

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 21, 2005, at 10:00am in the Conference Room of the County Office Building, 90 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Ken Richardson opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve the agenda for this February 21, 2005, meeting. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

AGENDA

Monday, February 21, 2005
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order
Motion on Agenda for February 21, 2005 meeting
Motion on Minutes for January 31 & February 7, 2005 meetings
- 10:05 Mary Walker
RE: Tax Releases & Refunds
- 10:10 Fred Hart
RE: County Lines Dispute
- 10:20 Amy Pardue / Mike Rankhorn
RE: New Cell Tower Technology
- 10:35 Melanie McFayden / Bud Hill
RE: IDA Program
- 10:45 Don Suggs
RE: NRBH Financial Report
- County Business
1. Budget Amendment—Economic Development
 2. Budget Amendment—Recreation Master Plan
 3. Budget Amendment—Board of Education
 4. Budget Amendment—EMS
 5. Alleghany Garbage Service Fees
 6. FY 05/06 Budget Timeline
 7. Joint Water Authority
 8. Other Business
 9. Public Comments—30 minutes
 10. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—Personnel
 11. Adjourn

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 31 and February 7, 2005, meetings. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the January 2005 real property requests in the amount of \$2,570.76 for releases and \$655.36 for refunds.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to approve the January 2005 real property requests in the amount of \$2,570.76 for releases and \$655.36 for refunds. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Mary Walker presented the January 2005 automobile requests in the amount of \$2,036.77 for releases and \$248.73 for refunds.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve the January 2005 automobile requests in the amount of \$2,036.77 for releases and \$248.73 for refunds. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Mary Walker presented a letter asking for the solid waste fee to be removed and fees paid to be refunded. She explained where this property is located. She gave a brief explanation of the property.

The Board of Commissioners and Mary Walker discussed taxing this property, removing the solid waste fee and a system to know when people are living at the property. Commissioner Ken Richardson talked about the solid waste fee being an availability fee instead of a user fee.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone that the Board made a decision to reclassify the household solid waste fee into a user fee in determining whether to charge this fee on properties.

Mary Walker stated that when someone sends a letter to the Board, she must present the letter to Board for action.

County Manager Don Adams asked if anyone has visited the properties where the solid waste fee has been removed to determine if someone is living at the property now.

Mary Walker stated that no one has revisited the properties.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to approve this request regarding releasing and refunding the solid waste fee as presented in the letter. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Commissioner Ken Richardson gave a brief history of the solid waste fee in relation to the tax rate.

Mary Walker stated that she has researched Fred Hart's property showing that the house and the majority of the property are located in Ashe County.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon stated that Fred Hart left each Commissioner a package of information regarding his request for all of his property to be taxed in Alleghany County.

Mary Walker stated that the Ashe County Board of Commissioners would have to agree for Alleghany County to tax this property then a survey will have to be done. She further reviewed the procedures to have the property taxed in Alleghany County.

Mary Walker talked about how services are offered for people on the county lines and the surrounding counties cooperation concerning property on county lines.

County Manager Don Adams talked about services offered including emergency services to people who aren't taxed here. He reviewed how the counties offer services that overlap with the county lines. He gave the Board a brief history from a 1956 agreement establishing the property line between Alleghany and Ashe counties.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon talked about being at a stand still until Ashe County Board of Commissioners agrees to release the property and determining who will pay for the survey. She stated that each Commissioner should review the packets provided by Mr. Hart for further discussion at the next meeting.

Amy Pardue introduced Mike Rankhorn with Carolina West Wireless to talk to the Board about new technology concerning cell towers.

Mike Rankhorn gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding new technology for co-location of antennas onto utility poles to help with the visual aspects of cell towers.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and County Manager Don Adams talked about two wireless providers wanting to locate in the same area and the ordinance requirements.

Mike Rankhorn stated that Carolina West Wireless is trying to phase out construction of new cell towers and go forward with this co-location idea of mounting on utility poles.

County Manager Don Adams and Mike Rankhorn talked about wireless 911 phases and compliance issues.

Melanie McFayden talked to the Board about the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program. She stated that she is asking for the Board's support for a CDBG grant for Alleghany/Ashe counties with Duke Endowment providing the match.

Bud Hill, IDA Program Coordinator, handed out information regarding the IDA program. He explained the program is geared towards getting people to save money to purchase a first-time home or provide funds for a post-secondary education or start a small business. He further explained how the program operates and other groups that IDA works with.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to approve the project agreement for the IDA program. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Don Suggs stated that he is here to present a financial report for New River Behavioral Healthcare (NRBH). He reviewed the reasons for giving the report. He stated his appreciation for Ken Richardson serving on their Board, and his efforts on the Board. He reminded everyone that North Carolina is undergoing mental health reform. He reviewed things that New River is doing in response to mental health reform.

Marion Deni presented the quarterly fiscal monitoring report for the last two quarters.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and Don Suggs talked about the fund balance for NRBH.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon discussed budget amendment Economic Development Fund #1 in the amount of \$12,000. She talked about these monies were approved at

the last meeting.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve budget amendment Economic Development Fund #1 in the amount of \$12,000. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon discussed budget amendment General Fund #28 in the amount of \$8,630. She talked about these monies were approved at the last meeting.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #28 in the amount of \$8,630. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon discussed budget amendment General Fund #29 in the amount of \$3,250. She explained that this budget amendment is for the previously approved option for the Board of Education.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #29 in the amount of \$3,250. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #30 in the amount of \$8,105. He explained that this is for a HRSA grant for EMS and presented a list of equipment for this grant. He stated that no county funds are needed for this amendment.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #30 in the amount of \$8,105. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Allegheny Garbage Service requesting that the household monthly fee be increased \$1 to \$15 per month. He reviewed the letter.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve the request of increasing household monthly fees by \$1 for Allegheny Garbage Service. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the fiscal year 2005/2006 budget timeline. He asked if the Board wants to have planning retreats. He stated that he could bring it back up at the next meeting if the Board wishes.

Commissioner Ken Richardson stated that he thinks the planning meetings are a good idea. He further stated that he thinks it is a good idea to have the different groups present their financial information to the Board at various times throughout the year instead of leaving it all for budget time.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon talked about meeting for half a day last year and the importance of the meeting.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how he tailors the budget from the discussions at the planning meeting.

The Board talked about times for the planning meeting and waiting until the next meeting to set the date of the meeting.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the joint water authority. He reminded the Board of the activities of the water authority. He stated that each entity needs to appoint two members to the authority with one elected official and the manager or two elected officials. He talked about the need to have an attorney to review the documents associated with the authority.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and Commissioner Ken Richardson voiced their support to go forward with this project by selecting members including the County Manager to serve on this authority.

County Manager Don Adams reiterated Commissioner Richardson's comments about the first step are to form the authority to see if this is something that needs to be pursued. He informed the Board of discussions that he has had with Eldon Edwards and Warren Taylor about serving on this authority, and Warren Taylor agreed to serve on this authority if no one else wishes to do so.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to nominate Warren Taylor to this authority. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Commissioner Ken Richardson stated that he thinks it is a good idea for the special appropriations groups to come to the meeting to give a financial presentation to keep the Commissioners in touch with how County money is being spent.

Commissioner Ken Richardson informed everyone of the Black History Month presentation on Thursday at 7:00pm at the Methodist Church.

Commissioner Ken Richardson talked about attending the Essentials of County Government through the Institute of Government and the importance of the class.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon asked for public comments. None were received.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 11:52am. Commissioner Ken Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene the regular meeting at 12:03pm. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon stated that no action was taken during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon recessed the meeting at 12:05pm until 8:30am on Friday to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Eldon Edwards
Chairman