, 2011 4:00 PM

4:00	Meeting Called To Order
	Motion on Agenda for June 15, 2011, meeting
4:00	Kate Cosner, Elections
4:15	Clark Hunter, Blue Ridge BDC
4:30	Bob Bamberg, Chamber of Commerce
4:45	Terry Taylor/Dr. Ray, EMS
5:00	John Hedrick, Northwestern Regional Library
5:15	John Blevins, Social Services
5:30	Jim Smith, Wellness Center
5:45	Ralph Castillo, Alleghany Memorial Hospital
6:00	General Budget Discussions
	Adjourn

AGENDA Thursday, June 16, 2011 6:30 PM

6:30	Meeting Called To Order
	Motion on Agenda for June 16, 2011, meeting
6:30	Genia George, Arts Council
6:45	Jayne Phipps-Boger, Wilkes Community College
7:00	Dr. Jeff Cox, Alleghany County Schools
	Fee Schedule Discussions
	General Budget Discussions
	Adjourn/Recess

Kate Cosner, Board of Elections Director, came before the Board to discuss the budget request for the Board of Elections. She reviewed their requests and the County Manager's recommendations. She talked about their request includes the Town election and the 2nd primary election in the budget and the reason for their request in keeping those funds in their budget rather than coming back before the Board to do budget amendments for these elections. She reviewed their travel budget where one staff member and Board of Elections' member will not attend some of the trainings. She explained the requirements for training for staff and members of the Board of Elections and their certifications. She talked about the requirements of the Deputy Director to attend trainings to be able to step into the position of Director at anytime needed. She further talked about reasons for the Board members to attend the trainings. She urged the Commissioners to consider these requests; election expenses and travel.

Chair Richardson and Kate Cosner talked about the training dates and types of trainings. They discussed the election expense request. Chair Richardson stated that to his knowledge the Board of Elections have never been denied budget amendments. Kate Cosner agreed. They further discussed the election expense request.

Commissioner Smith and Kate Cosner discussed legislative actions occurring that will impact the County's budget. She talked about items of potential impacts.

Clark Hunter, Blue Ridge BDC Manager, came before the Board to discuss a proposal with him maintaining his position at the BDC and devoting more time to economic development. He explained that he is here with the support of this Board. He further explained how this would be a great asset to economic development in this county/region. He talked about expanding jobs and opportunities. He

provided an example of these efforts. He provided another example of where a business in Florida wants to move to Alleghany County. He said he hopes the Board will consider this request.

Chair Richardson and Clark Hunter talked about the majority of new jobs are through small businesses. Chair Richardson informed the Board that Clark Hunter serves on the regional Workforce Development Board and explained that he isn't asking for something new just expanding his role.

Bob Bamberg, Chamber of Commerce Director, provided handouts to the Board that displays the county for people who are traveling. He reviewed the handouts; map and the calendar of events.

John Kilmartin, President of the Chamber of Commerce, read a statement regarding tourism in Alleghany County.

Commissioner Smith talked about the Chamber's website and other ways to get the word out about events in the communities. Bob Bamberg explained ways they advertise to let people know about events in Alleghany County. They discussed the status of the occupancy tax bill before the General Assembly.

Chair Richardson asked the County Manager for an explanation of the discussion between him/Bob/John. The County Manager explained discussions were that if the additional 3% was enacted that would eliminate the need for County support. He read his budget message about his stance at that time and how the occupancy tax would potentially be back in play. He reviewed that the legislative action would divert the monies to the TDA rather than the Chamber and how that impacts the Chamber. He explained that his decision to put the Chamber and Blue Ridge BDC in the Economic Development fund since he views both of them as potentially one-time expense. They discussed even if everything fell in place then it would be January before any revenues are seen.

Commissioner Cox and Bob Bamberg talked about the increase in the occupancy tax and the \$100,000 would require a TDA but now it will be a TDA regardless of the amount. Bob Bamberg provided examples of how the Chamber and TDA could work, and the day was coming that the two would be separate.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director, stated EMS is requesting monies to implement thrombolytics into the protocols. She explained with their budget request, there is a breakdown to show the amount requested for this procedure of administering clot-busting drugs. She stated that Terry Taylor, Training Officer and Medical Examiner, and Dr. Jeff Ray, Medical Director, would like to explain this request in more detail.

Dr. Jeff Ray, Medical Director, explained that this is one of the optional protocols that can be implemented in rural areas and this procedure allows for the treatment of an acute heart attack. He talked about the regional system guidelines to treat patients as soon as possible. He explained that this is a very advanced procedure for EMS to perform and why larger counties do not offer the services since they have larger acute-care hospitals accessible in the first 90 minutes of the onset of a heart attack. He further explained the current process and the sooner the medicines can be delivered the better outcome.

Chair Richardson and Dr. Ray talked about the additional training needed for this procedure. They talked about this is for heart attack patients because it hasn't been approved in North Carolina for stroke patients yet.

Terry Taylor talked about this was discussed last year and he has been offering some training. He explained that the paramedics are already handling the patients at the most critical times. He talked about his experience in Wilkes County, where they started offering this procedure in 2001, and how Stanley County is the other county in the State that provides it. He further talked about Wilkes County's experiences where it has been administered 47 times with a positive outcome 45 times between 2001 and 2006, when he retired.

Chair Richardson asked how this would be implemented. Terry Taylor said that would be up to Dr. Ray to decide.

County Manager Adams talked about regular training began in February and then he asked them to stop until this issue was brought before the Commissioners. He explained that this is a morale issue. He provided a history of the RSI increase and the thrombolytic request. He talked about making it a requirement for everyone. He explained the reason he stopped the training was because it could be a morale issue if the Board doesn't approve moving forward. He talked about the costs for this action; 6-months of a 1-grade salary increase of \$9,599 and drug costs of \$7,200 for a total cost of \$16,799.

Chair Richardson, Terry Taylor and Dr. Ray talked about the timing of the implementation. Dr. Ray stated that it wouldn't occur this year because of the amount of training involved.

Chair Richardson talked about the Board has to decide whether to continue.

Dr. Ray stated that all of the technology is in place and provided examples of the radios.

Commissioner Cox asked can they provide a ballpark idea how many people would EMS transport in a year's time that this could benefit.

Dr. Ray answered 10-15 a year.

Terry Taylor explained that he does chart review and in his chart review there have been 4 so far this year.

Chair Richardson and Terry Taylor talked about this doesn't stop the trainings just thrombolytic training.

John Hedrick, Director of the Northwestern Regional Library, came before the Board to discuss the Alleghany County Library. He reviewed some statistics regarding activities at the Alleghany County Library. He talked about the 13% reduction of State Aid to Libraries. He reviewed the Maintenance of Effort where if a local library's allocation is reduced by the counties, then the Regional Library allocation is also reduced. He stated that this will be the fourth year of the \$159,902 allocation. He explained that they would appreciate it if the Board can maintain the Manager's recommendations.

Commissioner Smith and John Hedrick talked about the relationship of the Alleghany County Library and the Northwestern Regional Library and the functions of the Northwestern Regional Library.

Commissioner Cox and John Hedrick talked about if a county reduces the library budget then the regional library is impacted, too. They discussed the 13% cut from the State and how it impacts only the Northwestern Regional Library, and they will loose 1.75 FTE's.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, talked to the Board about the social worker IAT position vacancy that he had previously talked to the Board about, and he will be promoting someone within the agency to this position but this person will have to work until year 3 to fully qualify for the position. He explained the budget requests has the complete salary for the IAT position so by filling the position inhouse it will be a total reduction of \$2,847 to their budget. He further explained that this person needs to be at Grade 69 according the Office of State of Personnel, which is it currently a 67, to be in compliance. He said he would like to make this effective July 1. He reviewed a few other areas to clean up like income maintenance caseworker I is at a grade 61 and needs to go to a 63, income maintenance caseworker III from 65 to 67. He talked about these changes will bring the pay plan in compliance with the State. He explained that there are not people in these positions. He reviewed the savings associated with this request regarding the social worker IAT.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Adams talked about ways to proceeds with this request. The County Manager reiterated that none of these positions are filled and how this occurred.

John Blevins talked about promoting within which will create an open position and would like for the Board to consider filling the vacant position of child support agent.

Jim Smith, Wellness Center, shared some statistics about where Alleghany County was before the Wellness Center opened and where Alleghany County is currently. He reviewed some of their partnerships with other agencies to promote wellness to all citizens. He further reviewed their programs and activities to assist citizens. He talked about having programs in place beyond just fitness. He continued reviewing their programs. He talked about how they reach out to the community to offer assistance and 29% of members are on the sliding scale. He asked for the Board's help to continue providing services.

Ted Orton provided current members numbers, number of memberships at discounted rates and numbers according to age groups. He talked about programs provided to different age groups and different programs for different groups. He provided a current overview of what is being done.

Commissioner Smith and Ted Orton talked about relying mainly on memberships.

Jim Smith talked about their fundraising efforts. He stated that they need the Commissioners' help to get to the point where they don't need the County's financial help any more.

Ralph Castillo with Alleghany Memorial Hospital came before the Board to talk about their request. He provided a packet of information to the Board and started reviewing the packet. He explained that they have had a 23% increase since the beginning of the hospitalist program in January and 1/3 of ER visits this year are not emergencies. He provided numbers about how much it takes to get different types of doctors. He explained that in the next five years, they will need three more doctors. He reviewed the economic impact of community hospitals to North Carolina's economy and Alleghany County. He further reviewed the Hospital's miscellaneous expenses and the list of their Board of Trustees. He stated that Alleghany Memorial Hospital is the most important economic aspect of Alleghany County. He talked about the number one thing that people look for when looking to buy a second home is a vital hospital and medical staff. He said that they need to recruit physicians now. He stated their appreciation for the help in the past. He said that there are Board members and staff here in the audience.

Commissioner Smith and Ralph Castillo talked about Dr. Murphy is not one of the hospitalists. Ralph Castillo listed the three hospitalists currently, and they take it on 90-day basis.

Chair Richardson asked Ralph Castillo if they are basically satisfied with what the County Manager is recommending. Ralph Castillo explained that they think they can get one physician and start on another one with the \$200,000 requested.

County Manager Adams explained what is currently in the budget right now is the \$100,000 based on trying to get the revolving fund amount.

Ralph Castillo said that is ½ of what they need and that will be tough to get one physician. He talked about the original request would be ideal for the three types of doctors that they are looking for.

Chair Richardson talked about this is an excellent budget that has been proposed, and the Board still has tomorrow night to listen to presentations. He said it is up to each Commissioner to look at the budget to determine what is needed in the County. He reiterated that the County Manager did a good job about dispersing the money across the board, and he feels good about the budget right now.

Commissioner Smith said that he has no doubt that every one has the health, safety and welfare of the people of this county in mind. He talked about being open minded during the process.

Commissioner Goudreau and County Manager Adams talked about the Manager's recommendation of \$100,000 for the hospital and increasing that to \$200,000 would double the payment, in theory. The County Manager explained the current status of the original \$100,000 recommendation, and if the Board is looking at \$200,000 then Skyline would have to get involved.

Chair Richardson and the County Manager talked about the debt payment would also double. The County Manager explained how it would work.

Chair Richardson asked the County Manager if he can begin the conversation with Blue Ridge Electric and Skyline if it is the consensus of this Board. He asked if this is a problem with the Board. No one spoke.

Commissioner Cox and Chair Richardson talked about the number of doctors needed in the next five years.

The County Manager explained that these revolving fund monies are regional monies so they may not be available. He explained reasons counties can and cannot borrow money.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to recess this meeting at 6:07pm until Thursday, June 16, 2011, at 6:30pm. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson Chairman