

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 20, 2010, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman 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 and welcomed everyone, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the agenda for this December 20, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, December 20, 2010
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
Motion on Agenda for December 20, 2010, meeting
Motion on Minutes for December 6, 2010, meeting
Motion on November Tax Releases and Refunds (moved to Item C)
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Sue Richardson
C. Rita Miller
RE: Solid Waste Appeals
Tax Releases
D. April Hamm
RE: Drug/Alcohol Policy Update
Transportation Budget
E. Joy Hines
RE: Mental Health Quarterly Report
F. Martin Starnes & Associates
RE: 2009/10 Audit Report
G. County Manager's Business
1. Legislative Goals Conference
2. 2011 Joint Meeting Schedule
3. Meeting on Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
4. Code of Ethics Policy
5. E911 Budget Amendments
6. Federal Inmates/Female Inmates Budget Amendment
7. Secondary Roads Construction Program Deviation Procedures
H. County Commissioners' Business
1. Holiday Pay—Commissioner Cox & Chair Richardson
Revisit Holiday Furloughs for Employees
2. Boards/Committee Information—Chair Richardson
Whether to Provide Information to Each Commissioner about Their
Boards/Committees Activities/Actions
3. Annual Reports—Chair Richardson
Whether to Continue with Annual Reports
I. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
J. Adjourn

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson stated that releases and refunds need to be moved down to Section C on the agenda.

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

Sue Richardson came before the Board to discuss an issue she has had for about 42 years where she lost her land then her house insurance. She said that she cannot remember the date but it was in September where her land was deeded away, and she tried to stop them. She explained the actions that occurred including she didn't know that the acreage was on the papers when she signed them. She further explained issues regarding the check and her financial

troubles. She said she wants to be paid for the land and wants the deed reversed. She further said that she has been working on this since March 28, 1968. She stated that she has contacted other people and nothing is done. She showed the County Manager a picture of the house.

The County Manager asked if she has talked to an attorney.

Sue Richardson stated that a woman told her to talk to the Commissioners. She talked about the family cemetery, the house that was lost due to the loans, brother died hungry over this, spent money on this including how to get to this meeting, having enough power here for some of you to get with Richard Doughton, Dan Murray, the Judge because they didn't wait until her attorney got there. She explained that her family is mad at her for selling the land. She said this is a big mess, she was innocent; she didn't know what to do because she had to sign since they were going to take us to a higher court. She talked about her family situation at that time and now.

The County Manager explained that he is going to ask the County Attorney to address the County Commissioners about what the County can do or cannot do about this situation.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that she is familiar with this situation.

Sue Richardson talked about the amount of information that she has gathered over the years, wants your help and feels like there is someone here that can help.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that Ms. Richardson has been in her office numerous times, statute of limitations has long run out and this Board of Commissioners, or any Board of Commissioners, has no authority over the courts.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Ms. Richardson is currently a client of Allegheny in Motion, got her in contact with John Blevins at Social Service and Allegheny Cares. He further explained that he has tried multiple times to get her in contact with people to assist her with other things and she doesn't want assistance for things like food/nutrition.

The County Manager thanked Sue Richardson on behalf of the Commissioners for coming and stated that there is nothing the Board can do on the advice of the County Attorney.

Sue Richardson said so there is nothing the County can do. She thanked everyone. She said that she has lost her home/life. She further said that she doesn't believe there is one of you here that wouldn't feel like this. She stated that she doesn't have money and cannot travel to Raleigh. She stated that she wants her money and reverse that land so she can sell the land to Church & Church because of the timber on the land. She thanked everyone again.

Rita Miller, Assistant Tax Administrator, talked about on November 15 the Board approved releasing 1998-1999 taxes that cannot be collected. She explained that when they were doing the month-end tax collectors report they discovered the interest was not included in that action.

County Manager Don Adams pointed out she is talking about a letter that is in the Commissioners' packets.

Rita Miller explained that Fred Sides supplied Mary Walker with the original amount but it should have been the original amount plus the interest.

Chair Richardson and Rita Miller discussed that she is talking about vehicles only.

Chair Richardson, County Manager Don Adams and Rita Miller talked about addressing these releases separately.

Chair Richardson explained the releases and refunds procedures.

Commissioner Roten asked a question about a tax release for a higher amount for one of the taxpayers.

Rita Miller stated that she will be glad to pull that one to check it out.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the real and auto releases for November. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson asked if she is going to investigate that particular one. Rita Miller answered yes.

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

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the real and auto refunds for November. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson asked if the Board would like to have someone here when these releases and refunds are discussed at the mid-month meetings. The Board agreed.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the adoption of the releases took care of the additional request in the letter.

Chair Richardson asked Rita Miller to explain the letter about releasing \$7,973.93.

Rita Miller explained that included in this letter to the Board is the same request as earlier with the 1996-1997 vehicles taxes due to the statute of limitations for collections. She further explained that they thought this had already been released but could not find an actual vote but did find where it was discussed.

Chair Richardson asked if these are deemed uncollectable.

Rita Miller agreed and stated that they cannot use any forced collection methods and these will come off of the books.

Commissioner Roten and Chair Richardson talked about the 1996-1997 amounts are listed on the releases that were just approved.

Rita Miller presented a solid waste fee request letter from Toni Stephens. She explained the situation regarding the mobile home including there is no power on this mobile home. She further explained that they are asking for the solid waste fee to be permanently removed and released for 2010.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the requests. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Roten said it looks like it is unlivable. Rita Miller agreed.

Rita Miller presented a solid waste fee request letter from Cliff Phillips. She explained that they have discontinued the power to the unused mobile home on their property.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about this does not include past years only from now forward.

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

April Hamm, Alleghany in Motion's (AIM) Director, submitted changes to their drug/alcohol policy as required by FTA. She explained that the only change is adding ecstasy to the policy. She further explained that this is the policy that was presented earlier this year.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm talked about a Transportation Fund budget amendment. She updated the Board about how the transportation fund operates like a small business. She explained the revenues/expenses for the budget amendment including the revenues are the grant funds that was previously applied for and expenses include ARRA capital expenses for a heating/air unit at the County Office Building and roof repairs on the Maintenance Building.

Chair Richardson and April Hamm talked about she has awarded the bid for the heating/air, and the fuel is for vehicles. She explained that everything in the transportation budget supports the vans and people who drive them.

Chair Richardson and April Hamm talked about this actually involves no County money.

Commissioner Cox and April Hamm talked about the ARRA money. The County Manager explained this wasn't budgeted because no one knew when the money would be received.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment Transportation Fund #1 in the amount of \$30,489. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson stated that he appreciates the explanation of the budget amendment.

Commissioner Smith thanked AIM for their work.

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

County Manager Don Adams asked April Hamm to talk about their mileage.

April Hamm explained that last year they traveled 396,000 miles and for the first quarter of this year they have already traveled 229,000 miles. She talked about the huge increase in their services.

Joy Hines, Finance Officer, presented the mental health quarterly reports for Smoky Mountain Center. She explained the first set of documents in their packets including the letter which explains why she is presenting this to the Commissioners, their budget versus actual for 2009/10 with a (\$821,318) change in their fund balance, summary page and initial budget for 2010/11. She review the second set of documents which includes the more updated report for September 30, 2010, showing all of the revenues are in on schedule, expenses are in at 89% and the next page is the explanation sheet.

Chair Richardson and Joy Hines talked about the amount of cash on hand and service exceptions shown in the report. He explained that he is the Commissioner on this board and will find out more information about Smoky Mountain Center.

Chair Richardson thanked her for these reports.

Commissioner Roten and Chair Richardson talked about this includes 15 counties.

Chair Richardson declared a brief recess at 10:45am.

Chris Cosner with Martin Starnes and Associates presented the fiscal year 2009/10 audit. He described the layout of the book. He presented a PowerPoint presentation of the audit that reviewed the financial statement overview, independent auditors' report, management's discussion/analysis, statement of net assets/statement of activities, fund financial statements, supplementary information, compliance reports, audit highlights, audit process, fund balances, ad valorem taxes, restricted intergovernmental revenues, other taxes and licenses, public safety expenditures, education expenditures, general government expenditures, debt service, other governmental funds, the enterprise fund along with financial report changes for 2011, current State/local conditions, summary of responses to the recession, what does the State legislature face and what does the State problems mean to local government.

During various times in the audit presentation the County Manager discussed the following information with the Board of Commissioners; revenues are combined with examples of how taxes are grouped together in the revenues, expenditures line up as the budget is laid out, amount of fund balance used is significantly less than what was planned during the budget process, he always presents the total fund balance since he doesn't know the reserved amount until the auditors have completed the audit, the fund balance numbers include the fund balance for the Register of Deeds, reviewed a couple of reasons why the fund balance is higher including tax collections were higher/auditors released money that they have been holding for a couple of years due to a payment to the State, sales tax collections based on State projections, debt service difference has already been expended with the Glade Creek School project, solid waste fees were reduced during the budget process, sales ratio information where 31 counties have assessed values above market values and our sales ratio isn't like that.

Also during the audit presentation Commissioner Smith asked does the County have a goal that the fund balance should be. The County Manager explained that the Commissioners have never adopted a formal goal but his recommendation is 20% to 30%. He further explained that based on the literature that he has, the State's policy is when a county's fund balance falls below half of their population group then the State starts sending letters.

Also during the audit presentation Commissioner Cox asked why are there so much difference in budgeted and expended in public safety. The County Manager provided an example

of money is budgeted for Federal inmates where additional revenues weren't received and budgeted expenses weren't spent because the anticipated numbers of inmates were not here.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked the reason the beer/wine taxes were so far off was because the State withheld the money. The County Manager explained, as another example, as soon as lottery money gets dropped into our account, we draw it down so if it is frozen we won't lose that additional amount.

County Manager Don Adams presented information to the Board about the legislative goals conference including the timeline that began in September and continues until the conference in January, all of the 2009/10 goals and voting delegate selection information.

Commissioner Roten asked Chair Richardson if he is going to attend.

Chair Richardson answered yes.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to appoint Richardson as Alleghany County's voting delegate. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Chair Richardson informed the Board that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners did adopt the list of goals.

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

County Manager Don Adams explained that the January 17 meeting falls on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. He said that normally the Board reschedules the meeting to the next day. He further said that the CJPP board has an advertised request for proposals due on that Tuesday with presentations starting at 12:30pm so he and Commissioner Roten will have to leave at noon.

The Board talked about dates/times for the meeting.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to change the meeting to Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at 10:00am. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the proposed 2011 joint meeting dates with the Sparta Town Council.

Chair Richardson asked does this Board want to continue to have meetings with the Sparta Town Council. He talked about this is the proposed calendar to have three meetings in 2011.

County Manager Don Adams passed out information regarding how he has worded potential changes to the Code of Ethics based on what individual Commissioners have told him. He reviewed the first two proposed changes about the required ethics education and listening and refraining from side conversations with other members during presentations to the Board. He described ways to incorporate the changes into the document.

After each proposed change, Chair Richardson asked if anyone has a problem having that change inserted. No one spoke.

County Manager Don Adams talked about one change mentioned to him is acting as Commissioners 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is already covered in section 2. He continued to review the last two proposed changes about acting in an appropriate manner when sitting on other boards and properly handle closed session information. He described ways to incorporate the changes into the document.

After each proposed change, Chair Richardson asked if anyone has a problem having those changes inserted. Commissioner Roten asked whether the word shall be used rather than should when talking about properly handling closed session information. Chair Richardson asked if anyone has a problem having that inserted.

County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the legal definition of the word shall.

The Board agreed.

Chair Richardson stated that this is an ongoing document, and the Board needs to be able to have it adopted by December 31, 2010, and if changes are needed after that then the Board can revisit the issue.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the language regarding the ethics training.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the Code of Ethics with the recommended changes. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about E-911 Fund budget amendments #4 and #5. He explained that under the current law any fund balance remaining as of June 30, 2010, is allowed to be used this year and next year up to 50% of that fund balance number for any public safety use. He talked about the amount available is \$221,280.45 but the previous Board has already utilized \$90,000 for matching funds for the capital grants for the fire departments and \$30,916 for the Law Enforcement Center's roof. He said he is requesting the Board to allow him to access these remaining monies for the two budget amendments. He explained that budget amendment #4 in the amount \$3,046 is to budget for moving the repeaters at Green Mountain. He talked about there is money in dispatch for communication tower expenses and how that money will be used. He explained why the repeaters were moved.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve E-911 Fund budget amendment #4 in the amount of \$3,046. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained E-911 Fund budget amendment #5 in the amount of \$2,335. He talked about \$30,916 has already been appropriated for the roof, and he is asking to spend \$2,335 to insulated the ductwork on the roof to save money with the heating.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve E-911 Fund budget amendment #5 in the amount of \$2,335. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that leaves \$94,983 in the 50% fund balance amount for any public safety needs. He said that he recommends getting approval from the State prior to expending any of that money. He informed the Board that the FCC says that all frequencies must be changed by 2012 which will require that all radios get reprogrammed. He asked before the Board commits any more of these monies to wait until we see what the actual costs will be which should be around budget time.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$25,300 to budget for federal inmates and female inmates. He explained that the budget was adopted with the anticipation of not having any federal inmates and currently we are having three to seven. He talked about having to house female prisoners in Ashe or Wilkes because the County doesn't have anywhere to house them. He reiterated that these are additional federal inmate revenues not tax dollars.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about the female inmate expenses will continue, having no choice but it is still cheaper than housing females because it would be basically running two jails.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about we having three to seven and the revenues are the actual amount that the County has received at this time. The County Manager explained that there may be additional jail expenses later, if needed.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #10 in the amount of \$25,300. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Board has the actual State law that was passed out by John Sherrill at the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) public hearing about the State's deviation process regarding secondary roads. He talked about the research compelled by the planning office. He passed out the proposed public hearing notice. He reiterated that the Board heard from a property owner on Cleary Road that asked that the road be taken off the list, and Ward Road is the same situation. He talked about Clark Hop Road has two issues that was discussed; the bridge/road repair after flooding and getting their road paved. He read the public hearing notice. He explained why he named all of the roads on the NCDOT priority list between Independence Road and Clark Hop Road. He reviewed all of the information that the Board has regarding these requests including maps of each road along with property owners and their addresses.

Chair Richardson asked for an explanation on the difference between paving money and stabilization money. County Manager Don Adams explained that and said that the majority of the road construction money is to pave the road.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about which category Clark Hop Road falls into depends upon what is done with the road; fix the bridge or fix the road.

Chair Richardson talked about Cleary Road and Clark Hop Road and how can the Board address these issues without affecting the other roads. County Manager Don Adams explained that NCDOT said they will work on the stabilization of the road once the weather breaks.

Commissioner Cox talked about the two issues on Clark Hop Road; fixing it to original road and moving the road.

County Manager Don Adams said he was told that contact has been made through Brandon Whitaker about whether the Joyce's would be willing to sign enough right of way, and the third issue is the bridge.

Commissioner Roten talked about at that public hearing meeting they said they would sign but they probably didn't realize how much it will take especially if the road has to be built to NCDOT standards. He talked about can they build the road then pave it. He said that this is not a standalone issue and has potential of affecting other roads.

County Manager Don Adams said that he is looking for direction about what the Board wants to have the public hearing on.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about what roads fall under this proposed construction program. They further discussed NCDOT's frozen list. Chair Richardson said he would like to be able to help Cleary Road without jeopardizing the other roads. County Manager Don Adams clarified to just have the public hearing on Cleary Road. Chair Richardson stated that the property owners on these other roads having been waiting. They talked about Ward Road, also. County Manager Don Adams explained that he talked to DOT, and it comes back to right of way plus DOT has informed him that Cleary Road and Independence Road is already in the right of way process so continuing on this timeline if the Board has a public hearing then the right of way people with DOT may already be contacting people.

Commissioner Roten stated that he would personally hate to see the Board deviate from what DOT does. He said that the right of way signing normally takes care of this because if someone doesn't sign it goes on the hold list and isn't paved. He explained that he would hate to have been waiting to get his road paved then the County comes in and changes it.

Commissioner Smith stated the need to contact all of the people on Cleary Road if a public hearing is held.

Chair Richardson asked does the Board have to have a public hearing.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the NCDOT Board will not consider a deviation without the Board of Commissioners holding a public hearing.

Chair Richardson said after hearing the comments, does the Board see a need to have a public hearing to deviate from the recommendation. He said he agrees with Commissioner Roten about not moving a road back.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he did talk to DOT about the partial funding for this funding cycle and when the weather breaks they will be contacting everyone on that road, not just the partial funding part plus they contact everyone on the road even if someone doesn't sign the right of way, they still continue contacting everyone.

Commissioner Cox said there are a lot more people on this road than he believed at the time Mr. Sherrill was talking to the Board. He asked what if two people say no.

Commissioner Roten talked about he thinks the only way to proceed then is they have to get a bond to proceed and that usually doesn't happen because of the costs. He reiterated that DOT has a system, and it takes care of itself.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about the Board didn't have all of the information when it was discussed. He said he visited Clark Hop Road and if they pave it as is then it is subject to

washing out if the bridge isn't raised or the road is moved up the hill. He further said that with the additional information, he agrees with Commissioner Roten to let DOT handle this. He talked about the need to get the bridge started on the process for replacement.

County Manager Don Adams said all he needs is a motion to request a feasibility study on this road. He explained that a lot of it is determined by the feasibility study. He further explained what is done in the feasibility study.

Chair Richardson talked about whether the Board needs to accept their proposal and eliminate the need for a public hearing. He said that the Board can write letters to assist with Clark Hop Road because he thinks they will bring it back to the way it was. He talked about approving the DOT information that was presented.

County Manager Don Adams said if this is the way the Board is proceeding then he has the resolution. He passed the resolution out to the Board. He asked the County Attorney Donna Shumate about the earlier motion to hold a public hearing.

Commissioner Smith talked about telling the people that night that there will be a public hearing.

Chair Richardson asked does this Board feel like with the additional information that we need to rescind the motion to have a public hearing.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that the Board would need a motion, second and a vote not to have the public hearing.

Chair Richardson talked about if the majority thinks the Board needs to move forward then have the hearing on Cleary Road/Ward Road and help Clark Hop Road another way.

Commissioner Cox stated that then the Board could hear from the other property owners.

Commissioner Roten said the County needs to send letters to all of them.

Commissioner Smith talked about keeping it down to those two roads.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about sending out the letters in the next couple of days. Chair Richardson said it sounds like the consensus is to continue with public hearing for Cleary Road and Ward Road only.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about after the public hearing how is the Board going to deviate from the plan.

Chair Richardson talked about the resolution that the County Manager passed out, he would rather wait until after the public hearing and if the County is going to deviate then only Cleary Road and Ward Road.

County Manager Don Adams talked about it would be to eliminate or deviate because deviate just moves it down the list then it will come back up.

Commissioner Goudreau and County Manager Don Adams talked about deviating from the proposal will be affecting Cleary Road and Ward Road plus the other roads farther down the page.

Commissioner Roten stated that the previous page of roads is the hold list where the right of way wasn't signed.

Commissioner Cox clarified that the Board is just making a recommendation to the NCDOT Board.

County Manager Don Adams agreed. He said that his conversations with NCDOT that in all 100 counties, in all secondary road construction projects they are only aware of one deviation, and that road did not get paved.

Chair Richardson asked which way the Board wants to proceed

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to move forward with the public hearing regarding possibly deviating Cleary Road and Ward Road. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that letters will be sent out as soon as possible.

Chair Richardson talked about revisiting holiday furloughs for County employees. He said that four holidays remain; New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Good Friday and Memorial Day.

Commissioner Cox talked about having watched the budget process, and people are telling him to just do the right thing, and he feels like this proposal is the right thing. He said that he didn't like that the budget was balanced on the backs of the County employees. He further said that he proposes to add the holiday pay back. He stated that it didn't seem like the right thing to give a raise then take it away. He reiterated that he would like to see if the Board can reinstate the remaining four holidays.

Chair Richardson asked if the Board just needs to make a motion to reinstate the four holidays. County Manager Don Adams agreed.

Commissioner Roten asked how much will this be. County Manager Don Adams stated around \$45,000 but the actual budget amendment will be around \$50,000 then the reimbursements are factored in so the actual county dollars will not exceed \$45,000.

Commissioner Roten said that he didn't vote in favor of the budget. He further said that next year is going to be a tough year with the cuts from the State and everything. He explained that he hates to say that the Board is balancing the budget on the backs of the employees. He said that the Board has three options and if the Board thinks the County has the money then he will support it.

Commissioner Smith asked didn't the County collect a percentage more of taxes collected than was anticipated.

County Manager Don Adams answered yes.

Commissioner Roten said that could have a negative impact on next year.

Chair Richardson stated that the County has \$258,000 more money than the Commissioners thought at budget time. He explained his problem is that it was out of portion to the employees when other didn't have that much of an adjustment. He said that he agrees that a hard budget year is coming but this was not fair to County employees.

Commissioner Smith said he can understand the previous Board's struggling with the budget. He talked about having \$258,000 more than was anticipated so the \$45,000 could be taken out of that.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to reinstate the four remaining holidays. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson talked about years ago the Commissioners used to bring a verbal report back to every meeting regarding updates of the other boards/committees that the Commissioners serve on which took a lot of time. He requested that each member bring the other boards/committees papers to Mrs. Evans to copy to provide to each Commissioner so each Commissioner will be updated on what all of the boards are doing. He said he thinks the Board of Commissioners will be more updated and will be a more informed Board if this is done.

Commissioner Roten said he doesn't think the Commissioners need everything. Chair Richardson and Commissioner Roten talked about providing just what the Commissioner thinks is important.

Chair Richardson asked does the Board think this is a good system. He said that it is all of the Commissioners' responsibility to know what is going on with these other boards.

Commissioner Roten talked about a good example is the RTAC Board (regional transportation advisory board) met last week in Boone. He explained the local roads timeframes; Grandview Drive of the Western Bypass Loop will be in the right of way process in 2012 with construction beginning in 2012 and US 21 S from Sparta to Roaring Gap will be in the right of way process starting in March 2011 with construction beginning in 2013. He talked about Alleghany County's basic road infrastructure is the basically the same as it has been for years. He further talked about if the County doesn't start pushing for this, it isn't going to happen. He talked about

the need to have a connection to a 4-lane highway, and the Commissioners need to let it be known that we want to. He explained that they are currently planning 30 years out.

Chair Richardson talked about the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) presentation. He explained the history of the roads including having State standard roads. He said he thinks it would be great but if the County is having trouble getting State standard roads, it will be even harder to get a 4-lane.

Commissioner Roten said he understands and agrees but if the Commissioners don't start it will never happen.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about when was the last TIP and there should be one coming up in the next 3-6 months.

Chair Richardson talked about the Commissioners can put whatever the Board wants to and rank it however the Board wants to. He agreed that if it never put in the TIP then Alleghany County won't ever get it.

Chair Richardson talked about this is an example of what he is talking about where Commissioner Roten is providing this information.

Commissioner Goudreau said he thinks this is a good idea and a good way to handle it. He talked about if one member can't attend then the new person would not be starting from scratch.

Commissioner Roten said that yes he agrees and think if someone cannot attend they need to tell the Board and another Commissioner can go.

Chair Richardson talked about the annual report process. He asked if the Board wants to continue with the annual reports.

Commissioner Smith said he thinks it is a good idea to keep the Board informed.

Commissioner Cox said he would like to continue.

Commissioner Goudreau said there is a lot of good information presented.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to enter closed session at 12:55pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to adjourn closed session at 1:23pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Chair Richardson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Roten talked about he has received numerous phone calls about having a moment of silence rather than a prayer. He said he is not in agreement to take the prayer out.

Chair Richardson said that it can be put on the next agenda.

Commissioner Goudreau said that he has received a lot of comments, too.

Being no further business, Commissioner Roten made a motion to adjourn at 1:25pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Richardson
Chairman