

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

County Manager Don Adams called the meeting to order. He explained the reason that he is opening the meeting because this is the meeting where the Chair and Vice-Chair are selected. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Smith offered the Invocation.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this December 7, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, December 7, 2015  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for December 7, 2015 Meeting  
Motion on Minutes for November 2, 2015, November 13, 2015, and November 30, 2015 Meetings
- 6:35 A. Elect Chair & Vice-Chair  
B. Appoint Interim Clerk to the Board  
C. Appoint County Attorney  
D. Board Appointments – Action only necessary if changes are made.  
E. Rules of Procedures – Action Requested – Vote on procedures.
- 6:50 F. Becky Veazey, The MAPS Group President  
RE: Salary Study—Core Market Discussions. Action Requested – The Board will be requested to approve the core market that the salary study will be based upon. This can be accomplished at this meeting or the next meeting.
- 7:15 G. General Business
1. High Country Rural Planning Organization’s Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Appointment  
Enclosed is a letter from David Graham stating that Commissioner Larry Davis’ term is expiring on the RTAC December 31, 2015, and reappointment is possible. Action Requested – Vote on the appointment.
  2. Fireman’s Relief Fund Board Appointment for Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department  
Request is to replace Mack Ruppard as Treasurer on the Firemen’s Relief Fund with Tina Rector. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
  3. Tourism Development Authority Appointments  
Chair Jim Connor and Charlie Scott do not wish to fulfill another term on the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). Their terms expired on November 21, 2015. Both have indicated their willingness to serve while their replacements can be found. Action Requested – Vote to appoint them to the TDA on an interim basis until the vacancies can be filled.
  4. Tourism Development Authority Resignation  
Joe Edwards has recently resigned from the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). His term expires November 21, 2016. Action Requested – Decide how to proceed with filling the 3 vacancies.
- H. Public Comments—30 minutes  
I. Commissioners Comments  
J. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 2, 2015, November 13, 2015, and November 30, 2015, meetings. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to appoint Tom Smith as the Chair in appreciation of his experience over the past year. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith stated his appreciation to the Board.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to appoint Karen Leys as the Vice-Chair. Chair Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith asked Karen Evans if she is willing to be the Interim Clerk to the Board. She agreed.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to appoint Karen Evans as the Interim Clerk to the Board. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith asked Donna Shumate if she is willing to remain the County Attorney. She answered yes.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to reappoint Donna Shumate as the County Attorney. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith reviewed the board appointments and asked for any changes to the appointments. No one spoke.

Chair Smith asked about the Rules of Procedures.

Commissioner Leys suggested changing the seating in order to see all of the members.

Commissioner Evans mentioned the language about members not attending the Commissioners' meetings.

Commissioner Leys asked about changing the meeting times. Chair Smith said they had talked about that and mentioned the third Monday. Commissioner Evans asked about changing the time to 1:00pm which creates a conflict for Chair Smith. Chair Smith and Commissioner Evans talked about times during the day to meet. Chair Smith asked about meeting at 9:00am. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to change the second meeting to 9:00am on the third Monday. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Becky Veazey with The MAPS Group presented information to the Board regarding the salary study. She explained that they began the process in October and their work completed to date. She provided her background, The MAPS Group's history and the services they offer. She talked about looking at the core-market data. She provided examples of when they go out of the core market.

Chair Smith and Becky Veazey talked about they have met with the department heads and individual employees. They discussed how the towns are viewed in the study because of competing with certain jobs.

County Manager Don Adams noted that the towns listed here are towns that the County has lost employees to.

Chair Smith and Becky Veazey talked about the counties that are in the study. He said that he has heard that Alleghany and Mitchell are similar. She agreed and added that Avery is too.

Commissioner Irwin and Becky Veazey discussed sometimes they may not be able to obtain salary data from every single organization.

Chair Smith and Becky Veazey talked about the number of counties that participate in the School of Government's study.

County Manager Don Adams and Becky Veazey talked about having 9 to 11 entities for the core market. He said that this decision can be made at this meeting or the next meeting. He explained the purpose of the governing board to select the market.

Commissioner Evans said he is fine with the first 7 listed and also 8 and 9.

Chair Smith asked about the Board reviewing these for the next meeting. The Board agreed.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from David Graham in regards to the High Country Rural Planning Organization's (RPO) Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) explaining that Commissioner Davis' term is expiring at the end of the year.

Commissioner Leys thanked Commissioner Davis for his participation with this group and his work with NCDOT.

Commissioner Davis explained the intersection of Highway 221/113 and recent changes made to the intersection.

Commissioner Leys said she wants to give Commissioner Davis credit for that idea.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Davis to serve on the RPO RTAC. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Chief David Higgins for Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department requesting that Tina Rector replace Mack Ruppard on their Fireman's Relief Fund board. He reviewed the remaining members of this board. He explained the purpose of the board.

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

County Manager Don Adams explained the papers in the Board's packet; membership list, ordinance to establish occupancy tax and resolution creating the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). He further explained Chair Jim Connor and Charlie Scott do not wish to fulfill another term on the TDA, their terms expired on November 21, 2015, and both have indicated their willingness to serve while their replacements can be found. He said that Joe Edwards recently resigned because he can't attend the meetings the way he thinks they should be attended. He asked about discussion on how to proceed.

Chair Smith talked about appointing Jim Connor and Charlie Scott on an interim basis until their replacements can be found.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve appointing Jim Connor and Charlie Scott on an interim basis until their replacements can be found. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that both of them have served for 4 years and don't want to commit to another 3 years.

Chair Smith asked what options does the Board have.

County Manager Don Adams read a portion of the TDA resolution regarding the required membership. He said that he recommends to open this up for nominations from now to mid-January then bring them back before the Board.

Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about how to get the word out. Commissioner Leys asked about advertising. County Manager Don Adams said advertising could occur. Commissioner Leys said one of the first things people will want to know is when they meet. Clerk Karen Evans said the third Tuesday. County Manager Don Adams provided information about some of them have traveled to attend functions to learn more about tourism.

Commissioner Leys publicly thanked Jim Connor and Charlie Scott. She explained that they have worked hard.

Commissioner Irwin and Commissioner Leys discussed they meet once a month.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this current TDA board has developed the entire process and provided examples. He said that they have a lot to do with how organized they

are.

Commissioner Leys said she would like to advertise. She asked how that would occur. County Manager Don Adams explained there could be an application process or have people call his office. Commissioner Evans mentioned targeting the entities since the requirements are so exact.

Chair Smith said that may be a good starting point.

Commissioner Davis asked if the members going off have any recommendations. County Manager Don Adams said no one has said anyone.

Commissioner Evans said he talked to John Kilmartin, and he didn't have anyone. Commissioner Leys said he gave her a name over the weekend.

County Manager Don Adams talked about receiving names from the entities mentioned in the resolution, and comply a list in his office. He asked do we want to advertise. He asked does everyone want to receive recommendations. The Board agreed. He asked where to stop there or open it up. Commissioner Leys said let's see how it shakes out. The Board agreed. Chair Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about when to bring this back before the Board.

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

Commissioner Leys said she is thankful for the season, thankful for the community and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Irwin wished everyone a Merry Christmas, also. He mentioned that December 7 is Pearl Harbor Day, and everyone needs to remember the veterans. He said there has been a minor setback at the Veterans Park, but it is under control.

Sheriff Bryan Maines wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to remember the reason for the season.

Commissioner Irwin said thanks for the articles in the newspapers about the recent scams. Sheriff Maines mentioned a couple of scams that are in the area.

Commissioner Davis wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Evans explained that Commissioner Irwin and he met with the School Facilities Committee where a draft list was presented for their priorities for the next 10 years. He said that both boards will meet together sometime after the first of the year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels. He stated that prayers go out to the family of the man from the recent incident on the bypass.

Chair Smith mentioned the recent Rescue Squad dinner, and stated his appreciation to the emergency services people in the county.

Being no further business, Commissioner Irwin made a motion to adjourn at 7:28pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith  
Chair