

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 15, 2012, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the agenda for this October 15, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, October 15, 2012
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for October 15, 2012, Meeting
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Rita Miller
RE: September Releases and Refunds
September Collections Report
- C. Dr. Jeff Cox
RE: Race To The Top Grant Opportunity
- D. Mapping/E-911 Annual Report
E. Soil and Water Annual Report
F. General Business
1. Joint Meeting Reminder
2. Transfer Facility Loader Budget Amendment
3. Health Benefits Consultant Services Budget Amendment
4. Drivers License Office
5. Transfer Facility Attendant Open Position/Maintenance Position
6. Veterans Memorial Park
- G. Adjourn

Chair Richardson opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for public comments.

Dennis Smith talked about he believes our Country is in the process of being dismantled. He talked about local politics and how what happens in Washington impacts here. He explained that he has given the Board examples, and they have been ignored. He talked about it isn't about him it's about the fact the Country is being destroyed, and no one seems to care. He gave examples. He talked about evil is all around us. He asked is it too much to ask that you, as local representatives, stand against it when you are asked. He talked about it is October and now the rate increase is in effect; the Board took no action. He further talked about BREMCO/County has a unique relationship. He talked about the history of the Administration Building, the current BREMCO building and the Carolina Narrow Building for Charleston Forge. He talked about looking at the different loans that the County has with one labeled BREMCO for the Hospital. He further talked about according to the agenda it looks like the Board will add to the current debt. He quoted the debt of the loans and what they are for. He talked about the current census of the households in the county and the number of people living below poverty level. He explained that a county bank could help. He read a prayer offered before the US Senate.

Iboya Pasley came before the Board speaking in favor of the Veterans Park. She explained that she has three kids who play soccer and having to be at different places at the same time. She further explained that the Veterans Park would give soccer a home. She talked about the different parks in Sparta including she is still working on her park idea for public access to Little River. She talked about activities of the Town. She explained she attended the Golden Leaf meetings and promoting healthy lifestyles was very big on the agenda. She said that this Park will help accomplish that. She asked the Board to fund the last 16% of the Park. She said that she believes it will move the economic needle in the county. She talked about we owe it to the soccer players.

Lucas Pasley talked about having three kids playing on three separate fields at the same time. He talked about this is a need in the community. He talked about the growing soccer league. He further talked about he cannot imagine a safer environment. He explained that it makes its on case. He talked about we will use this Park. He explained that it is his understanding, thanks to the effort of the County Manager, that we stand to gain this Park at 16% of its costs, which is a deal of a lifetime. He talked about the responsibility of spending more money but also the responsibility of passing up a deal like this that will add

so much to the community and the deal that may quickly be gone and never coming back. He said that he believes it will pay off in the long run. He talked about the less the young professionals have to give up to move here the more they will. He said thanks for the tough decisions that have to be made.

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

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the September auto releases and refunds.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the September auto releases and refunds. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about the high mileage adjustment.

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

Rita Miller presented the September real property releases and refunds.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the September real property releases and refunds. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the September 2012 collections' report.

Rita Miller explained that she attended a meeting in Hickory about the combined motor vehicle/tag law. She further explained that they are already gathering data and March 2013 is when this will start.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, talked about the school system is applying for another Federal Race to the Top grant. He passed out papers to the Board regarding the grant. He explained that these grant funds are to encourage school districts to be innovative and try new things. He further explained that they have been asked to join along with 9 other school entities across the Nation. He explained that Allegheny County's share would be \$4,000,000 over 4 years. He talked about the priority and the focus of the grant. He said that this is a 1:1 initiative and explained how that works in regards to the use of technology. He talked about working with the Golden Leaf grant for model classrooms and having 6 in place and just awarded 7 more classrooms. He explained that the Golden Leaf grant will enable 7 classrooms this year and 7 next year. He further explained that this Race to the Top grant will fill in where those don't so it will be across the school system. He talked about it costs \$6,800 to hire a consultant to write the grant. He reviewed the program components. He read information about the local economic development impact. He talked about this serves the students as well as the community.

Chair Richardson talked about if the school system had not been good stewards of money, they would not have been invited to apply.

Commissioner Smith and Dr. Cox talked about the current timeline.

Commissioner Cox and Dr. Cox talked about looking ahead after the schools get their share of this grant; sustainability. Dr. Cox explained the importance of the 1:1 ratio and how the model classrooms work, more and more students already have devices, think they will be able to start putting things in place, when we have to replace the laptops the costs will be down, by the time grant funds go down, they will have built into their budget desktop computers and replenishing those. Commissioner Cox talked about how much technology is changing. Dr. Cox gave an example of the number of students who have laptops/internet connection. Commissioner Cox talked about the concept of if you don't have it; we will supply it and if you have it then bring it.

Dr. Cox talked about the needed information for the grant being a letter that he presented this to the County Commissioners.

Chair Richardson talked about the County Manager writing a letter, and he will sign it.

Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper, presented the annual report for Mapping and 911. She explained what Mapping does and provided statistics for the office including there are over 16,000 parcels, over 40 GIS layers and the number of deed transfers/splits/combinations. She further explained the 911 duties and provided statistics for this portion of her office including the number of 911 calls through wireless and wired calls plus the number of roads and addressed structures.

Commissioner Cox and Wendy Williams talked about how often the aerial photographs are updated with 2010 being the last time. She explained that she doesn't know what our projected timeline is now since the State is doing the aerial photographs.

Linda Hash, Administrator Director/Conversionist II, presented the Soil and Water annual report. She passed out the quarterly report showing the statistics and another handout. She talked about the information for districts sheet including the number of districts and other historical information. She reviewed some of their accomplishments during the past. She talked about an upcoming conservation workshop in West Jefferson.

Commissioner Smith and Linda Hash talked about the envirothon on October 25 at the Lions Club. She talked about what the students learn about in their participation.

The Board of Commissioners took a brief recess at 10:55am.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone about the Joint meeting with the Town of Sparta at 7:00pm on October 29. He talked about the special meeting at 6:30pm with Jeffrey Elmore, our new House representative.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$154,682 to budget for CAT loader. He explained that he is going out to bid today for loan.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$154,682. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #4 in the amount of \$5,500. He explained that this is to budget for the health benefit consultant services that was discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #4 in the amount of \$5,500. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from NCDMV about the driver's license office. He talked about the letter is detailing out what is needed for a driver's license office. He further talked about looking at space at the BDC and the proposed location at the BDC site. He explained in order to meet these specifications, the old tech room is being proposed to be divided up to give DMV their own waiting room and examine room. He talked about there will be some costs associated with this project; wiring, electrical, putting walls up. He further talked about our people can do this work. He explained the room was overbuilt when it was renovated. He talked about outside costs will be to the sprinkler system. He explained the last time this Board discussed the driver's license office, he was told to do what we had to do to keep a drivers license.

The Board agreed.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone that in order to have a DMV office here we have to give them free space.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about they are here two days a week and that will not change.

County Manager Don Adams said that he will continue forward with our own labor but will have some material costs and sprinkler system costs.

County Manager Don Adams explained what is before the Board is the Public Works Director's job description and Maintenance Worker job description. He provided a copy of the Animal Control Officer's job description. He explained that there is an open position at Transfer Facility but he is not requesting it to be filled. He further explained what he wants to do. He talked about how staff has been short for a while. He updated everyone that the Public Works Director's position has been filled by Graylen Blevins, Transfer Facility Attendant vacant, and the Animal Control Officer is back. He explained his proposal is to move Animal control/Transfer Facility Attendant to Transfer Facility Attendant. Grade 60 to 59. He talked about it is more appropriate work for him. He explained that he has talked to him, and he is a skilled worker. He further explained that he is asking that this employee be allowed to work 40 hours per week with the additional 4 hours to work the white goods area, plus he can provide backup to the loader operators. He explained that his second request is not fill the animal control position and create a Maintenance Worker position. He further explained how animal control works. He talked about the starting pay for Animal Control Officer is the same as a Maintenance Worker. He explained that this change would be ending up with Public Works Director and 3 Maintenance Workers who will all do animal control duties. He talked about the need to have someone named the Animal Control Officer. He talked about on the bottom of Public Works Director a sentence has been added that says "serves as Animal Control Officer as referenced on the job description of Animal Control Office I". He explained that this position has always served as backup. He gave a background of situations where Maintenance/animal control respond at night and this scenario will have only 1 person on call. He reiterated that his request is to reclassify the current

Animal Control Officer to Transfer Facility Attendant which is a grade 60 to a grade 59 and then work 4 additional hours each week, change the Public Works Director's job description by adding the sentence and vote to allow him to advertise to hire a Maintenance Worker in lieu of the Transfer Facility Attendant

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve all three. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the proposed Veterans Memorial Park. He said that he is currently at an impasse on this project. He talked about Allegheny County is short \$57,000 to get the \$172,000 grant matched. He further talked about the Golden Leaf application was submitted, and they decided not to fund this project. He reviewed the items in the packet; project ordinance, copy of original budget dated January 2010 that was submitted to PARTF. He talked about when this project was applied for its name was Sparta Parkway Park and the project was awarded during that summer of 2010, project ordinance adopted in September 2010 and the name was changed at that time at the request of the VFW Post Commander. He continued reviewing the information in the packet; budget form submitted to Golden Leaf. He talked about doubling the contingency in the Golden Leaf request because the numbers are old. He reviewed the summary of the fundraising efforts; Triangle Community Foundation--\$50,000, The Chatham Foundation--\$25,000, BB&T--\$25,000, Allegheny Rotary Club--\$15,000. He further reviewed the next page of the funding shortfall of \$57,479 of the original budget in January 2010. He talked about the last page is the scope of work showing the length of project is October 1, 2010—September 30, 2013. He explained how it works with PARTF being a cash-to-cash match, and this has to be completely closed out September 30, 2013.

Chair Richardson talked about the last conversations about the approval of \$2,500.

County Manager Don Adams explained that before he can do anything out there he has to have an erosion control plan and he thought it would be \$2,000-\$2,500. He explained he talked with the engineer and asked him to price out everything that was needed to get started and the quote was \$9,500, and he wasn't comfortable spending \$9,500. He talked about using existing data. He reiterated that it would be \$9,500 plus a little extra money for the survey around the bridge area.

Chair Richardson asked is that included in the original. County Manager Don Adams explained the January 2010 costs and how it will be \$15,000 and it has changed some. Chair Richardson said the County Manager wouldn't have recommended it if it isn't needed. The County Manager stated that this would be the first step.

Commissioner Cox talked about keeping it going, and he thought this was going before the Marine League. The County Manager said he has made some phone calls. They talked about phone calls regarding to have some meetings with the VFW and Marine League.

Chair Richardson asked for a motion to approve \$9,500 to move forward. He explained that there are still ongoing fundraising efforts. He informed everyone that last Tuesday he presented this project to RC&D and he should have a letter from them to show their commitment to the project. He talked about needing an indication today about the \$9,500 and the next meeting the Board can talk about the remaining funds.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to allow the County Manager to proceed with the \$9,500 for the engineering and come back to the next meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson talked about this has been discussed by three separate Boards of Commissioners. He talked about using the least amount of money as possible from the County and not lose the grant.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about he cannot support this not knowing where this is going with the fundraising efforts and using taxpayers' money is irresponsible. He said he doesn't see an economic benefit for this. He talked about right now we have people that are out of work. He further talked about this Board has raised taxes for the last two years and funded things that shouldn't have been. He reiterated that he cannot support going forward.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 11:37am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman