

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 3, 2014, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chairman Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order.

The Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Cox offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 3, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, November 3, 2014  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for November 3, 2014, Meeting  
Motion on Minutes for October 20, 2014, Meeting
- 6:35 A. April Hamm – Transportation Director
1. Present grant information regarding the Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant for 2015/16.
  2. Public Hearing – Chairman opens public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed CTP. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
  3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed CTP grant application.
  4. Present information about the Section 5310 (ED) program.
  5. Public Hearing -- Chairman opens public hearing to receive comments regarding the Section 5310 (ED) program. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
  6. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed Section 5310 (ED) program application.
  7. Present information about the Rural General Public (RGP) transportation rates.
  8. Public Hearing -- Chairman opens public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed RGP rates. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
  9. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed RGP rates.
- B. Public Hearing – Proposed 2015 Schedule of Values.  
Chairman opens public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed Schedule of Values. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.  
No action requested.
- C. Junior Girl Scout Troop 2795  
RE: Update on activities that the Junior Girl Scouts are involved in. No action requested.
- D. Daniel Roten – Emergency Management Coordinator  
RE: Emergency Management Annual Report
- E. Wilkes Community College Annual Report
- F. General Business
1. Blue Ridge Electric Easement  
Blue Ridge Electric is asking for an easement on property located on Health Services Road.  
Action Requested – Vote on the easement.
  2. Budget Amendment – Maintenance  
Budget amendment General Fund #7 in the amount of \$6,777 for mandated elevator repairs at 90 South Main Street. Action Requested – Vote on Budget amendment General Fund #7.
  3. Transportation Vans

Update on process to sell vans discussed at the last meeting.

Action Requested – Vote on changing disposal method to public auction.

4. Transfer Facility Attendant Position

Due to potential long-term health issues with Transfer Facility staff an additional position is needed. It is requested that a Transfer Facility Attendant, Grade 59, \$22,133.11, be added along with taxes, retirement and insurance. Fiscal Year 2014/15 costs will be \$17,785. Action Requested – Vote on adding and filling the position.

5. Wellness Drawing for Sparta Entertainment Center Gift Certificate.

All employees who have participated in the flu shot clinic are entered into the drawing. Action Requested – Draw 1 name.

G. Public Comments—30 minutes

H. Commissioners Comments

I. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 20, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented information regarding the Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant for 2015/16. She reviewed the amounts for the grants; \$157,998 for the administrative grant and \$29,450 for the capital grant. She talked about the administrative grant has been frozen at \$154,273 for the sixth year. She further reviewed the actual County costs for the grants in the amount of \$8,590.95 for the administrative grant and \$2,945 for the capital grant.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about the \$8,590.95 comes out of the General Fund and the \$2,945 comes out of the Transportation Fund.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about the Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant is an annual grant through the NC Department of Transportation.

Chair Cox opened the public hearing at 6:40pm regarding the Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant for 2015/16 and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve submitting the CTP grant application. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm talked about the public involvement paper for the public is available on the Clerk's desk if anyone would like to submit one.

April Hamm explained the Section 5310 (ED) Program budget in the amount of \$41,541 with a 50% required match for the operating portion and \$6,440 with a required 10% match for the capital portion for next year. She explained that the 40 Fund has provided this match in the past years but those funds have been depleted.

County Manager Don Adams talked about that the fund balance was depleted at the end of last budget year. He talked about having to make adjustments at the end of this year for this year's program. He reiterated that these conversations are talking about 2015/16.

Commissioner Smith asked if the sale of the surplus vans will go into the 40 fund. April Hamm answered yes those revenues go into the 40 fund. County Manager Don Adams agreed and said that the revenues are used to apply to offset any loses in the transportation operational fund.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this is for July 1, 2015. Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about indirect costs is only included in the administrative grant that she just presented. April Hamm explained she was told to keep this grant to a minimum and only for the use of the van.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about this vehicle has over 133,000 miles, stays in the County only and provides services every day.

Chair Cox opened the public hearing at 6:50pm regarding the Section 5310 (ED) program and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the Section 5310 (ED) application. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm talked about the Rural General Public (RGP) funds are \$12,000 less this year. She explained that her advisory board met, and she took those suggestions to develop what she is presenting tonight. She reviewed the color-coded mapped zones and explained her proposed changes. She further reviewed the average cost per trip to each area.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about this is the fare system that people use who don't qualify for other transportation services.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about these fares are one-way and per person.

April Hamm talked about the out-of-town trips and further reviewed the transportation rate changes that she is proposing for out-of-town trips. She reviewed the average cost per trip to each area.

County Manager Don Adams mentioned that the elderly/disabled and VA hospital trips are not changing. April Hamm agreed. She provided examples of these types of trips.

April Hamm talked about if there are coordinated trips out-of-town already scheduled then those trip charges are cut in half.

Chair Cox talked about the airport fares are for individuals, and is not coordinated. April Hamm said that is correct.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about how these RGP charges match up to the surrounding areas. April Hamm explained that Wilkes County is \$4-\$24 and Ashe County is \$2-\$10 for in-county trips.

Chair Cox opened the public hearing at 7:01pm regarding the RGP rates and asked for public comments.

Bob Bamberg talked to April Hamm about how these rates play into the transportation budget and grant funds have to be returned if they aren't all spent.

Chair Cox asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the proposed RGP rates. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm talked about making this effective January 1, which will provide time to advertise, and this was discussed at the last meeting.

The Board agreed.

Chair Cox talked about the public hearing on the proposed 2015 schedule of values. He explained that the books were presented to the Board at the last meeting and have been available in the Tax Office for people to review and ask questions. He said that Eddie Mitchum and Rita Miller are present tonight to take down any concerns and questions.

Chair Cox opened the public hearing at 7:04pm regarding the proposed 2015 schedule of values and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Ashlin Williams presented information about Girl Scouts activities here in Alleghany County including they have gone from no active Girl Scouts to over 40. She talked about information regarding their cookie sales, activities including volunteering, camping, swimming, making crafts, chemistry day, geocoaching. She explained that they are planning a winter wonderland tea party

on December 6 at 2:00pm at the Methodist Church where they will have refreshments, crafts, a silent auction, door prizes, guest speaker and a photo booth. She stated that tickets are available for purchase and provided where to purchase them.

Nicola Williams introduced the leaders of the Girl Scout Troop.

Commissioner Leys and Nicola Williams talked about what the fundraising money goes towards.

Commissioner Leys thanked them for the information.

Chair Cox said it's good to see the Girl Scouts active again.

Commissioner Goudreau said thank you to the leaders and parents.

Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented his annual report. He reviewed statistics for Emergency Management for Fire Inspections, and Fire Inspector trainings.

Commissioner Smith and Daniel Roten talked about when he gets his level III certification Gerald Leftwich will not be assisting him.

Commissioner Leys and Daniel Roten talked about the fire inspections are up to date.

County Manager Don Adams and Daniel Roten talked about level II covers 95% of the businesses in Alleghany County and explained the areas that level III cover.

Daniel Roten talked about his safety program activities and trying to develop one safety manual. He reviewed his emergency management duties and grants that have been awarded.

Commissioner Leys asked what has been done about Ebola at this point. Daniel Roten explained that the public health department has taken the lead, currently working on a plan, this is on-going, and having another meeting soon. They talked about everyone is working together to mitigate it. County Manager Don Adams provided examples about protocols being written for Dispatch on how to direct responders and paid staff plus when to bring in the Health Department. The County Manager talked about the Health Department has control over the scene.

Dr. Jeff Cox, President of Wilkes Community College (WCC), thanked the Board for the support for the Alleghany Center, which wouldn't be possible without the Commissioners' support. He also thanked the Board for the nomination for the trustees' appointment; Duane Davis and Rita Woodruff. He explained they are going through transition and trying to better serve this community including Jayne Phipps-Boger is teaching more and Chris Robinson is helping with administrative matters. He talked about ways to improve what they are doing. He stated that they have been in the Center since 2003.

Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about they are making some changes. She further talked about the statistics for the number of students enrolled. She explained the highlights at the campus; changes for their internet access, opportunity to bring the cyber campus to the campus, teaching 4 days a week, changed the book sales, great reduction in downtime with the new system, phone system changes, still work very closely with the rescue/fire personnel, Benita working on a series of beekeeping classes/lama farming classes, working with the Small Business Center, working with the Wellness Center for move-more classes, English as Second Language class at Glade Creek School is going great.

Commissioner Leys and Jayne Phipps-Boger talked about the classes they are offering at the cyber campus. They talked about the local enrollment is stable. They further talked about the milling class, and series of classes. Chris Robinson talked about the milling classes. They talked about the number of students.

Chris Robinson talked about things they are doing with the Alleghany High School (AHS) and their plans for the AHS students. He further talked about career and college promise classes. He explained that AHS students have some opportunities that other students don't have. He talked about working with the schools about what can WCC do to better for the AHS students and wanting to focus on the technical side, too. He talked about having a schedule of classes available for them in the Spring. He talked about being in the process of working with AHS on the

new Golden Leaf grant, providing some space and having shared equipment. He further talked about they are successful in the grant then will see some nice equipment. He explained the renewed activity in the business industry. He talked about the Spring job fair at Pioneer Eclipse, Governor's 1000 in 100 initiative, which work has began in Alleghany already, looking forward to implementing the economic plan, and it's time to renew our planning process since we've been in the building since 2003.

Chair Cox said this is a lot of great information.

Commissioner Smith stated that these are bold endeavors going and asked if the cyber campus at AHS is still being used. Dr. Cox answered yes there are classes that the AHS students can take, and it's still being utilized. Commissioner Smith said he appreciated WCC coming. Dr. Cox mentioned they are excited about the career and college promise. Chris Robinson talked about the amount of financial savings for students attending WCC versus a public university.

Commissioner Leys asked what's the ending date on the 1000 in 100 initiative. Chris Robinson and the County Manager talked about it is mandated to finish by the end of the year.

Commissioner Leys and Chris Robinson talked about the recent tour at GE, GE's plans, and training people for those jobs. They talked about the 20% required match on the grant that will be supplied by the schools.

Commissioner Leys stated her appreciation for the work with the schools and the businesses.

Commissioner Goudreau thanked WCC for their hard work.

Chair Cox talked about the career promise and the technical education fits into our economic plan about maintaining our youth here by being a broad spectrum approach.

Chair Cox declared a brief recess at 7:52pm.

County Manager Don Adams presented a Blue Ridge Electric's utility easement for property that is rented by Daymark. He described the maps that show the area subject to the easement. He explained that they have a power easement for this location. He further explained that the Daymark is trying to get fiber to their building and BREMCO is working with NCMC to install the fiber. He talked about issues that BREMCO ran into that their current easements do not include communications.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the easement. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #7 in the amount of \$6,777 for the mandated elevator repairs that were discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #7 in the amount of \$6,777. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained during the conversations about selling the transportation vans by sealed bid he was running off laws that counties have to abide by and these vans are subject to federal rules, which are the minimum bids have to be set by appraisals but public auctions aren't subject to that. He said that he is proposing to sale these vans on Thursday, December 4 at Noon, with viewing an hour before. He asked the Commissioners change the disposal methods with keeping the minimums in place.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams reviewed each of the minimum bids.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to change the disposal method to public auction. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams requested to add a position of Transfer Facility Attendant because of long-term health issues with staff which has created issues with staffing coverage. He explained that due to potential long-term health issues with Transfer Facility staff an additional position is needed; it is requested that a Transfer Facility Attendant, Grade 59, \$22,133.11, be

added along with taxes, retirement and insurance with fiscal year 2014/15 costs being \$17,785. He reviewed the employee operations for the Transfer Facility and Maintenance. He said that he is not looking for this to be a permanent position, but could be up to 6 months or longer, which is difficult to fill long term by maintenance staff.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about the position would be a Transfer Facility Attendant but needs to be flexible.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about needing to have the ability for this person to work in Maintenance, if needed. The County Manager explained the goal is to have everyone working there able to do all of the different jobs.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to add and fill the position as requested. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Cox talked about the wellness drawing is for a Sparta Entertainment Center gift certificate for all employees who have participated in the flu shot clinic entered into the drawing. Commissioner Goudreau drew one name; Josh Greene.

Chair Cox opened the floor for public comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Leys stated that she is happy with WCC's presentation tonight. She talked about Johnnie and Stephen Whitlow are almost done with the plantings at the Senior Center. She asked for the Board's participation in several community fundraisers.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox  
Chairman