

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 2003, at 10:00am in the Conference Room of the County Office Building, 90 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Eldon Edwards, Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Graylen Blevins, Commissioner Sandy Carter, Commissioner Patrick Woodie, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Ed Woltz was absent.

Chair Eldon Edwards called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Sandy Carter opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda for this December 15, 2003, meeting. Commissioner Sandy Carter seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, December 15, 2003
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order
Motion on Agenda for December 15, 2003 meeting
Motion on Minutes for December 1, 2003 meeting
- 10:05 Mary Walker
RE: Tax Releases & Refunds
- 10:15 Pete Church
RE: Recreation
County Business
1. Roaring Gap Budget Amendment
 2. Town Budget Amendment
 3. JCPC Funding
 4. Joint Meeting Schedule
 5. Animal Shelter
 6. Parking Lot Request
 7. WCC Building
 8. Fuel Oil Contract
 9. Recreation & Planning Budgets
 10. Other Business
 11. Public Comments—30 minutes
 12. Adjourn

Commissioner Patrick Woodie made a motion to approve the December 1, 2003, minutes. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the tax requests for real property for November 2003 in the amount of \$90.70 for refunds and \$599.99 for releases.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the tax requests for real property for November 2003 in the amount of \$90.70 for refunds and \$599.99 for releases. Commissioner Sandy Carter seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the tax requests for vehicles for November 2003 in the amount of \$317.96 for refunds and \$1,168.12 for releases.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie made a motion to approve the tax requests for vehicles for November

2003 in the amount of \$317.96 for refunds and \$1,168.12 for releases. Commissioner Sandy Carter seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented a motor-vehicle appeal for a 2002 GMC Sonoma with a tax value of \$27,900. She stated that Mr. Moxley paid \$26,013.14 for the vehicle in January 2002. She further explained that Yadkin Valley currently values the vehicle at \$17,000, and she recommends the value be \$17,000.

The Board of Commissioners and Mary Walker talked about a bill that is going to be introduced in Raleigh to change motor-vehicle values to wholesale values. County Manager Don Adams asked Tax Administrator Mary Walker to get information about the bill for the Board, so Alleghany County can go record against changing to wholesale values on vehicles for taxing purposes.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to accept the Tax Administrator's recommendation of \$17,000. Commissioner Sandy Carter seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Pete Church came before the Board to express his support of the recreation program. He gave the Board an update on how the Fairgrounds started and stated his appreciation to the Board for their support of the Fairgrounds and recreation. He talked about how the recreation program will help in maintaining the Fairgrounds. He stated that he is support of the recreation program and will help the Board in any way he possibly can to make this program work.

Commissioner Sandy Carter told Pete Church thank you for his comments.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie told Pete Church that he appreciates his comments regarding this recreation program and his volunteer efforts for the County.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Chair Eldon Edwards stated their appreciation for Pete Church.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #12 in the amount of \$7,536. He explained this would create a part-time line item in the Roaring Gap Deputies budget to enable the Sheriff to hire part-time personnel to cover shifts when the Roaring Gap Deputies take off work.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #12 in the amount of \$7,536. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$4,212 for Town taxes. He explained that the County collects the Town's taxes and pays it to the Town. He stated that these monies need to be paid to the Town for prior year taxes that were not paid in the correct year.

Commissioner Sandy Carter made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #13 in the amount of \$4,212. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from JCPC stating that JCPC is receiving an additional \$3,256 which will require an additional \$619 from the County. He explained how the money will be spent.

Commissioner Sandy Carter made a motion to approve the additional funding for JCPC. Commissioner Patrick Woodie seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the joint meeting schedule to the Board for 2004. He stated that if anyone has any problems with these dates to let him know.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the current animal shelter contract has expired. He

further explained how the Twin Oaks Veterinary Hospital is losing money on their services provided for the County in operating the Animal Shelter. He stated that he would like to work on a contract with Twin Oaks Veterinary and bring it back to the Board. He talked about how he proposes the new contract be worked out in regards to how the County is currently being charged.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams discussed the need for these services, a new contract and demand for these services increasing over a period of time.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he had spoken to our attorney and Kim Kilday, our insurance representative, about the cruise-in group using the parking lot at the old Wilkes Community College building. He reviewed the list of recommendations by Kim Kilday including having a waiver of liability signed and keeping the parking lot maintained.

Chair Eldon Edwards asked about the County being sued even with the waiver of liability and how a claim affects our insurance rates for five years.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the County can still be sued even with the waiver of liability. He explained that the courts would look at who is at fault regardless of the waiver of liability. He further explained how the insurance rates are figured each year. He told the Board that he will work on the waiver of liability and a list of expectations to bring it back for the Board's consideration.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Board has given him the authority to complete a feasibility study of the old Wilkes Community College to see if it is suitable for the County's needs. He stated that he has learned that this facility can be remodeled. He reminded the Board that it will cost approximately 2.5 million dollars to renovate this building and the Courthouse and it will costs approximately 4.5 million dollars to build new facilities to accommodate the offices that would be housed in the old Wilkes Community College and the Courthouse. He stated that he has surveyed the users of the Tax Office, Register of Deeds and the Clerk of Court to determine what they would like to see.

Commissioner Sandy Carter asked about the survey results.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the survey asked whether the users would like to see the Register of Deeds and Clerk of Court together or Register of Deeds and Tax Office together. He reviewed the results of the surveys.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about the necessity of leaving the Clerk of Court in the Courthouse.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the dilemma of accommodating the needs of the Courts and the Clerk of the Court and leaving the Register of Deeds in the Courthouse.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that it is his opinion that the Courthouse should be renovated for the Clerk of Court and court-related functions and move everyone else to the other facility. He explained how this process could work.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie mentioned consolidating everything into one facility including the library; the old Sara Lee building.

Chair Eldon Edwards and Commissioner Patrick Woodie talked about remodeling the Sara Lee building and what would be done with the Courthouse.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that the Board would have to give the County Manager more money to have additional studies completed on the Sara Lee building if the Board is in favor of this.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins talked about the debt service of any of these scenarios and the Board

should thoroughly investigate all of the ideas before making any decisions.

Commissioner Sandy Carter asked how much additional money would be needed to evaluate the Sara Lee building for a consolidated facility.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he will have to talk to the other departments to see how they could fit into this building and go from there.

Commissioner Warren Taylor mentioned structural issues in the Sara Lee building.

Chair Eldon Edwards mentioned the costs associated with the Sara Lee building and moving the Court-related functions into the other building.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie talked about the Board would have to find a use for the Courthouse, and he doesn't think it is feasible to add on the existing Courthouse.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins stated he would like to know the public's responses to these scenarios before deciding on anything as well as how the debt for any remodeling will affect the public.

County Manager Don Adams told the Board that the current fuel oil contract will expire in February. He stated that he is asking the Board for direction on how to bid the new contract out. He reviewed how the contract was bid out last year.

Commissioner Sandy Carter and County Manager Don Adams discussed breaking the contract out, not receiving any bids on certain sections and the County will have to pay market price.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie asked about bidding it out both ways.

The Board discussed these scenarios and who bid last time.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he will bid it both ways and bring it back to the Board.

County Manager Don Adams informed the Board that Jack Conaway has turned in his resignation effective January 5, 2004. He stated that he has been approached to research the possibility of combining the Planning Director and the Recreation Director. He reviewed his research about combining these positions and his recommendations.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that he thinks the Recreation/Planning office is the way to go because the recreation department will need a full-time assistant to make it work properly.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins asked about giving the code enforcement to the building inspections to help the recreation department.

Commissioner Sandy Carter stated that the recreation department would not have an assistant if that scenario is played out.

County Manager Don Adams talked about sharing positions between the departments and turning the part-time position in the building inspections department into a full-time position.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that he doesn't think the building inspections should have the code enforcement duties due to time constraints on the inspectors already.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about the little amount of time that it takes to review a subdivision and determine whether the guidelines have been met.

The Board and County Manager talked about hiring a recreation director, planning, new job descriptions, administrative assistant/code enforcement officer and combining the departments.

Commissioner Sandy Carter stated that she likes the County Manager's proposal with the recreation/planning director and administrative assistant/code enforcement officer.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that we need to contact the recreation director applicants to see if they are interested in the new position.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins reiterated his comments about the code enforcement duties moving to the building inspections department.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the pay of the recreation/planning director will go up to the level of the planner.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to create the position of recreation/planning director and readvertise for the position. Commissioner Patrick Woodie seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Chair Eldon Edwards wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that the next meeting will be on January 5, 2004.

Chair Eldon Edwards asked for public comments.

Coby Larue talked about the fence being placed back at the Fairgrounds and the creek there being stocked for fishermen. He asked about leaving the gates open to allow people to fish. He talked about making the creek accessible for everyone to fish.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that the County will look into this issue.

Chair Eldon Edwards asked for further public comments. None were received.

Being no further business, Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:38am. Commissioner Sandy Carter seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Eldon Edwards
Chairman