

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in recessed session on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting is for budget discussions.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson reconvened the meeting at 6:30pm and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Sheriff David Edwards presented information regarding the number of deputies in other counties for our population group which explains why Alleghany County has the amount of overtime because Alleghany County has fewer deputies. He talked about why deputies are needed for overtime, for example, commitments, transports, court days if the deputy works night shift, attending schools.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Sheriff Edwards talked about the Sheriff isn't sure if adding an additional deputy will help because he doesn't know how to fit the deputy in the schedule to alleviate overtime.

Chair Ken Richardson asked about the reduction in overtime by switching to comp time.

Sheriff Edwards stated that he doesn't have any problem with it but reminded the Board that when someone takes off he has to have someone to fill in that shift.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Sheriff Edwards talked about using part-time deputies to help fill the gap.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Sheriff Edwards talked about how the case load has increased in the last four years, and currently it is for breaking/entering cases.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Sheriff continued talking about breaking and entering cases are going up.

Sheriff Edwards stated that he will promise the Board he will cut 20% of overtime or so if he can but no one knows what will occur. He further stated that the safety of his officers is first then the county next.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Sheriff Edwards talked about the number of commitments; 30 since the beginning of the year. Commissioner Roten asked have there been discussion about changing this process. Sheriff Edwards talked about issues with commitments. Commissioner Roten talked about the commitments are straining resources.

Commissioner Steve Roten reiterated that the Sheriff said he will do his best in reducing the overtime, and he thanks the Sheriff for that. He stated his appreciation to the Sheriff for coming here to talk to with the Board.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the Board will have to take a serious look at another deputy, if possible.

Commissioner Randy Miller asked the Sheriff if he will ever cut out all of the overtime. The Sheriff answered no. Commissioner Miller talked about an educated guess with two deputies could cut an estimated 40%.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked what the Sheriff is doing in regards to drugs and the recent loss of young gentleman from drugs.

Sheriff Edwards explained that he has started a task force about prescription drugs and met with doctors/civic groups/schools trying to address these issues. He talked about the number of drug busts in the last two months. He reminded the Board that no one knows what will be coming up and no one can tell the deputies where they can response to issues or not.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked what the Board can do in regards of having federal inmates here.

Sheriff Edwards explained that recently the County received five inmates. He further explained that they opened jails closer to where the needs are, and they won't bring them here. He talked about the five for an entire year will be around \$100,000 at \$55 per day. He further

talked about the surrounding counties and the amount the sheriff's office has made with federal inmates.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Sheriff Edwards talked about the County houses the federal inmates, and they pay the expenses.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the County's expenses for them are meals, laundry and incidental utilities but everything else is paid for by the Feds. Sheriff Edwards agreed.

The Board of Commissioners thanked the Sheriff.

Chair Ken Richardson Commissioners talked about the Board pursuing the ¼¢ sales tax previously, instructed the County Manager to work on the resolution, and he is looking to see if there is a consensus whether the Board agrees to proceed pursuing the ¼¢ sales tax.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the 1/4¢ doesn't include food, so it is around \$160,000.

Commissioner Steve Roten talked about it won't help this year.

Commissioner Randy Miller and Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about it would be April.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he personally has no problem with allowing the citizens to vote on the issue.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board that they have until mid-August to decide.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the Board has reached the point where the Commissioners need to go item by item and get a consensus on each of these budget questions. He suggested starting with special appropriations and the menu of possible funding reductions.

The Board discussed the following possible funding amounts/reductions and agreed by consensus on the following items without making any formal motions.

<b>Agency/Budget Item</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Library	Level at 2009/10 rate	4:1 (Steve Roten)
Health Department	Level at 2009/10 rate	2:3 (Steve Roten, Milly Richardson, Doug Murphy)
Health Department	2% reduction over 2009/10 rate	3:2 (Steve Roten, Milly Richardson)
Mental Health	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Mental Health	2% reduction over 2009/10 rate	4:1 (Steve Roten)
Council on Aging	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Council on Aging	2% reduction over 2009/10 rate	4:1 (Steve Roten)
Revaluation Contribution	Transfer \$40,000	1:4
Revaluation Contribution	0	4:1
Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squad	Level at 2009/10 rate	5:0
Fire Commission	Level at 2009/10 rate	5:0
Forestry Service	\$54,475	0
Forestry Service	2% reduction over 2009/10 rate	4:1 (Steve Roten)
Wilkes Community College	\$111,003	0
Wilkes Community College	Level at 2009/10 rate	5:0
Fireworks	Level at 2009/10 rate	1:4 (Randy Miller, Doug Murphy, Milly Richardson, Steve Roten)
Fireworks	0	4:1 (Ken Richardson)
Group Homes	Level at 2009/10 rate	5:0

BROC	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
BROC	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	0
BROC	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	3:2
Arts Council	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Arts Council	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	2:3
Arts Council	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	3:2
Chamber of Commerce	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Chamber of Commerce	0	4:1 (Ken Richardson)
Planning Commission	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	5:0
Health Advisory	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	5:0
Family Resource Center	Level at 2009/10 rate	5:0
Alleghany Connections	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Alleghany Connections	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	5:0
Wellness Center	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Wellness Center	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	2:3
Wellness Center	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	2:3
Wellness Center	0	2:3
Wellness Center	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	3:2
Red Cross	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
Red Cross	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	0
Red Cross	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	5:0
Wilkes Center for Deaf	Level at 2009/10 rate	5:0
Senior Services	Level at 2009/10 rate	3:2 (Steve Roten, Milly Richardson)
Channel 50	Level at 2009/10 rate	0
	25% reduction over 2009/10 rate	0
	50% reduction over 2009/10 rate	4:1 (Ken Richardson)

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 7:40pm.

The Board discussed the following possible funding amounts/reductions and agreed by consensus on the following items without making any formal motions.

The County Manager updated the Board about where they are with the total budget and the fund balance appropriation.

<b>Agency/Budget Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Undo Salary Raises	2:3 (Randy Miller, Ken Richardson, Doug Murphy)
11 holiday furloughs	2:3 (Randy Miller, Ken Richardson, Doug Murphy)
7 holiday furloughs	3:2 (Randy Miller, Ken Richardson)
Insurance Reduction	0
Finance Officer Server	5:0
Finance Cabinet	0
¾ Ton Truck	0
Morgue Cooler	0
4x4 SUV	0

Parking Lots	0
WCC Floor	0
LEC Roof	Possibility to come from 911 funds
School Capital	3:2 (Steve Roten, Milly Richardson)
Fire Departments/Rescue Squad Capital	Possibility to come from 911 funds
USDA Loan-Training	0
USDA Loan-W&S	0

The Board agreed to reduce the salary lines in the Extension Service budget in the amount of \$24,000 due to vacant positions and reduce the overtime in the Sheriff's Department by \$20,000.

The County Manager updated the Board about where they are with the total budget and the fund balance appropriation.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated his concerns about the fund balance appropriation being \$754,878.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about previous things that she mentioned.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he is comfortable about the fund balance appropriation. He further stated that normally the County turns in over half of that amount.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the Chairman's point being that everything budgeted is not always spent.

Commissioner Steve Roten and the County Manager talked about the most the County Manager has seen that went into the fund balance; around \$300,000-\$400,000.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about if the county employees, who have already given, can find ways to save money it would be an incentive to save the money in order to not have cuts next year. She talked about pay is contingent upon the fund balance.

Commissioner Doug Murphy said that he can't speak for the future. He stated that business as usual from the past is gone. He further stated that the private sector is going to have to step up.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated that he thinks when times get bad the need to start reducing personnel, if positions aren't needed. He talked about this makes four budgets where the Commissioners hasn't raised taxes one penny and if the Board wants to give merit raises every four years or give longevity, revenues have to be increased. He said that this is up to the County Manager and the department heads regarding personnel. He stated either do that or raise taxes.

Commissioner Doug Murphy recalled how times were the 1970s.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about if employees realize that jobs may be on the line, they may save money.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about something to think about is when people retire moving someone up in the department.

County Manager Don Adams explained that notifications of retirements have been built into the budget. He further explained that the second issue is not replacing a retiring position and making a decision for another board. He talked about if the Board is going back to personnel then the need to go back to review the larger departments. He said he can name the four that was mentioned last year.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated in hard times in lieu of filling positions when people retire; don't replace them.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about people has to think down that line.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that there are some things that the Board hasn't finished talking about, such as, revaluation.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about that is after the budget, and she will bring it

up.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board they need to discuss fee schedules, grade step plan and other funds.

The Board of Commissioners talked about the Transfer Facility fund, Transportation fund, and stated they don't see a problem with the other funds. They asked is there anything that needs to be brought to their attention.

County Manager Don Adams talked about moving funds from this year until next year in economic development fund for the Rural Center grant for Ollie's Small World Daycare to pay out the remaining portion of the previously approved grant.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and the County Manager talked about just moving enough funds to pay for the obligations.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about you are only as good as your employees. He thanked the County Manager, Karen Evans and the employees attending in the audience for their work.

Commissioner Milly Richardson commended all of the other members on the Board for the work on this budget.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about everyone has put a lot of thought into these decisions.

Chair Ken Richardson recessed the meeting at 8:55pm until Monday, June 28 immediately following the public hearing scheduled for 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman