

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Manager Don Adams, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this June 16, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

AGENDA
Monday, June 16, 2014
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for June 16, 2014, Meeting
Motion on Minutes from June 2, 2014, Meeting
- 10:05 A. Rex Tolliver Presentation
- 10:10 B. Rita Miller - Tax Administrator
1. May Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on report. Actions Requested – Vote on releases and refunds.
 2. May Collections Report - Monthly 2014 collection rates through May as compared to 2013 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of May 2014. No action requested
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
- 10:20 C. Phil Trew – High Country Council of Government Planning Director
1. Region D Development Corporation
 2. High Country Bike Plan
- 10:30 D. Travis Dalton – Planner
1. Findings of Fact from May 21, 2014 Meeting. Action Requested – Vote on the Findings of Fact.
 2. Cell tower application for placing a cell tower in the County. Action Requested – Vote on cell tower application.
- 10:45 E. General Business
1. 2013/14 Year-End Budget Amendments
These year-end budget amendments are needed to clean up certain expenditures that occurred throughout the year. Action Requested – Vote on budget amendments.
 2. Alleghany Agricultural Advisory Board
The following people have volunteered to serve on the Alleghany Agricultural Advisory Board; Brant Banks, Bobby Davis, Bobby Evans, Frank Fender, David Gambill, Susie Gambill, Marshall Hash, Colette Nester, Bill Osborne, Dustin Phipps, Johnny Wishon, Bob Woodward.
Action Requested – Vote on the Alleghany Agricultural Advisory Board.
 3. EMS Paramedic RSI Open Position, Grade 65, \$29,660.79.
Action Requested – Vote on the request to fill the position.
 4. July Meeting Schedule
 5. Legislative Update
- F. Commissioner Comments
- G. Public Comments—30 minutes
- H. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from June 2, 2014. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox, on behalf of the Board, made a presentation to Rex Tolliver for his dedication and years of service to Alleghany County as an EMS employee.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the May auto releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the May auto releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the May auto refunds.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the May auto refunds. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the May auto refunds under the vehicle tax system (VTS).

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the VTS May auto refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the May real property releases.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the May real property releases. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the May real property refunds.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the May real property refunds. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the May 2014 reports; collections' report, enforced collection report, and payment agreement report.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller discussed the new NC Cash collection method.

Phil Trew, High Country Council of Government's Planning Director, talked about the Region D Development Corporation (RDDC). He explained more information about RDDC approving small business loans through 504. He talked about the number of loans they have and their portfolio. He explained they are governed by a Board of Directors, and he named Alleghany County's representatives. He talked about the only loan in Alleghany County is for John Miller for in his business. He explained that they can do business in the entire state, currently have one in Charlotte, always on the lookout for loans, have about 3-4 meetings a year and/or when they have loans to consider and contract out for the loan portion of the program. He described the process when someone inquires about a loan. He explained the type of loans that they will do and working in conjunction with the bank; bank 50%, RDDC 40%, personal 10%. He talked about these are all banker driven, works similar to a guarantee, benefits to the banks and typically works with smaller banks. He explained that businesses can borrow up to \$5,000,000, and normally don't fund startup businesses. He used John Miller's business moving as an example. He talked about loans are typically \$400,000 or greater because if it less than that, the owner is better to go through a bank due to fees associated. He explained they can't refinance because there are no funds available currently. He said this is a good program for equipment or machinery. He stated the fixed rate was 5.25% last month. He described the 7A program that goes through the banks. He stated that RDDC acts as a local loan committee. He said they are always looking for loans. He continued to describe the process, and can have the authorization for a loan in a little as two weeks.

Commissioner Smith asked if the 7A program is for start-up businesses. Phil Trew answered yes. Commissioner Smith and Phil Trew talked about how he gets the word out including he tries to get information out to the banks.

County Manager Don Adams explained these have to be loan worthy projects and loan worthy businesses. He further explained one of the programs is for startups and the other is for expansion plus there are still requirements for collateral and a business plan.

Commissioner Smith and Phil Trew discussed getting involved in projects, it's a good program and very specific

County Manager Don Adams talked about the terms for the loans, and it helps with cash flow because banks normally don't go long term.

Phil Trew explained the required 10% match.

Commissioner Leys and Phil Trew talked about he works with the 504 program and if it is a 7A program then it goes to a bank. Phil Trew said that people can learn more at www.sba.gov.

Phil Trew presented the High Country Regional Bike Plan, which has been adopted by all of the counties. He explained they printed copies and how many were handed out including local government received two copies. He further explained that the Department of Transportation (DOT) paid for the

Plan, took a couple of years, recommended road improvements, recreational route in every county, recommend signage for the route, Alleghany's signage will take \$4,000-\$5,000, will work with the County and DOT if funding is found, and explained how to get the Plan implemented. He talked about it is a good tool for more funding. He mentioned that Alleghany County has a Comprehensive Transportation Plan that had a portion about bikes, and when the Plan gets updated this is a good report to use.

Commissioner Leys, Phil Trew and Chair Cox talked about the recreational plan and the route.

Chair Cox said it is a great route and could use signage. He asked what the Commissioners need to do to raise money.

Phil Trew explained that DOT used to have dedicated money but doesn't now so other possibilities are looking at grants and tourism groups to finance the costs. He described where the signs are needed.

County Manager Don Adams and Phil Trew talked about having elevations in the Plan for the routes; a lot of bikers today use GPS that show grades, using this as a marketing initiative, and has great maps. The County Manager talked about the great work by High Country Council of Government, and use as marketing materials if we want to go that way.

Chair Cox talked about Alleghany County's recreational route and having the elevation data.

County Manager Don Adams said there are websites that allow people to put in their routes. He further said that this is a good starting point for marketing biking in this community.

Chair Cox said he hopes the Tourism Development Authority will be interested.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the biking event in the fall and would hope to hand out information. Phil Trew talked about they looked at the economic impact of organized tours in the area.

Phil Trew talked about Alleghany County is great terrain and low traffic for riding.

Commissioner Leys and Phi Trew talked about he has not researched the costs for GPS marketing.

Travis Dalton, Planner, presented the Findings of Fact from the meeting on May 21, 2014. County Attorney Donna Shumate reviewed suggested changes to the Findings of Fact. She stated these are her suggestions and can change them however the Commissioners want. She explained this isn't a transcript but a summary of the meeting. She talked about the color "sandy brown" was in the application and that could be discussed in the next conversation.

Commissioner Leys and County Attorney Donna Shumate discussed the color

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact as presented by the County Attorney. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Travis Dalton presented the cover letter for the Glade Valley Tower. He explained this is for the special-use permit. He asked for questions from Travis Dalton or Dave Pokela.

Commissioner Leys asked when color is discussed.

County Manager Don Adams, County Attorney Donna Shumate, and Travis Dalton said the color discussion would be first then the permit

Commissioner Leys made a motion to change the color to Tea Chest SW 6103, a brown with green tint. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys mentioned in the hearing that stealth technology was discussed and asked could that be an option.

Dave Pokela explained that we don't know if this is proceeding to be appealed or not, and as the meetings have been going we have been making color changes. He further explained that he and his client are reluctant to approve a change to anything from the hearing. He talked about he is worried if we make a change that may open the door to an appeal. He said that their position is that is too significant of a change and stay with what was approved on May 21. He explained that this hearing is different because the Board of Commissioners has seen everything regarding this request. He provided information to the Clerk regarding the tower and asked that it be added to the record; copy of the

application, PowerPoint presentation, impact statement from Mr. Herring, impact analysis from Mr. Smith. He said that the issue today is whether they have met the ordinance.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about action needed today and the difference between the last hearing and this meeting. County Manager Don Adams asked does this meet the requirements of the Ordinance. Travis Dalton said yes it meets and exceeds the standards set by the Allegheny County Wireless Communication Ordinance. County Manager Don Adams talked about this is all about the technical specifications of the Ordinance, and the request is to approve the special-use permit

Commissioner Leys, County Manager Don Adams and Travis Dalton talked about the view shed from the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Ordinance requirements regarding distance and received a letter from the Department of Interior stating there are no problems from their standpoint. Dave Pokela talked about the letter is in the application. County Manager Don Adams read the portion in the Ordinance about view shed and asked is it in the 1-mile area from the proposed site. Travis Dalton talked about it being 2.26 miles.

Commissioner Leys and Travis Dalton talked about the distance. Dave Pokela read the letter.

County Manager Don Adams and Travis Dalton talked about he didn't use GIS. Commissioner Leys said it is close and asked can he look it up.

Chair Cox talked about the Shawtown Road tower was closer. Travis Dalton agreed and said they did the balloon test on that one.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 11:10am for Travis Dalton to go look at the distance.

Travis Dalton provided the actual tower distance from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the permit application for the Glade Valley cell tower. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Dave Pokela stated his appreciation.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #18 in the amount of \$455 for Roaring Gap Deputies. He explained that this because there is more than 26 pay periods in the fiscal year.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #18 in the amount of \$455. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #19 in the amount of \$2,987 to budget for annual leave and comp time payout and the overlap of the director in the Elections department.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #19 in the amount of \$2,987. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #20 in the amount of \$17,000 to budget for deed stamps and the required portion to go to the Department of Revenue.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #20 in the amount of \$17,000. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #21 in the amount of \$4,000 to budget for additional medical examiner fees. He explained that this is to pay for autopsy fees.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #21 in the amount of \$4,000. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #22 and School Capital Project in the amount of \$25,663 to budget for the required transfer of additional sales tax monies to the School Capital Project Fund.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #22 in the amount of \$25,663. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve budget amendment School Capital Project in the amount of \$25,663. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams said for the Board's information, the budget public hearing is scheduled at the end of month; the Clerk will schedule a special called meeting after the public hearing and after the special called meeting the next day for any additional budget amendments. He talked about he knows that we will have at least one more; Transfer Facility Fund for disposal.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about how it will hit the books, and he would rather be on the safe side to budget it rather than as a receivable because it depends on when the cut-off date is and what the auditors do.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about Bob Edwards was hired to create a Farmland Preservation Plan, which has been adopted by this Board. He talked about part of the Plan was to create an Allegheny Agricultural Advisory Board and this Board voted to create a committee of Chair Cox, Commissioner Smith, Aaron Ray Tompkins, Linda Hash and Bob Edwards to submit names for the Advisory Board, they met and came up the names. He explained that it took a couple of months of contacting people to make sure people were willing to serve on the Advisory Board. He further explained how the committee tried to get different diversity of representation on the Advisory Board. He reviewed the list of the people; Brant Banks, Bobby Davis, Bobby Evans, Frank Fender, David Gambill, Susie Gambill, Marshall Hash, Colette Nester, Bill Osborne, Dustin Phipps, Johnny Wishon, Bob Woodward. He said that the committee thought it would be good to have ex-officio members and he would recommend; Linda Hash, Aaron Ray Tompkins and a County Commissioner.

Chair Cox talked about trying to find 12 people with the ex-officio people and explained why it took so much time to get this together. He said he thinks this is a good board. He volunteered to be on the board, since he farms, as an ex-officio.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the following people to serve on the Allegheny Agricultural Advisory Board; Brant Banks, Bobby Davis, Bobby Evans, Frank Fender, David Gambill, Susie Gambill, Marshall Hash, Colette Nester, Bill Osborne, Dustin Phipps, Johnny Wishon, Bob Woodward.

County Manager Don Adams clarified that is the 12 people along with Linda Hash, Aaron Ray Tompkins and Larry Cox serving ex-officio.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he is requesting that an open position of EMS Paramedic RSI, grade 65, \$29,660.79 be filled. He said that is the result of the retiring Shift Supervisor, which the Board had previously approved to fill. He explained that they are still in the interview process but all of the applicants are currently EMS employees so a position will be vacant.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the request to fill the open position. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained he was asked to put the July meeting schedule on the agenda and wanted to see if there are more about conversations about it.

Chair Cox said for the last two years the Commissioners haven't had both meeting in July. He asked what is the Board's pleasure.

The Board discussed July meetings

Commissioner Leys made a motion to omit July 7 from the Board of Commissioners meetings. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained he is trying to keep the Board updated about legislation that financially impacts Allegheny County including the Medicaid exchange and allotted monies. He further explained that the Medicaid hold harmless change has been passed by the Senate and House for a 3-year phase down or \$375,000. He talked about it is built into the budget to receive this but unless something changes Allegheny County won't receive it. He read the legislative language regarding nonemergency medical transportation. He explained the difference between the previous time that was discussed and this one. He stated that this is the transportation services provided by Allegheny in Motion (AIM) for Medicaid clients. He reviewed a letter from Secretary Wos stating that this wouldn't save money, and now the law is this will be done. He urged everyone to let both our legislators know along with the Governor's office because he doesn't know what else to do. He said in his opinion that this will impact other State funding sources.

Chair Cox talked about the last issue will be harmful to AIM. County Manager Don Adams said it will decrease transportation for the disabled, elderly and the veterans and explained how.

Commissioner Leys talked about in less than a year ago Secretary Wos stated that it would not save money and now she has changed her mind.

County Manager Don Adams explained that she has not been asked for input this time and explained more. He talked about AIM will survive; this is 20% of our revenues. He explained how AIM will change. He talked about he doesn't know how other counties will where 50% is Medicaid, and their systems won't fair as well.

Chair Cox stated that Secretary Wos said it won't work, and they didn't take her advice.

Chair Cox asked for Commissioner' Comments.

Commissioner Smith mentioned that Jim Dixon with Alleghany County Soil and Water board has been recognized for 35 years of service.

Commissioner Leys explained she has been involved in 10 days of workshops in Raleigh and we are blessed here. She further explained her conversations with a gentleman from another county that isn't. She stated she is so thankful for realizing how lucky we are.

Chair Cox mentioned the meeting tomorrow evening, and wondered if anyone has a place they want to start.

Commissioner Smith said the Board did have some departments that came to present their information, and he would like to discuss their requests.

Chair Cox agreed and said he has that on his list. He asked are there any others. No one spoke.

Chair Cox opened the floor for public comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 11:55am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman