

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 17, 2013, 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 Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda for this June 17, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, June 17, 2013
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for June 17, 2013, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for June 3, 2013, Meeting; June 5, 2013, Budget Meeting and June 10, 2013, NCDOT Public Hearing
- 10:05 A. 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 2013 collection rates through May as compared to 2012 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
 3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of May 2013. No action requested
 4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
 5. Late Present-Use Value Application. Action Requested – Vote on late present-use value application.
- 10:20 B. April Hamm – Transportation Director
RE: Consideration of the Alleghany County’s Local Coordination Plan for Alleghany in Motion. Action Requested – Vote on Local Coordination Plan.
- 10:35 C. Angie Wagoner – Community Manager for American Cancer Society
RE: Ms. Wagoner is appearing before the Board to present information in regards to the Relay for Life of Alleghany County scheduled for July 13 starting at 6:00pm. Ms. Wagoner will also be presenting a proposed proclamation recognizing Relay For Life. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed proclamation.
- 10:45 D. Clark Hunter - Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director
RE: Mr. Hunter will provide an update on local economic development activities. No action requested.
- 11:00 E. Joy Hines – Finance Officer
RE: Financial Bids for Alleghany County’s Checking Services. Action Requested – Vote to Award the Financial Bid.
- 11:15 F. General Business
1. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Report.
Required status report on housing program. No action requested.
 2. Social Service Board Appointment
Fill the Board Appointment that will expire on June 30, 2013. Action Requested – Vote on Board Appointment
 3. Library Annex Lease Negotiations
 4. Fiscal Year-End 2012-2013 Budget Amendments
These year-end budget amendments are needed to clean up certain expenditures that occurred throughout the year.
- G. Public Comments—30 minutes
H. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
I. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2013, meeting; June 5, 2013, budget meeting and June 10, 2013, NCDOT public hearing. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

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

Rita Miller presented the May auto refunds.

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

Rita Miller presented the May real property releases.

Commissioner Smith 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.

Chair Cox, Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about the debt set-off program and letters sent to property owners for the program.

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

Rita Miller presented the May 2013 collections' report, enforced collection report and payment agreement report.

Rita Miller presented a request to approve a late present-use value application because the property owner wasn't aware he needed to submit an application. She explained that the application has been approved pending the Commissioners' approval.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about how the property owner thought the property was automatically added to present use value because he has other property on farm use.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about the size of the tract.

Chair Cox asked about the Tax Administrator's recommendation. Rita Miller explained that it meets the requirements but wanted to let the Board know that there are outstanding taxes on the property.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the application. No second was made. Motion died due to lack of a second.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented Allegheny County's Local Coordination Plan. She explained that it has been available for a couple of weeks for people to review.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about we have met the requirements.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the Plan. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys talked about the number of letters received in support of the ED van and people wouldn't know how they would get to town if we did not have that program.

Chair Cox talked about it is one of the best programs we have going.

Commissioner Leys talked about other counties put money into the transportation program.

April Hamm talked about breaking even for several years.

Commissioner Leys said thank you.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

Angie Wagoner, Community Manager for American Cancer Society, came before the Board to request a proclamation. She stated the Relay for Life event is July 13. She invited everyone to come out and join them for the event. She talked about the survivor's honor dinner on June 29. She asked the Board to proclaim the week of July 7-13 as Join the Fight to Find a Cure for Cancer.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys thanked Angie Wagoner for her work in our community.

Angie Wagoner talked about having 27 teams and 200 already registered. She further talked about having a hard working planning committee.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

Angie Wagoner provided her contact information for the public.

Clark Hunter, Blue Ridge Development Center Manager / Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation Director, stated business is increasing. He talked about businesses opening in Sparta, tourism, and recent events in the community. He explained the services the BDC offers to businesses including assisting businesses to obtain loans.

County Manager Don Adams and Clark Hunter talked about the last loan that Clark Hunter assisted with was private funding.

Clark Hunter talked about the new fiber optic is now serving the BDC that is currently at 95% occupancy. He further talked about the ACTV expansion project is moving along. He explained on the economic development side they held a meeting on May 7 and had many conferences with Darren Rhodes and Phil Trew where a timeline was presented to complete the comprehensive economic development plan. He talked about the next step, and the plan is currently being worked on.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the group will be called back together in July.

Clark Hunter mentioned the historical tax credits, and he has started that working that plus he will bring back more information. He talked about the Department of Commerce and NC Broadband will have a survey for Alleghany County. He further talked about working on getting that information together. He explained that he will be attending the North Carolina Economic Developers conference next week, which gives him an opportunity to network with all of the state economic developers and learn what is coming from the State government.

Commissioner Leys and Clark Hunter talked about how the historical tax credit is free but the broadband survey may have a cost associated with it. He talked about work on the wireless industry.

Clark Hunter reminded everyone of the fundraiser on June 21 for Harold Church. He talked about the online article about Dr. Grabow and was excited about that.

Joy Hines, Finance Officer, provided a brief history of how the County has invested money during her employment. She explained how the County's banking has switched banks through buy-outs of a local bank. She continued to explain the investment portion and the fees charged for the banking account. She stated that they started a request for Proposals for banking that was sent out in October of 2012. She explained the proposals were received from Fifth Third Bank, First Citizens Bank and BB&T. She talked about working with First Citizens and BB&T on getting the fees down. She reviewed the fees charged in August 2012 by Fifth Third Bank in the amount of \$2,119.76 with the earning credit of \$146.19 leaving \$1,973.57 to pay for the account. She reviewed First Citizens fees of \$1,390.21 with a 0.2 rate for the earning credit. She reviewed BB&T's fees of earning credit of 0.6 with costs of \$1,356.95. She said First Citizens and BB&T will buy the checks and deposit slips. She reviewed the tally sheet showing the three proposals and their annual costs after taking off the offset account; Fifth Third \$20,863.32, First Citizens \$11,553 and BB&T \$11,153.88.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the County can only invest money into banks that go through a North Carolina collateral system. He continued to explain the difference in the investments between public and private monies. He explained that the majority of time when the County borrows money, BB&T has the lowest rate, and they have a dedicated local government branch. He stated that First Citizens and BB&T are both good banks.

Joy Hines talked about the service from both are good. She stated that she has worked more with BB&T, and BB&T seems like a better fit for the County after considering their software and everything.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the proposal amounts.

Joy Hines said her recommendation is BB&T. The County Manager said that is his recommendation too.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to do business with BB&T for the County's banking. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys thanked Joy Hines for her work on this project. She also thanked First Citizens and BB&T for the competitive bid. She said it is good to have a local bank.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the May 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Scattered Site Program. He explained the report and stated that this is a required monthly report.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Social Services Board has an appointment that will expire June 30 and needs an appointment for that Board.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about there haven't been any recommendations from Social Services. The County Manager explained that normally the Commissioners talk about the appointment and decide which Commissioner wants to serve on the board.

Commissioner Leys explained that she has been attending the meetings since she was elected and will serve on the Social Services board if the Commissioners want her to.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Karen Leys to the Social Services board. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the small building next to the library, and that there been some significant leaks in the facility so we haven't been able to lease the facility due to the amount of work needed. He explained that someone is interested in leasing the facility. He reminded everyone that the library bought the property, and there is a separate fund that the lease payments go into and the maintenance for that facility is paid for out of that fund. He explained that the library board works out the terms of the lease then the County reviews the lease to approve. He further explained that a new individual wants to lease the property and library is working with them at this time. He stated that the problem is that part of the roof is rotten and needs to be replaced. He said if we can get it dried in then the library board is more comfortable moving forward with the lease. He talked about the timing and working out the terms of the lease plus the lessee needs to get in the facility during the summer months. He explained that they are willing to do the work themselves, and are only asking the library board to replace the ceiling grid and ceiling tiles. He asked the Board about entering into a month-to-month lease with these people or can wait until the third Monday in July. He said there are a lot of unknowns but would hate to stand in the way of the business.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the lease amount and costs for the repairs at the facility, and the library board's costs will be about \$1,000 with County money being around \$1,000 because it is a County building.

Commissioner Smith talked about this has been an ongoing dilemma with the library board about how to use the building. He continued to state that if it could be done for a reasonable amount, the library would like to see it used. He said that he likes the idea of a month-to-month lease and understand they want to be in as soon as possible.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the library isn't going to proceed unless the facility is dried in.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the Commissioners providing the Board's consent with the County Attorney's approval for a month-to-month lease, and the County Manager can report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Davis said his opinion is to go ahead and get going with it.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about the building needs quite a bit of work, and it needs to be looked at.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams discussed ways to proceed.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the property is insured by the County, and it is the County's responsibility for maintaining the facility. County Manager Don Adams reiterated the need to get it dried in.

Chair Cox said that he is sensing the Board wants the County Manager to go forward then come back in July for a report.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to allow the County Manager to proceed to enter into a month-to-month lease with a potential lessee using the sample lease with the same terms and the

County Manager bring it back and having the County Attorney's approval prior to signing the lease. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the difference in the leases; term and rent, use.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #14 in the amount of \$2,200 for the Tax Office. He explained that it is for additional foreclosure fees, telephone and copier expenses.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #14 in the amount of \$2,200. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #15 in the amount of \$85,000 for additional food and provisions for inmates in the Jail. He explained the unbudgeted revenue for inmates is \$194,000, and it is hard to budget the unknown costs associated with the inmates because the number changes constantly.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #15 in the amount of \$85,000. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #16 in the amount of \$3,400 and School Capital Project Fund #1 in the amount of \$3,400. He explained that this is for the additional sales received mandated to go the schools for school capital.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #16 in the amount of \$3,400. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve School Capital Project Fund #1 in the amount of \$3,400. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #17 in the amount of \$35 for additional FICA needed in the Roaring Gap Deputies budget.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #17 in the amount of \$35. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Transfer Facility #2 in the amount of \$23,000 for putting money back into disposal. He explained this is because of the additional funds spent for the replacement of the floor and to purchase a new loader. He further explained that additional work must be done on the loader before it can be placed into service. He talked about the amount of the fund balance in the Transfer Facility.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve budget amendment Transfer Facility #2 in the amount of \$23,000. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment E911 Fund #1 in the amount of \$2,000 for maintenance contracts in the E911 budget. He explained that the maintenance contract was under budgeted.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment E911 Fund #1 in the amount of \$2,000. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about at the final budget hearing scheduling time to consider additional budget amendment's at that meeting. He explained that this is a low amount of year-end clean-up amendments. He said that Joy Hines does a good job of keeping up the finances.

Chair Cox opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for public comments.

Dennis Smith shared his experience for running for a Board of Director's seat with the Blue Ridge Electric's. He talked about information that was provided to him regarding developing his bio and position statement. He said that he developed his own bio and position statement and was told that their attorney would have to review his bio and position statement, some information may be removed and he would be notified if that occurs. He read his original position statement about Blue Ridge Electric. He talked about he was never informed of any information that was removed from the position statement. He said that he learned that the position statements were removed completely. He talked about information about Blue Ridge Electric's CEO compensation as listed on the 2011's 990 form. He talked about the number of coops in the North Carolina and no CEO was near that amount. He referred

to another electric coop showing the amount of CEO compensation and how it compares to Blue Ridge Electric. He asked about what occurs behind closed doors. He said people are wondering how this relates to the County is the County pays a half million dollars to Blue Ridge Electric. He read a prayer from 1789.

Kingsley Booth talked about a problem on his road; Pleasant Home Church Road. He further talked about the dangerous situation of someone pulling out onto the highway. He asked if a sign can be put up showing an intersection is ahead. He said that he would like for someone to look into it.

Chair Cox asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 11:24am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn closed session at 11:38am and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox stated that no actions were taken in closed session.

Commissioner Leys asked about asking for a formal ceremony for the bridge naming in Piney Creek on August 4 or August 11 if the signs could be prepared in time. She said that she will be in contact with Jim Palermo about this.

The Board agreed.

Commissioner Leys reminded everyone of the Harold Church fundraiser on June 21 from 4:30pm to 7pm at Alleghany High School.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 11:39am. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman