

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 6:42pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the 2014/2015 budget ordinance and 2013/2014 year-end budget amendments.

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

Chair Cox called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of this meeting.

County Manager Don Adams explained budget amendment Transfer Facility Fund #1 the amount of \$50,000 for the disposal line item. He reviewed the disposal costs. He pointed out if the Board will look at the budget documents they will see how much is estimated to be spent during this budget year because of additional disposal costs due to the hotel and house. He talked about the Town owes the County \$38,000 and has paid almost \$10,000, which leaves the amount owed around \$28,000. He explained that part of the issue is taking in houses from the Highway 21 project this month and we will get paid for those costs next budget year. He talked about the budget amendment uses the fund balance in the Transfer Facility Fund account.

Chair Cox said the Town has paid some and asked are they going to pay the remaining. County Manager Don Adams said he knows the Town Manager has reached out to some of the Commissioners about getting some relief; he talked to the Town Manager today and explained how he thinks we will be fine at the end of this year but next year will have to reduce expenses or increase rates. The County Manager said he explained this to the Town Manager, the County doesn't want an audit finding, and if relief to the Town is given then he would ask the Commissioners to put money into that fund.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about he doesn't know if there are any more demolitions out there. Commissioner Leys asked the County Manager to inquire about that. The Manager said yes he will, and if they start another project this will come before the Commissioners immediately.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment Transfer Facility Fund #1 in the amount of \$50,000. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox talked about the Board has two things we can act on or does the Board want more discussions or spend more time to consider the budget. He talked about last year; the Board approved the budget after the public hearing. He asked what is the pleasure of the Board about how to proceed.

Commissioner Smith said he has several reasons that he is pleased with this budget and provided examples, such as, no tax increase and helping employees. He stated it's not a perfect budget but isn't sure that there is one. He talked about he is comfortable with the Special Appropriations. He said he can vote on it tonight.

Commissioner Davis said that the Commissioners have tried to support everything and provide what the County can afford.

Commissioner Goudreau said he is ready to move forward with the budget. He further said he is glad there is no tax increase and doing things for the employees. He talked about there are things he doesn't like; the Hospital and the Wellness Center, because they are private businesses and shouldn't receive tax monies.

Commissioner Leys said she is not 100% happy with the budget. She stated that there is nothing in here for business development. She talked about there are things coming along, the economy isn't where we can raise taxes, but does want this Board to think more about business development activities. She further talked about a \$15,000 grant that was obtained, Amanda Sorrells with the Rural Center coming to visit. She stated her concern about the employees' salaries and looking at a salary study the first of the year. She said she is upset with the State legislators about the Medicaid swap deal, and the impact of that, which is not fair. She said as things stand, it will be ok and working hard to do what we can, and this is the best we can at this point. She stated that she is pleased we are supporting the Hospital. She talked about her conversations with Drew Edwards regarding the economic impacts having the Wellness Center and the Hospital, and the importance of supporting the Hospital. She reiterated she appreciates the support for the Hospital. She said she is ready to vote tonight if the Boards want to.

Chair Cox said he echoes most of these comments. He talked about we do have an economic plan coming. He said that he is glad for what can be done for the schools, special appropriations, safety for the citizens for hiring the deputies, and school safety. He stated that he is proud of this, and commends everyone working on this.

Chair Cox asked what actions are needed. County Manager Don Adams reviewed the actions needed; approve full-time and part-time pay schedules and approve the budget ordinance.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the pay schedules for 2014/15. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox asked does the County Manager need to read the budget ordinance. County Manager Don Adams said he will if the Board wants him to and stated that the draft in front of the Commissioners incorporates all of the discussions by the Board.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the FY 2014/15 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys talked about having pride for the farmers market funding. Chair Cox agreed.

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

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to cancel the Commissioners meeting scheduled for June 26 at 6:30pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Larry Cox
Chairman