

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 8, 2012, 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 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, welcomed everyone, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer.

Chair Richardson stated that Item F. needs to be deleted from the agenda.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this October 8, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, October 8, 2012
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for October 8, 2012, meeting
Motion on Minutes for September 10 and September 17, 2012, meetings
- 6:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Public Hearing
RE: E-911 Road Name Change
C. Matthew Johnson
Re: Eagle Scout Project
D. Jim Heitzenrater
RE: Alleghany Memorial Hospital Quarterly Report
E. Recreation Annual Report
F. Sparta Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report (deleted)
G. General Business
1. Drug Task Force Budget Amendment
2. Piney Creek Septic System USDA Resolution
3. Jail/Dispatch Open Positions
4. Medicaid Transportation Update
5. Health Benefits Consultant Services
6. Proposed Request for Proposals for Banking Service
7. Transfer Facility Update and Loader Bids
8. Ambulance Bid Award Revision
9. Property Rights Protection Ordinance Amendment
H. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
I. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 10 and September 17, 2012, meetings. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Dennis Smith came before the Board to talk about the last meeting where Bryan Edwards came before the Board to talk about land deal between Bottomley and Town of Sparta. He talked about the price of the building for Bristol Compressors and the need for Bristol Compressors plus how they decided to come to Sparta, North Carolina. He presented a timeline regarding the Bristol Compressors property including the property was transferred to several different entities since 1993 and the amount of excise tax on each deed transfer. He talked about the wheel tax that was placed on the taxpayers for Bristol Compressors. He described the ownership of Bristol Compressors since 1993. He talked about what closed several companies. He further talked about tourism and Blue Ridge Parkway has been discussed the way to go but he hasn't seen that occur. He quoted information about facilities needing operators on the Blue Ridge Parkway. He talked about what is needed for a strong local economy is money being circulated throughout the county. He further talked about the two shopping centers in Alleghany County. He used examples of North Dakota banks that invest back into the state. He quoted Abraham Lincoln about money. He talked about an Alleghany County bank might be thinking outside of the box. He read a prayer that was offered before the United States Senate.

Chair Richardson asked for additional comments. No one spoke. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper, presented one road name change for the Board's approval; Unnamed Road 86-100 to Julius Way. She explained the location of the road.

Chair Richardson opened the public hearing regarding the 911 road name at 6:44pm and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:45pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the road name change as presented by the E-911 Coordinator/Mapper. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cox and Wendy Williams talked about everyone is in agreement.

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

Matthew Johnson came before the Board to talk about a possible Eagle Scout project of an addition to the Boy Scout/Rescue Squad concession stand. He provided a drawing for the Board's review. He talked about the need for a hand wash sink and a dish wash sink in the concession stand. He explained the need including health guidelines. He further explained the location of his project.

Chair Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the fairgrounds board has already approved the project.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to move forward. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

David Evans talked about he is the secretary for the fairgrounds board. He explained that they are requesting that the building permit fees be waived for this project.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to waive the permit fees for the project. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Jim Heitzenrater, Alleghany Memorial Hospital, presented their quarterly report. He reviewed their first quarter expenses; Blue Ridge Electric, Blue Ridge X-ray, CPSI, Town of Sparta, G&B Energy, HomeTown Oil, Cardinal Health Pharm and the amounts. He presented information for the second quarter of funding and their expenses they are proposing to use the funds for; Town of Sparta, Alleghany Solid Waste, Alleghany EMS, G&B Energy, HomeTown Oil, Medcost, Cardinal Health Pharm. Cardinal Health, Skilled Transcription, Medias. He talked about their health insurance is self funded. He further talked about their statistics for August and September. He talked about conversations with EMS employees about sometimes they have only one call during 24 hours, which means people aren't coming to the Hospital. He explained the Golden Leaf grant and how they are working with Appalachian Health Department. He talked about being able to back bill from September 1, and they are moving forward. He explained that they continue to work with Wake Forest to bring in specialty physicians. He further explained that they are working on having clinics. He talked about the Hospital board and Hugh Chatham's board met and discussed ways to continue. He discussed others they are working with. He talked about flexing according to staff working based upon the patient load. He further talked about they reorganized billing and collections with the current staff. He explained that they hired another PT because the need is increasing. He further explained a podiatrist is starting to perform surgery here. He explained that they have restructured their debt, completed the refinancing of the CT scanner, which helps with their cash flow. He talked about the BCBS contract was renegotiated, Dr. Arocha and Dr. Greenfield are currently seeing patients.

Chair Richardson explained that this is exactly what he thought the Board needed to hear. He asked the Board if they are satisfied with how the information is being presented.

Commissioner Smith and Jim Heitzenrater talked about Archoa and Greenfield are both employees of the Hospital, location of their offices, Greenfield picks up patients from Independence where a doctor left, Arcohoa is going well, both are Hospitalists along with Dr. Beres being the other hospitalist. They discussed doctors coming from Elkin, and no neurologist comes here and the use of a robot to help assist with telemedicine.

Chair Richardson talked about 83% admissions are through the ER with the remaining admissions coming from doctors. Jim Heitzenrater stated that isn't uncommon, maybe a little on the higher side but not uncommon.

Commissioner Goudreau asked about the trends for the Hospital. Jim Heitzenrater explained that they struggled in August but he has learned everyone had a bad August and he sees them stabilizing during the winter and summer is the harder months. They talked about the use of clinics help with that and used an example of having 8-10 MRIs when it comes every other Sunday.

County Manager Don Adams and Jim Heitzenrater talked about the Hospital is affiliated with Baptist. Jim Heitzenrater explained there is an agreement already in place which he has been pushing.

Commissioner Cox talked about the mention of the boards of Hugh Chatham and Alleghany Memorial have met. Jim Heitzenrater talked about the purpose of the meeting was making sure that both boards are working together as the administrators are. Jim Heitzenrater explained that this is more of an affiliation but not written. Commissioner Cox asked about Twin County. Jim Heitzenrater explained his working relationship prior to now and how they will start to work with them, initial meeting to start conversations. They talked about Ashe County is through with Quorum. They further talked about the amount of uninsured patients and patients are using the most expressive care. Jim Heitzenrater talked about how much uncompensated care they have. They talked about the amount of indigent care and the County money helps offset this. Jim Heitzenrater talked about the 2014 Affordable Care Act where a family of four with income of \$34,000 will cost \$11,500 for insurance which the government will contribute \$10,000 but concerns are the insurance since it is a \$6,000 deductible. Jim Heitzenrater talked about it's a balancing act. Commissioner Cox stated thanks for addressing this, and thank you for putting it in this format. Jim Heitzenrater talked about these are critical things for us. Commissioner Cox stated that this is good for the Commissioners to be able to explain to people where their money goes.

David Evans, Recreation Director, came before the Board to present his annual report. He provided a packet of papers to the Commissioners. He explained that there are 5 sports programs and provided statistics regarding the youth sports. He talked about the change of having wrist bands at the pool. He continued with the statistics.

County Manager Don Adams talked about filling the pool then putting the cover on for a couple weeks early which heated the pool without using a lot of propane. He used an example of how much the previous boiler took to heat the pool.

David Evans bragged on the guards because it isn't easy to pull that cover over the pool every day. He continued with his annual report by giving updates on the Sam Brown Park/Lion's Club Pavilion/Sam Brown Trail System/Ropes Course areas. He explained that he applied for Adopt a Trail grant that wasn't received so he is working on obtaining additional funding for the trail.

Commissioner Smith and David Evans talked about the rock bridge and having maps showing the trails. They talked about how far the trail goes up the mountain.

David Evans continued with his report including Davis Field and the tennis courts area. He explained the work that recreation does to provide regular maintenance on County properties. He talked about maintaining the public boat landing. He further talked about activities at the fairgrounds during the year.

County Manager Don Adams and David Evans talked about the amount of timber harvest being \$15,921 and \$10,000 was estimated.

David Evans continued reviewing the packet of information including the sponsors for 2012. He named the sponsors throughout this year. He thanked them for their support of youth activities.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about the Golden Leaf meeting last Thursday where they met and have declined to fund the Veterans Memorial Park. He explained that \$57,000 is what is needed to fund the match for the Park; Golden Leaf's request was \$75,000 because of potential additional engineering costs. He talked about if the Board wants to proceed, then he will put it on the next agenda. He talked about the Board provided initial approval to get erosion control work started where he thought it would be \$3,000-\$4,000 but it is \$9,500 and he didn't think he had permission to proceed with that kind of money.

Chair Richardson talked about putting it on the next agenda so the County Manager can have some direction.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$3,198 for the Drug Task Force that was discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #3 in the amount of \$3,198. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the USDA resolution for the Piney Creek School septic system. He said that this is the last step of the ARC monies administered by USDA. He reviewed the proposed resolution. He further reviewed the purpose for the post approval being given.

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

County Manager Don Adams provided an update about Piney Creek School's current septic lines including the smoke test results and ways the bids are going to be requested as alternatives to fix the current issues that were discovered. He talked about there are going to have to be conversations about who is going to fund the replacement lines. He talked about all of this has to be approved by the State. He talked about once final approval from USDA is received, we will be ready to go out to bid.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the current timeline of potentially going out to bid in the spring but the timing of the grease trap will be when school isn't open.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the original plans were only looking at funding from the existing lines to the new septic system. County Manager Don Adams talked about what will have to be replaced; lines, between the two manholes, grease trap, which are all additional costs.

County Manager Don Adams talked about there are two open positions. He explained that one is for a non-certified jailer at a grade 58 with a starting salary of \$20,665.10 and a dispatcher at a grade 61 with a starting salary of \$23,923.38.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to fill the requests. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams provided a Medicaid transportation update. He talked about at the last meeting it was reported that we would have to stop Medicaid transportation as of October 1. He explained that he received documentation stating that it has been extended. He talked about they are going to have to build the system before this can be administered. He reminded everyone about the State law regards in Medicaid transportation. He explained the steps that must be taken prior to the release of the RFP and the steps before the Secretary can sign off on it. He asked the Board to look at page 8 of the report, projections for 2013 pmpm of \$2.91, appendix A costs of other states pmpm and other states amounts. He asked the Board to please read this. He said that there are pros and cons to both services. He said that we will be dealing with this in a couple of months

The Board took a brief recess at 8:00pm.

County Manager Don Adams presented a contract between Mark III and Alleghany County for health benefit consulting services. He provided a background of department heads began meeting in August. He explained that one of the criteria was someone that had leverage with insurance companies and another criteria was experience with different plans and different version of plans and someone to consolidate all of the insurances into one firm. He further explained that the most important part is someone to help with health care. He reviewed the activities to date including two firms were interviewed; Mark III and Pierce Benefits Group. He explained that Mark III works with 30 counties in North Carolina about health benefits and Pierce Benefits Group has a lot of experience with supplemental insurances and works with a lot of school systems but Pierce has just started in the last 2-3 years with health insurance. He talked about the vote of the department heads recommendation to the Commissioners. He summarized that Pierce could work well with the cafeteria plans and Mark III with the health benefits. He explained the vetting process that they went through including he talked to at least 10 county managers about these companies and department heads were encouraged to call their counterparts about these two firms. He explained the request before the Board today is to go with Mark III to broker our health benefits, and the cafeteria plans will not change. He reviewed the reasons that Mark III is being looked at including they run their own actuaries against the insurance companies. He explained that the proposed costs are \$15,000 paid over two years; \$7,500 this year and \$7,500 next year.

Chair Richardson asked didn't this follow what the Board asked the County Manager to do. County Manager Don Adams answered yes but he didn't know how much it is going to cost. Chair Richardson talked about it is good to see the emphasis on the wellness program because he thinks money can be saved if we implement a strong wellness program.

County Manager Don Adams talked about Mark III will come do presentations to the Board, department heads meeting with Mark III and claims data drive the costs. He explained what Mark III brings to the table is alternatives. He talked about what they will do but a wellness program will still come back to management and this Board. He talked about he needs help because he is not able to have an armed conversation with them about our claims, and he can't negotiate a \$1,000,000 contract.

Chair Richardson and the County Manager talked about the County Manager's thinks this is money well spent. The County Manager talked about they get the data, and they will help with the trend data. County Manager Don Adams explained that this is a set rate for 3 years and will not increase.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about it is \$15,000 each year and the contract is January 1 to December 31.

Chair Richardson asked for a motion on the table.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said that she would not recommend signing the contract as it is, just the concept.

Chair Richardson and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about how to proceed and the language needed in the contract.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to move forward. Chair Richardson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Roten talked about the three-year rate, and the contract will renew on an annual basis. County Manager Don Adams stated that's correct.

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

County Manager Don Adams stated this next topic is for information purposes of Request for Proposals for checking. He explained our checking is with Fifth Third Bank, and the CD's are spread around to multiple banks. He further explained that we were getting our checking for free, and now nobody gets a totally free checking account. He explained that we are now getting fees charged. He talked about since it's not free anymore his suggestion is to go out to bid for our checking account to see what is available. He said that the County would like to issue this Request for Proposals on October 16. He explained that this is a 6-month transition.

Chair Richardson asked does any Commissioner object to this.

Commissioner Goudreau stated no he doesn't.

Commissioner Roten asked what they are currently charging us for. County Manager Don Adams answered it's starting to get into about everything you can think of. They talked about the Manager's recommendation of spreading the CD's out to all of the banks.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about potential charges for direct deposit.

County Manager Don Adams talked about bids on the loader and update on the Transfer Facility floor. He updated the Board about the Transfer Facility will be closed October 17, 18, 19, 20 for floor repairs. He talked about the necessities of the floor repairs. He explained another benefit of the steel floor is saving the solid rim tires. He further explained Surry County is the only county around that can accept garage and we do have permission from Surry County for the commercial carriers to take their garbage.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the floor system and the County Manager described the repairs.

County Manager Don Adams described the bids for a loader at the Transfer Facility. He explained he went through a series of investigations about the existing equipment and had multiple conversations with different vendors. He stated that Caterpillar and John Deere have models that fit the needs. He talked about replacing the current John Deere loader's attachment, which is very old and very hard to get anything to attach to it. He further talked about the current main loader's bucket is still in good condition. He talked about the different attachments and what they are used for. He explained that he is trying to get everything interchangeable in regards to the attachments. He said that he has reviewed the bids specifications. He talked about the John Deere quote to meet the needs is \$167,088. He said that both bids are through State contract. He talked about the Carolina CAT bid is \$154,682, which is almost \$13,000 cheaper. He said that CAT has a 120 days delivery time. He talked about reasons to not go with something on the lot at this time.

Commissioner Roten and the County Manager talked about the two machines are the same size and same horsepower. They talked about concerns regarding the size. County Manager Don Adams explained that it is one foot wider, and multiple vendors are telling him the same thing of to not go with a smaller machine. The County Manager talked about weight will make a difference, and there was a suggestion for a track loader which was cheaper but it can't crush the garbage as needed plus we don't have anyone trained to do that so it would be a safety concern.

Chair Richardson asked is the Board comfortable in moving forward on this equipment.

Commissioner Roten said he is.

Commissioner Roten motion to award the bid to CAT. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (John Goudreau).

County Manager Don Adam talked about the next topic is the ambulance bid revision. He talked about he is concerned that we don't have the funds to pay for the loader out right. He explained if permission was granted, he was going to go out to bid for both; the ambulance and the loader. He further explained that part will be from the General Fund and part from the Transfer Facility. He talked about we will be able to get a better bid. He explained that by the first meeting in November he will have bank bids for the Board to approve, and he doesn't want to go through that process if the Board isn't going to entertain the concept.

Commissioner Goudreau stated that he voted against the loader because he doesn't want to put additional debt on the County.

Commissioner Roten talked about the need for good equipment and it becomes a liability.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he will go out to the bid for both pieces of equipment and bring it back to the Board the first meeting in November.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the revised ambulance bids. He stated his recommendation was to go with a higher bid was based solely on the better warranty. He explained that they went back to the other company and they agreed, for an additional \$2,500, to match the warranty. He talked about a couple of shift supervisors still wanted to go with Northwestern.

Commissioner Roten said Southeastern are thinner boxes. County Manager Don Adams agreed. The County Manager talked about we have two of their ambulances right now.

County Manager Don Adams talked about there is no reason to not go back an award the bid to the low bidder.

Chair Richardson asked does the Board think we need to revisit this issue to rescind the previous motion and award the \$110,000 bid.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the differences are the boxes.

Commissioner Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about legally we haven't signed any contracts to go with either bid.

Commissioner Cox said that he thinks we should do it and put that in form of a motion. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Roten restated the motion is to go with the lower bid with the extended warranty.

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

County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about Planner Travis Dalton presented an amendment to the Property Rights Protection Ordinance at a previous meeting. She stated that the proposed amendment is before you.

Chair Richardson and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about this has met all of the requirements.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Roten seconded the motion.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about "previously occupied" and there is no definition of previously occupied. County Attorney Donna Shumate explained that's how it was recommended by the Planning Board. Commissioner Goudreau and County Attorney Donna Shumate talked about the inspectors' view of previously occupied in regards to electricity.

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

County Manager Don Adams talked about our new House member Jeffrey Elmore would like to come meet everyone. He talked about having a special meeting 30 minutes prior to the joint meeting for both Boards to meet Jeffrey Elmore.

Chair Richardson asked is 30 minutes enough time. He said it is a great idea. He stated he appreciates him offering to do this.

County Manager Don Adams talked about this would be October 29 at 6:30pm.

The Board agreed.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to enter into closed session at 9:07pm under NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn closed session at 9:28pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman