

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners reconvened the meeting from June 15, 2011, on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at 6:30pm 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 reconvened the meeting at 6:30pm and continued with the approved agenda.

Genia George came before the Board to discuss the Arts Council budget request. She talked about their designation through the State of North Carolina. She explained their purpose. She further explained the activities in the 2010/11 budget year. She explained the grassroots grant funds, and they must be matched dollar-for-dollar, which they use the County funds for the match. She said that they are an IRS 501 (c) (3). She further said that the Arts Council does not have any infrastructure because everything is run out of her house. She talked about ways they have saved money and don't have anywhere else to cut. She explained that they work a lot through the Library to provide programs. She talked about they have sponsored 43 events this year, and funding for this year was 59% less than 1999. She further talked about the funding requested for the coming year is still less than that amount. She said that she asks that the Arts Council receive the amount requested.

Commissioner Smith and Genia George talked about funds they receive through the North Carolina Arts Council but nothing on the national level because they are too small.

Chair Richardson and Genia George talked about how they were impacted by the State budget, and they will be able to get \$7,540 from the State.

Jayne Phipps-Boger, Director of Wilkes Community College—Alleghany campus, thanked the Board for their continued support. She explained that it is her understanding that they are being considered for a small increase because of providing some additional classes in the new space. She further explained that two areas that they work on; curriculum and continuing education. She talked about there are 26 new degrees, 26 graduates and 7 GED/high school graduates. She further talked about their relationship with the High School. She explained the amount of scholarships provided. She further explained educational opportunities and trainings that they were involved in during this past year. She said that she would like to ask for just a little more money for cleaning of the new square footage.

Chair Richardson and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about the impact of the State budget to Wilkes Community College. They talked about the tuition increase for the Fall semester.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Adams talked about Wilkes Community College's (WCC) budget request and Mrs. Boger's request for an additional \$1,786.

Commissioner Smith and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about the percentage of students that received financial assistance.

Commissioner Cox and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about the High School liaison position and the need for the ½ time position, which she thinks would benefit the college students and the high school students.

Chair Richardson, County Manager Adams and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about the timeline for holding classes in the new space at WCC. They discussed the possibility of an open house similar to the EMS open house. She explained that they are in the process of offering applied resources certifications. The County Manager talked about the progress.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, provided handouts to the Board of the budget analysis of 2011-12. He reviewed the budget analysis and explained each line of the analysis. He explained that they are looking at \$2,332,600 in projected budget cuts, proposed funding of \$1,420,960, proposed reduction plan of \$911,205. He reviewed the amount of positions to be cut in the 2011-12 budget; 21. He further reviewed the position cuts from 2010-11. He explained that they have long passed the point of trimming the budget. He stated his appreciation to the staff for the excellent test results even with the budget cuts. He explained that they are not expecting the County to makeup for all of these cuts but would appreciate any additional monies. He further explained that he wanted to let everyone know that next year will be even grimmer.

Chair Richardson and Dr. Cox talked about the County Manager's recommendation and making sure the Commissioners are aware of financial situations with the State as they occur.

Dr. Cox talked about the preschool program and the administrative portion is being moved to the Department of Health and Human Service. He explained that they are looking at going from five classes to four classes for preschoolers.

Commissioner Smith and Dr. Cox talked about the total positions cut and the enrollment number of children. They talked about the number of positions cut at Sparta School.

Commissioner Cox and Dr. Cox talked about this will have a ripple effect in the community.

Dr. Cox talked about the local budget request for secretaries rather than being in the State budget as years past. He further talked about cell phone services and the e-rate funding that will be received to offset those costs.

Chair Richardson asked Dr. Cox to explain the capital budget.

Dr. Cox reviewed that by State law the County must provide a portion of sales tax to the schools for capital needs. He talked about the reduction in monies due to the economy. He reviewed the capital budget requests in the amount of \$662,000.

Chair Richardson asked the County Manager to explain his recommendation for capital.

County Manager Adams explained that he has put in his budget recommendation what is mandated to go to the schools for capital.

Dr. Cox explained that once they receive the allocation they go back and find which projects fit into the budget.

County Manager Adams reminded everyone that \$426,394 is new monies. He explained that there will be a rollover amount on the budget ordinance because they have some projects that won't be completed by July 1.

Dr. Cox and the County Manager talked about there are some additional monies in the rollover that isn't committed to any projects of approximately \$50,000.

Chair Richardson talked about he hopes Dr. Cox will come back to the Commissioners if there are remaining capital projects needed.

Dr. Cox talked about the septic problem at Piney Creek School, lights at the stadium/baseball field and the brick façade at the High School are three items that he knows of at this time.

County Manager Adams provided an update to the Board about the Piney Creek septic system including the grant has been submitted.

Dr. Cox talked about doing a small repair to get by with until the grant comes through. He explained that if that doesn't work then they have to have a permanent pump/haul solution which will be expensive.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Adams talked about the status of the lottery proceeds. The County Manager explained that the current school debt is more than the lottery proceeds.

Commissioner Roten and Dr. Cox talked about the fines and forts that go through the court system.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:11pm.

County Manager Adams explained the 2011/2012 Budget Worksheet that the Commissioners can use when making decisions on the budget.

County Manager Adams explained the following fee schedules; Solid Waste Disposal Fee Schedule, Allegheny in Motion, recreation, fire inspections, building inspection fees, EMS.

Chair Richardson recommended to the Commissioners to recess this meeting until right after the regular meeting on Monday. He stated that the Board can discuss anything tonight but after conversations tonight, he would like to recess until the adjournment of Monday's meeting.

Commissioner Roten talked about he can't be here all day on Monday.

Chair Richardson talked about the Board is going to have to start making decisions on the budget in order to provide time for staff to prepare the budget ordinance.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Adams talked about the Board can vote on the fees tonight.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the fee schedules as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson talked about ways to proceed on the budget.

County Manager Adams talked to the Board about the public hearing on June 27th and the possibility of scheduling another meeting after the 27th on the 28th or 29th to adopt the budget.

Commissioner Roten explained the purpose of the public hearing and said he doesn't think decisions should be made until after the public hearing.

Chair Richardson and Commissioner Roten talked about ways to proceed on the budget. They discussed the fund balance appropriation.

County Manager Adams reminded the Board that the larger part of the fund balance won't be used.

Commissioner Roten stated that he doesn't think it is right to use that much fund balance and have a tax increase.

The Board and the County Manager talked about the Board of Elections budget requests; municipal election, second primary and additional travel. The Board discussed leaving it as is.

Chair Richardson asked for comments about the Blue Ridge BDC request, which will come out of Economic Development. No one spoke.

The Board and the County Manager talked about the occupancy tax bill in the General Assembly and possible funding for the Chamber out of economic development. The Board discussed leaving it as is.

Chair Richardson reviewed the conversations at the last meeting regarding thrombolytics. County Manager Adams clarified the radios that Dr. Ray mentioned are actually radios that have been purchased which will work with thrombolytics. The Board and the County Manager talked about the EMS thrombolytic program and the amount of the requests. Chair Richardson asked does the Board want to continue with this procedure discussion. They discussed whether to continue the conversation including things such as AirCare is now in Elkin and the hospital has the drug, reason for additional trainings and the impact to the rescue squad. Chair Richardson asked if the Commissioners are willing to move forward on this request.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to support EMS going to thrombolytic to go up one grade once they are certified. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Adams talked about the pay plan and how this request will fit into the pay plan.

Chair Richardson talked about it is his understanding that the Maintenance of Effort with the Library will work if the Board takes the County Manager's recommendation. He asked if there are any problems with this recommendation. No one spoke.

Chair Richardson talked about the Social Services request is almost \$2,800 that is coming back to County. He talked about the job classifications changes are to comply with State Personnel Office. County Manager Adams explained the pay plan grade changes.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to move forward on the DSS request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

The Board talked about recessing this meeting until right after Monday's meeting.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to recess at 9:30pm until immediately following the regular Commissioners' meeting on Monday, June 21. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman