

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 17, 2007, at 3:30pm 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 Warren Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that closed session for legal needs to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this September 17, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, September 17, 2007  
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer  
Motion on Agenda for September 17, 2007, meeting  
Motion on Minutes for August 29 and September 4, 2007, meetings  
Motion on August Tax Releases & Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes  
B. Mary Walker  
RE: Late Tax Applications  
C. Gerald Leftwich  
RE: E Plan and Annual Report  
D. Health Department Annual Report  
E. Building Inspection Annual Report  
F. County Business  
1. Ropes Course Budget Amendment  
2. Review Officer Resolution  
3. NCDOT/Rescue Squad Agreement  
4. NCDOT/Glade Creek VFD Agreement  
5. Fairgrounds Sound System  
6. Safety Needs Assessment  
7. QZAB Funding  
8. Other Business  
9. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development  
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel  
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal (added)  
10. Adjourn

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 29, and September 4, 2007, meetings. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the real property releases and refunds for August. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the vehicle releases and refunds for August. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to present late tax applications for present-use value.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the present-use applications. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion.

Chair Ken Richardson and Mary Walker talked about the letters having dates on them in the future.

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

Mary Walker presented late elderly exemption letters.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the late elderly exemption applications. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented two letters for solid waste appeals. She explained that Ms. Hammock had appealed before and the house is valued at \$2,400. She further explained Mr. Shaw's situation. She stated her recommendation regarding Mr. Shaw's request.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to release the solid waste fees. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Gerald Leftwich, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented his annual report. He reviewed the highlights of his activities during the last year including multi-hazard planning class, county-wide tornado drills, presented 16 programs about emergency preparation, fire safety training, generator transfer switch hook-ups being installed, preparation activities, disaster drill exercises, fuel spills, fire inspections, explosives material permits and fire suppression system permits. He asked the Board to approve the Emergency Operations Plan updates.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the Emergency Operations Plan updates. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson and Gerald Leftwich discussed the generator transfer switch hook-ups at Sparta Elementary School and Piney Creek Elementary School. County Manager Don Adams talked about the school's maintenance staff was unable to install the switches and having to go with a private company.

Commissioner Randy Miller, County Manager Don Adams and Gerald Leftwich talked about the price of the generator transfer switch hook-ups and taking approximately two weeks to install these switches.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Gerald Leftwich talked about how much of Sparta Elementary School would have power with the generator. Mr. Leftwich talked about the costs of the switch at Sparta Elementary School because of the three-phase power and the other schools will cost less.

Larry Dickerson, Director of E Plan Online, gave the Board a brief overview of Alleghany County's Online Emergency Plan and how it can be accessed online.

Gerald Leftwich thanked Mr. Dickerson for his work on the E Plan.

Danny Staley, Health Director, presented the annual report for Appalachian District Health Department. He reviewed the highlights of the areas of concerns; mosquitoes, rabies, pandemic flu, campylobacter and their accomplishments of well testing requirements, walking track at Glade Creek Elementary School and participation in an air quality survey.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Danny Staley discussed the rabies issue. Mr. Staley reviewed the Health Department's guidelines for testing for rabies.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Danny Staley talked about the Community Health Needs Assessment report. Mr. Staley talked about the importance of the Community Health Needs Assessment. He invited everyone to attend a meeting on September 26 about the Assessment.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Chair Ken Richardson thanked Mr. Staley for his work. Chair Ken Richardson reminded the Board that Warren Taylor is the Commissioner representative on the Health Board, and he does an excellent job.

Randy Blankenship, Chief Building Inspector, presented the annual report for the Building Inspection Department including the number of inspections, number and types of permits issued, average number of daily customers and daily phone calls, number of miles driven, hired a third inspector, followed up on approximately 50 complaints and are dealing with a few lawsuits in the county. He updated the Board about the status of two new hires and their training to date.

County Manager Don Adams and Randy Blankenship talked about the amount of training that is required for Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 certifications.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Randy Blankenship talked about having on-the-job training plus their class work.

Randy Blankenship talked about his budget's auto line should have been \$6,500 but it was listed as \$1,500 during the budget process. He said that a budget amendment will be coming back before the Board.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$742 for the Ropes Course. He explained that these monies are rollover monies from last year and these funds were raised through private donations.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$742. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a resolution naming Wendy Williams, Mary Rector, Don Adams and Kathy Murphy as plat review officers. He explained that this resolution is replacing Amy Pardue with Kathy Murphy.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the resolution as presented by the County Manager. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented agreements with the Alleghany County Rescue Squad and Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department and North Carolina Department of Transportation. He explained that the State reimburses these agencies for improvements made to their bay door entrances. He further explained that the rescue squad's amount is \$1,560 and the fire department's amount is \$2,281. He stated that these funds must pass through Alleghany County.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve both agreements. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the fairgrounds sound system and complaints from someone in the neighborhood. He further talked about the fairgrounds board is developing rules regarding the system. He said that the complainant only wants the system used during events. He explained concerns from the fairgrounds board including setting up for events to ensure that everything is working prior to the event and people setting up for events like to listen to music and use it for announcements during the set-up process.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams talked about the system and how sound carries.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the main issue is using the sound system only on the day of the event and then the problems that creates.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the Board should go with the fairgrounds committee recommendations.

County Manager Don Adams said he is looking for general direction from the Board regarding this issue.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed that there has been one complaint with the new system.

County Manager Don Adams explained that it is reasonable to ask about testing it for an event and using it at the event. He further explained that the question is about using it for personal enjoyment while setting up for events. He talked about he needs to respond in writing and is looking for guidance from the Board. He talked about the main request is not using the system expect for events. He explained how he has investigated the complaint.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about yielding to what the fairgrounds board recommends.

The Board of Commissioners agreed.

County Manager Don Adams presented a proposal from Solutions for Local Government regarding a public safety needs assessment study. He reviewed the letter of agreement and Steve Allen's biography. He stated that he has talked to some of the County Manager's who have utilized Mr. Allen's services and received good reports. He explained why he thinks Mr. Allen will work well with the volunteer fire departments and the rescue squad. He further explained the letter of agreement, including the services will not exceed \$7,500. He talked about the major tasks and activities to be completed. He said he wants to get a master capital plan and develop a comprehensive report to start long-term planning for safety issues.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the timeline being around two months.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he would like to take two-three weeks of prepping everyone before the County says go. He further explained that he would like to present the results to the Board in December or January.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the letter of agreement. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained the six different scenarios for the QZAB loans with varying interest rates/increase in annual payments and with varying interest rates/loan amount reduction to stay within the budgeted \$146,000 debt payment. He stated that reducing the loan amount could increase the interest rate. He further stated that he is going to ask for a bond attorney to work on this project. He explained that LaSalle Bank hasn't done any work in North Carolina. He further explained the documents that will be required that LaSalle Bank doesn't provide. He said that he wants to push this back one month. He talked about BB&T may be interested in the QZAB loans at 0% interest.

The Board talked about it will be wise to wait another month about the banks.

County Manager Don Adams talked about getting quotes from bond attorneys to have for the Board, if a bond attorney is needed.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about this could be a discussion with the School Board and how a loan reduction would impact them.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that this issue is tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to enter into closed session at

4:50pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4)—economic development, (a) (6)—personnel and (a) (3)—legal. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Attorney Donna Shumate left the meeting at 5:18pm.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:34pm. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:35pm. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson  
Chairman

NORTH CAROLINA        )  
  )  
ALLEGHANY COUNTY     )

RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, S.L. 1997-309 (S875) makes a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

**WHEREAS**, the main purpose of the law is to transfer the responsibility for reviewing plats to determine whether they meet recording requirements for the Register of Deeds to a Review Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, NCGS 47-30.02 requires the Board of Commissioners in each county, by resolution, to appoint a person to serve as Review Officer to review each plat before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Alleghany County Board of Commissioners to insure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by NCG S 47-30.2 before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** effective September 17, 2007, that Kaynita L. (Wendy) Williams and Mary Rector of the Alleghany County Mapping/E-911 Office and Don Adams of the Alleghany County Administration Office and Kathy Murphy of the Alleghany County Planning Office are hereby appointed to perform all responsibilities as required for Review Officer under the appropriate North Carolina General Statutes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution designating the Review Officers be recorded in the Alleghany County Register of Deeds Office and indexed in the name of the Review Officer.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007.

