

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 3, 2015, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this August 3, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, August 3, 2015
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for August 3, 2015 Meeting
Motion on Minutes for July 20, 2015, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Travis Dalton – Planning Director
1. Present information regarding a proposed language change in the Property Rights Protection Ordinance regarding appeals.
 2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed change. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
 3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed change.
 4. Present information regarding proposed changes to the Wireless Communication Tower Ordinance. Wording changes regarding ham radio operators have been recommended by the Planning Board. Action Requested – Schedule a Public Hearing for the first meeting in September.
- 6:45 B. Cherry Lane Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report
- 6:55 C. General Business
1. Wood Waste Bids
More information will be provided at the meeting. Bids are due on Monday, August 3 at Noon. Action Requested – Vote on awarding the bid.
 2. Budget Amendment General Fund #2
Budget for Chamber of Commerce expenses discussed at the last meeting in the amount of \$6,760. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment General Fund #2.
 3. Budget Amendment General Fund #3
Budget for a \$15,000 grant received by the Sheriff’s Office for the purpose of purchasing radios for their vehicles. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment General Fund #3.
 4. Budget Amendment Transportation Fund #1
Budget for 2 Alleghany in Motion’s vehicles that were ordered in FY 2014/15 but did not arrive by June 30, 2015. The amendment is in the amount of \$54,344. NCDOT will reimburse Alleghany in Motion 90% of the costs for these 2 vehicles. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment Transportation Fund #1.
 5. Labor Day Commissioners’ Meeting
Discuss rescheduling the September 7, 2015, meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.
 6. Alleghany County Library Expansion
Continue discussion about the proposed Alleghany County Library expansion project.
- D. Public Comments—30 minutes
- E. Commissioners Comments
- F. Closed Session – NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) – legal and (a) (6) – personnel
- G. Adjourn

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Travis Dalton, Planning Director, reviewed a proposed language change in the Property Rights Protection Ordinance regarding appeals. He read the proposed change.

Chair Smith and Travis Dalton talked about appeals from quasi-judicial decisions will go to Superior Court.

Commissioner Leys stated that she wants people to understand that this follows State law.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing at 6:35pm and asked for public comments regarding the proposed Ordinance wording change. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:36pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the Ordinance change regarding appeals. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Travis Dalton presented proposed changes to the Wireless Tower Ordinance. He reviewed the language of the changes; adding definitions for non-permitted residential towers and permitted residential towers and additional language about both types of towers. He explained the purpose of the change.

County Manager Don Adams and Travis Dalton talked about requirements of the permitted towers including having to obtain a building permit and following the requirements in the Ordinance. They discussed the non-permitted towers do not require a building permit.

Commissioner Irwin asked if this is for the ham radio operators. The County Attorney agreed. Commissioner Irwin asked about the fall zone for a tower if the property was sold. The County Attorney said they haven't had to address that issue yet. Travis Dalton talked about taller towers are constructed to break away on itself at its weakness spot to not have a large fall zone.

Commissioner Leys and Travis Dalton talked about there isn't any standards for towers between 91 feet and 195 feet. The County Manager explained that after the public hearing is held then the Commissioners can take up this issue. The County Manager and Travis Dalton talked about Ashe County's requirements. County Manager Don Adams explained if it requires a building permit then plans would be required.

Commissioner Irwin asked about grandfathering towers. County Attorney Donna Shumate said she isn't aware of any towers at 90 feet. Travis Dalton explained that the ham operator's towers are 40 feet.

Melvin Collins, ham radio operator, said he isn't aware of any ham radio towers over 40 feet in the County. He talked about engineering specifications for the towers are very specific.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to hold a public hearing at the first meeting in September on this matter. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the wood waste bids; Cana Contracting for \$17,500 and Bennick Enterprises for \$20,800. He stated that Cana Contracting can start grinding the wood pile soon, and this is his recommendation.

Commissioner Davis stated that they always did a good job.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the Cana Contracting bid. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #2 in the amount of \$6,760 to budget for Chamber of Commerce's expenses that were approved at the last meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #2 in the amount of \$6,760. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 4:1. (Bobby Irwin).

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$15,000. He explained that this is for a grant obtained by the Sheriff's Office through the Governors Crime Prevention Program for dual band radios for their vehicles. He further explained the importance of dual band radios.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about the towers that these radios will work off of. County Manager Don Adams said that these will benefit the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$15,000. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Transportation Fund #1 in the amount of \$54,344. He explained that this is to budget for 2 Alleghany in Motion's vehicles that were ordered in 2014/15 but did not arrive by the end of the budget year. He further explained that the State pays for 90% of the costs of the vehicles.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment Transportation Fund #1 in the amount of \$54,344. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams asked the Commissioners about rescheduling the first meeting in September since it falls on a holiday.

Chair Smith and the County Manager talked about rescheduling the meeting, and the Board Meeting Room will not be available on Monday, September 14.

The Board talked about dates/times for the meeting.

Chair Smith made a motion to move the meeting to Tuesday, September 8. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Karen Leys).

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the costs estimate and proposed revenue sources for the Library including the Golden Leaf grant.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about a 15-18 month timeline, and one of the first things they are going to ask is for a 3-month extension so the timeline will start with the signing of the documents in September rather than the grant award date in June.

The County Manager reviewed the construction costs, proposed funding methods for the requested \$310,000, costs estimate, aerial map of the properties, and insurance information. He said if the Board wants to sell the properties then the need to have conversations about the need for space. He reviewed information if the shortfall was obtained through a loan at a 3.5% interest. He talked about a low-interest loan that he is investigating isn't through Blue Ridge Electric but they have access to a USDA statewide revolving loan program, and if the County moves forward with this then Blue Ridge Electric will support it to the statewide board. He reviewed the highlights of the loan including no interest or very low interest. He said that the statewide board is ready to sit down to discuss the details with the County Manager. He reviewed the additional ongoing expense estimates and the loss of revenues for the Business Development Center (BDC). He talked about the remaining 3 debt service payments on the BDC/WCC building and the capacity is built into the budget.

Commissioner Evans and the County Manager talked about the additional costs and the 2-year overlap on the costs. The County Manager explained that we won't know exactly until we know when we are moving in. They talked about the debt payment is already built into the budget.

Commissioner Leys said that it is good news that a USDA loan might be available for no or low interest. She stated that the Golden Leaf grant is probably a one-time opportunity.

Commissioner Irwin said he looks at it in several ways including if we don't now it won't get done, no-interest loan makes it more appealing, having Golden Leaf monies, and the library has a good savings account that they have been saving. He stated that this fits at a good time. He

talked about the number of programs that occur at the library weekly. He said he can't see a downside to doing this project.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to write a letter for Golden Leaf for the \$310,000 backing. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion.

Commissioner Evans said he doesn't disagree that this isn't the time but the Board is going to have their work cut out to get the additional monies for the overlap time. The County Manager said that his view on this is that this could impact other programs if the Board doesn't want to look at other sources of revenues. Commissioner Evans talked about repurposing of the buildings and the need for those conversations. County Manager Don Adams said it does need to be a conversation but we need to go after the 0% interest now while it is available. Commissioner Evans asked if the motion is for the 0% interest. Commissioner Irwin clarified his motion is for the 0% loan and up to the 3.5%. Commissioner Leys said that she seconds the clarified motion.

County Manager Don Adams explained that his preference is to have more conversations with others before getting into those conversations.

The Board voted on the clarified motion on the floor. Vote 4:1 (Mark Evans).

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

Commissioner Leys said she received a letter about Alleghany Group Homes passed a State inspection and read some of the positive comments from the experience. She talked about the Road Market last weekend, all of the reports that restaurants ran out of food is correct, great deal of traffic and very few complaints. She talked about going to Wytheville during the event to see the activities. She said that DW Miles gets the credit for this event.

Commissioner Irwin talked about receiving a thank-you letter from the Wellness Center, and thanked Steve Mason for that. He mentioned the Alleghany News article about the livestock fence, State Trooper Jody Hatcher was at the Alleghany Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. He stated that he would like for this to be on the agenda for the mid-month meeting. He talked about the bridge opening ceremony last week.

Commissioner Evans said the bridge opening was nice. He explained that his vote wasn't a vote against the Library but he would like to have had more time to see where the monies would come from.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel at 7:30pm. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:41pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith stated no decisions were made during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Irwin made a motion to adjourn at 8:42pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair