

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Milly Richardson was present but arrived late.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Doug Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 2, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA
Monday, November 2, 2009
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order
Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for November 2, 2009, meeting
Motion on Minutes for October 19, 2009, meeting
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Mary Walker
RE: Tax Appeals
C. Larry Davis
RE: Loader at Transfer Facility
D. Rescue Squad Annual Report
E. Martin Starnes and Associates
RE: FY2008/2009 Audit Presentation
F. County Business
1. DSS Budget Amendment
2. Transportation Budget Amendment
3. EMS Project Ordinance
4. QSCB Update
5. Other Business
6. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
7. Adjourn

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

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

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, came before the Board to present a late application for Forestry Use, and stated the Tax Office doesn't have a problem with the application other than it is late.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve late application. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson arrived at 6:35pm.

Mary Walker presented a motor-vehicle appeal for a camping trailer with an assessed value of \$33,646. She talked about she called a camping dealer who recommended \$27,420, which is the retail value.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Mary Walker talked about the owner's opinion

of \$20,000.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Mary Walker talked about the property owner did not produce a bill of sale.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the value the assessor recommended. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Larry Davis, Public Works Director, came before the Board to discuss the situation of the loader and its engine problems and can't rebuild it because there is nothing to build to.

Chair Ken Richardson and Larry Davis discussed the reasons to repair this loader rather than purchasing a new loader. Larry Davis discussed how the loader is used.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Larry Davis discussed the loader is a 963.

Chair Ken Richardson and Larry Davis talked about the general condition of the loader, and Larry Davis recommending the replacement of the engine rather than rebuilding.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed a copy of the bids; Carolina CAT \$23,397.24, Advantage \$25,304 with a new CAT motor, Advantage \$18,054 with a rebuilt CAT motor and Kemp Irwin \$12,752.43 with a rebuilt private company motor. He further reviewed the warranty information for each of the bids being 1 year for the Carolina CAT bid and 6 months for the other bids.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Commissioner Steve Roten discussed Kemp Irwin's bid.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Kemp Irwin's bid is through Iron Petal. He further explained this motor isn't a CAT motor. He explained that the other rebuilt motor is through a CAT dealer.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Larry Davis discussed having a new CAT motor.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed the shipping costs for the replacement of the motor.

Chair Ken Richardson and Larry Davis discussed having to currently rent a loader to get the work completed.

Commissioner Milly Richardson and Larry Davis discussed last time the loader went to Carolina CAT.

County Manager Don Adams explained the differences in the warranties.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to go with Carolina CAT for a new motor. Chair Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Brandon Jones, Captain with the Rescue Squad, came before the Board to present their annual report. He thanked the Board and the County Manager for their assistance in the emergency services area throughout the county. He talked about their budget last year. He reviewed their number of calls this year versus last year, number of man hours, number of training hours, types of calls, number of members and types of certifications.

Chair Ken Richardson and Brandon Jones talked about efforts that went into the training activity on Saturday.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the value of the rescue squad.

Brandon Jones talked about their call volume versus any of the fire departments'

call volume. He further talked about starting treatments on scene to assist patients.

Chair Ken Richardson and Brandon Jones discussed the number of rescue technicians and what happens if the number drops below eight.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Brandon Jones discussed training through the Community College and the Junior Rescue Squad.

The Board thanked Brandon Jones.

J.P. Jones with Martin Starnes and Associates presented the fiscal year 2008/2009 audit report. He reviewed the first portion of the audit. He described the layout of the book.

County Manager Don Adams encouraged the Board to read through this section and page 57 starts the section where the information is presented in the format that the Board is more familiar with.

J.P. Jones continued reviewing the audit including the compliance reports, audit process, fund balances, ad valorem taxes, other taxes licenses, restricted intergovernmental revenues, human services expenditures, public safety expenditures, general government expenditures, debt service, other governmental funds and the enterprise fund.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the fund balance is higher than anticipated during budget time.

J.P. Jones mentioned that the audit started the OPEB standard, as required.

Chair Ken Richardson thanked J.P. Jones for the report.

J.P. Jones thanked the Board and said for the County to contact him any time he is needed.

County Manager Don Adams provided an update to the Board regarding current sales tax figures, collected more property taxes at this point, investments have decreased, Register of Deeds and Building Inspections fees are coming in as projected, lottery monies came in this year that was withheld last year, EMS receipts are right on the mark, federal inmates are down and housing Wilkes County inmates offsetting federal inmates. He talked about the budget as a whole, the County has collected more monies than this time last year. He explained that the next time to look at the budget will be when property taxes come in again in January. He reiterated that the revenues are ok from where they were projected.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #7 in the amount of \$23,416 for additional child care funds.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #7 in the amount of \$23,416. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Transportation Fund #1 in the amount of \$2,402. He explained that this is for an insurance claim regarding an accident involving a deer.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve budget amendment Transportation Fund #1 in the amount of \$2,402. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the EMS Building Fund in the amount of \$244,519 and budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$45,128 to budget for the transfer to the EMS Building Fund. He reviewed the project fund.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed the contingency amount. The County Manager explained that normally it is between 5-10%, this is 4.1% and used examples of why contingency could be used.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve the EMS building project ordinance. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #8 in the amount of \$45,128. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed revised analysis of the potential BB&T QSCB loan. He explained that after talking to Louis Lloyd, the closing costs will be \$17,000, costs for title insurance and survey work plus the proposed loan will not over 2% interest rate. He further explained that BB&T will have a pre-payment penalty associated with the loan, and there are no provisions in the law that allows QSCB's to be re-issued. He stated that the annual debt payments will reduce by \$235,674 from 2009/10 to 2010/11 then will reduce by \$340,517 from 2010/11 to 2011/12. He reviewed the QSCB loan amount of \$3,339,586, amount of interest and payments at 4.5% then 2% then 0%. He explained that the major difference is between 4.5% and 2%. He talked about the water/sewer amounts. He said that it may be possible to find another bank next year but at no point has he heard anyone thinking about 0%. He explained that he went back to the national bank that may have an interest next year and they stated a strong maybe, but they issued two this year and will look at coupon rates. He talked about they have to wait until the first quarter data comes in because they will not consider this until March or April.

Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Steve Roten and County Manager Don Adams discussed the debt reduction amounts over a three year period and those being the Law Enforcement Center and Sparta School.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the Board made the decision to go ahead and advertise for the public hearing with the understanding to decide tonight which direction to go on this project.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that Commissioner Miller had a good point to keep looking, and the Board has a decision to make on the data in front of us.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board that this window of opportunity with BB&T is until December 31, 2009. He explained that he has asked multiple times about next year and Louis Lloyd doesn't know about next year.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about how the closing costs and interest rate came down from Thursday's meeting and explained that it is hard for him to imagine that the County will get better than 2% interest.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that the Board did instruct the County Manager to pursue all things regarding the water/sewer issues.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he will support the majority of the Board on this issue. He asked what the school board thinks of this.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he hasn't spoken to the Board of Education but did talk to Dr. Jeff Cox, and they have experienced the same thing about not knowing of any other banks out there. He talked about this is a timing issue because if the Board said go today, construction will be in May.

Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about the Board of Education has laid out a plan of what is needed out there and he doesn't think there are things that aren't needed there. He said that he is ready to proceed.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he feels like the needs are there and are necessary. He talked about moving forward and still try to get the best rates possible.

Commissioner Randy Miller stated that he doesn't like it but it has to be done.

Commissioner Milly Richardson said that Commissioner Miller's comment summed it up.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the final decision will be the resolution after the public hearing. The County Manager explained the steps that will have to occur and some expenses will be incurred.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to move forward. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams informed the Board that he has received a letter of obligation of funds for the safety training facility.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:50pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:10pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to move forward to fill the open position of full-time transportation driver. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to adjourn at 8:12pm. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman