

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 6:30pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Randy Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that changes to be made to the agenda are to delete #5 from County Business and add QZAB discussions under County Business.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this September 4, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Tuesday, September 4, 2007
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for September 4, 2007, meeting
Motion on Minutes for August 20, 2007, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Mary Walker
RE: Late Tax Applications
C. Jimmy Phipps
RE: Management
D. Nadia Shahrik
RE: Management Decision/April 4 Letter
E. Jeremiah Johnson
RE: Concerns about Management
F. County Business
1. Budget Amendment—Social Services
2. Budget Amendment—Propane Tanks
3. Firemen's Relief Fund Appointment
4. Laurel Springs VFD Resolution & Agreement
5. E-911 Discussions (deleted)
6. QZAB Discussions (added)
7. Other Business
8. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
9. Adjourn

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 20, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented late tax applications for farm-use and elderly exemptions. She listed out the applications for farm-use; Nancy Tucker, Gary Miles, Leota Jones, Colonel Brown, Barry Atwood, Caroline West, Jack and Betty Staley, Lucy LaRue, Baise LaRue, David Gillions, Carol Kennedy, Elsie Wagoner.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the late applications for farm use. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented late tax applications for elderly exemptions. She listed out the applications; Andrea Caudill, Evelyn Toliver, Ima Shupe, Tina and Franklin Hash and Clay Crouse.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the elderly exemption applications. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams informed the Board that Mary Walker, Rita Miller and he are working on educational information for the public.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that this Board welcomes the opportunity for citizens to speak and be heard by the Commissioners. He reviewed the procedures for talking with the Board. He explained that personnel concerns should be addressed with the County Manager first then the Board of Commissioners. He talked about if the concerns are about the County Manager, then people should come to the Board of Commissioners. He stated that personnel matters are discussed in closed session.

Jimmy Phipps came before the Board to discuss several issues about management. He talked about hating to see the County let Amy Pardue leave. He further talked about having spent time training an individual for two jobs that didn't have anything to do with each other. He explained the importance of her work in the Planning/Recreation department. He said that he heard that an employee couldn't get enough hours to get benefits. He talked about employees are disgruntled and people on the street are disgruntled. He further talked about people need to be heard. He asked about the possibility of meeting in each precinct to allow the people to be heard. He talked about supporting the land transfer tax, and it is a fair tax to build the middle school. He stated that there are things that management needs to look at. He stated his appreciation for the Board's time.

Nadia Shahrik stated that her attorney advised her not to say anything at this meeting.

Jeremiah Johnson gave the Board information that he planned on speaking about. He explained the items that he gave to the Board including photos of the EMS building's condition. He said that attention needs to be given to the facility. He talked about employees are there for 24-hour shifts. He asked why subject yourself to these conditions. He talked about the moral issues. He said that someone needs to be responsible for these conditions. He said that he was told that maintenance is up to the shift supervisors/department head to come to the Commissioners with their comments and concerns. He further said that no one else lets employees decide. He said this needs to be looked into. He talked about wanting to get involved with economic development, and Don is working with him on it. He further talked about contacting acplanning@skybest.com by email about the Planning Board, and his email hasn't been answered. He said that the county wants to grow and bring new businesses and grow as a community. He asked why his email hasn't been answered. He talked about Allegheny County's and Town of Sparta's economic and re-development plan about bringing industrial plants into the area, how the economy will be boosted and redeveloping downtown but he hasn't seen anything that has come from this in a positive way. He provided the Board statistics about the economy. He asked who goes back to follow-up on these reports. He stated that he is coming here to make the county better and thinks it needs some improvement. He further stated that if employees aren't interested in making the county better, then the County should find someone who does.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$724. He explained that this budget amendment is to budget for additional Work First monies for Social Services.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$724. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #4 in the amount of \$8,776. He stated that this is to purchase propane tanks that G&B currently owns. He reviewed that the County is going out to bid for propane services

annually.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #4 in the amount of \$8,776. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about Sid Carrier is up to be appointed to the Firefighter's relief fund for the Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to appoint Sid Carrier to the Firefighter's relief fund. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department is planning to purchase a new pumper truck. He explained that the bank is requiring a resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners. He further explained that these resolutions do not obligate Alleghany County to finance this.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the QZAB monies are for the schools and presented information about QZAB. He said that these were no-interest loans but the federal law has changed, and now it is not a good deal for banks. He talked about this is a nationwide problem and no banks are interested in 0% loans. He stated that he has been working with the Local Government Commission trying to find an interested bank. He further stated that Bank of America was the only bank that he knew that offered these loans and they have made a policy decision to not offer any 2006 or 2007 QZAB loans. He explained that Dr. Jeff Cox has also been working to find a bank willing to offer these loans, and with help from the Department of Public Instruction, he found one bank that will offer this type of loan with a supplemental interest rate. He reviewed the options; wait to see if the law is changed or send out request for proposals and the start Local Government Commission process.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams talked about the amount of money required for the interest. County Manager Don Adams said that it would decrease the \$2,000,000 by approximately \$150,000 or increase the annual payments from \$146,000 to approximately \$170,000.

County Manager Don Adams explained how the federal law change has hurt Alleghany County, as well as the banks.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about all of the QZAB items were needed at all four schools.

County Manager Don Adams explained the timeline and the final vote will be at the first meeting in October in order to meet the Local Government Commission's timeline.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about meeting with the School Board to discuss this.

County Manager Don Adams explained that it will take 60 days to get access to the money. He said he wanted to let everyone know the timing of the process.

Chair Ken Richardson and Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about providing direction to Don Adams before the joint meeting with the School Board.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the direction will start the process with the Local Government Commission. He said that the costs will be for the public hearing ad and the \$500 application fee to the Local Government Commission. He asked if the Board is interested in this type of a loan.

Chair Ken Richardson and Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about this is

probably the cheapest money that we will get.

County Manager Don Adams stated that this starts the process. He talked about the possibility of needing to hire a bond attorney. He stated that this will start the process if the Board wants to but he won't spend any money before the next meeting.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about the need to start some of this work soon.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he is hearing nothing against going forward at this point.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams talked about the timing of the request for proposals and the banks interest rates will be good for 60 days.

County Manager Don Adams stated that Dr. Cox has requested for the Commissioners to have a joint meeting the Board of Education.

The Board discussed dates for the meeting with the Board of Education; Sept 11 and Sept 17 at 5:30pm with the 17th being preferred.

Commissioner Warren Taylor asked about the pool renovations.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about the pool renovations. He talked about getting a couple of free things in the contract. He further talked about withholding payments. He said that work is beginning on the site and should be noticeable soon. He explained the free items; baby pool and steps/ladder. He talked about he is withholding their money.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked about the status of the natural dam.

County Manager Don Adams said he sent letters to NCDOT asking that the requirements be waived to put the road back on the state maintenance system and is waiting for their answer.

Chair Ken Richardson said that there are letters in the Commissioners' mailboxes asking him to be on the NCACC risk management pool. He talked about it would give Alleghany County a seat at the table.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 7:14pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the regular meeting at 7:20pm. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that no decisions were made during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 7:22pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman