

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 4, 2016, 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 Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker. County Attorney Donna Shumate was present.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Chair Smith stated that the Veterans Service Officer information needs to be added to the agenda;

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this April 4, 2016, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, April 4, 2016  
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for April 4, 2016 Meeting
- A. 6:35 Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper\_
1. Present information regarding a proposed new road name; Haven Hollow Lane
  2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed road name. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
  3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed road name.
- B. 6:45 Josh Greene, Public Works Director and Jim Brown, Recreation Director\_
1. Swimming Pool Coating. The Duncan Recreation Center pool will have to be painted prior to opening this summer. There are three options to choose from. A) Rubber based paint (\$1,638) B) Acrylic based paint (\$3,318) C) Epoxy based paint (\$6,645). There is not enough funding available for the Acrylic or Epoxy based paints. Action Requested - Vote on using the rubber based paint or to increase funding to utilize the acrylic or epoxy based paints.
  2. Transfer Facility Repair. Mr. Greene will present two options to repair the damage to the support beam at the tipping floor. One option is a concrete solution that has an estimated cost of 8-10 thousand dollars. This option will require the closing of the facility for 4-5 days. The other option is a steel solution that has an estimated cost of \$9,300 and will require minimal closing (up to one day) of the facility. Action Requested – Vote on approving the concrete solution or the steel solution.
- C. 7:00 Mark Browder & Tracy McCarty, Mark III Employee Benefits  
RE: Health insurance quotes will be presented to the Board. No action requested at this meeting. The Board will need to take action at the April 18, 2016 regularly scheduled meeting.
- D. 7:30 General Business
1. DSS General Fund Budget Amendment # 17  
General Fund Budget Amendment #17 in the amount of \$1,000. Alleghany Partnership for Children provided DSS with additional money to serve Smart Start eligible children. Action Requested-Vote on Budget Amendment #17.
  2. NCDOT Easement

NCDOT is requesting to purchase a temporary construction easement on .006 acres of County land for \$100. This temporary construction easement is for the construction of the Sparta Parkway extension. Action Requested – Vote on the temporary construction easement.

3. Security Cameras at Veterans Park

It is requested that two security cameras be placed at Veterans Memorial Park. Total cost will be \$1,410.18 with a monthly fee of \$75 per month. Action Requested – Vote on placing security cameras at Veterans Memorial Park.

4. USDA-Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Update

The no interest USDA REDLG loan for the Library has been approved. The County must submit this loan application to the Local Government Commissioner for approval. A public hearing will need to be scheduled for May 2, 2016. Action Requested – Schedule a public hearing on May 2, 2016.

5. E911 Study

General discussions in regards to the existing E911 study. Mission Critical Partners have been contracted to provide an assessment on the E911 Dispatch Center at a cost of \$15,512. A Radio Assessment will cost an additional \$37,680. Action Requested – Decide whether or not to proceed with the Radio Assessment at this time.

6. VSO Job Information (addition)

E. Public Comments—30 minutes

F. Commissioners Comments

G. Adjourn

Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapping went over the proposed road name Haven Hollow Ln in the Glade Creek area.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing. Seeing no one he then closed the public hearing.

Chair Smith asked Wendy Williams if both residents agreed to the road name.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to name the road Haven Hollow. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Jim Brown, Recreation Director presented options for the pool coating: 1) Rubber \$8,187.90 for 5 years, 2) Acrylic \$16,587.90 for 5 years 3) Epoxy 6,544.86 for approximately 5 years.

Josh Green, Public Works Director said that if the Board chooses to use rubber or acrylic you will have to stay with that one because rubber will not cover the acrylic nor will the acrylic cover the rubber.

Commissioner Irwin asked what was currently on the pool.

Jim Brown said plaster and that it is starting to break away and the concrete can be seen. He went on to say that the health department told them last year that the pool would have to be painted before it could be opened again.

Chair Smith asked if any of the prices were in their budgets.

Jim Brown said no they were not because this is a new thing that they are having to do.

County Manager Don Adams said it is possible to scrape together the money for the first option, but it just was not budgeted for coming into the new year.

Commissioner Davis asked if the Epoxy will still stain.

Jim Brown said it is supposed to be highly stain resistant.

Josh Green, Public Works Director said most pools keep water all year around and chlorine in it to keep it from growing the algae that stains the pool.

County Manager Don Adams said all other pools compared are off the mountain. He went on to explain that they had held off as long as possible because once you start painting you will always have to paint.

Commissioner Irwin wanted to clarify that the epoxy is supposed to last 3 to 5 years.

Jim Brown said that there sales representative stated it would last up to 8 years off the mountain, but he reiterated that this pool is handled differently than other pools because of being in the mountains.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the thickness and 2 ply of the paint will cover the holes where the plaster has worn through to the concrete and will help that last longer.

Commissioner Irwin asked what causes the pool to be stained.

Jim Brown explained that algae grows in the water when there aren't chemicals and when they go to drain that water out the sun bakes the algae to the plaster. He went on to explain that to get it off they have to go over it with muriatic acid to eat it off.

Commissioner Leys said she liked that in the advertisement that it says "unsurpassable stain resistant" and that it will build up to 8 millimeters and then it will only take half the paint next time it has to be painted.

Chair Smith asked if the pool had been redone since it was first put in.

County Manager Don Adams said yes the old pool was ripped out and redone in 2001.

Commissioner Davis asked if it will fill up the holes in the bottom.

Jim Brown said yes the thick paint will cover all the places where the plaster is chips and make it really nice and smooth.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the epoxy paint for the pool at Duncan Recreation center. Commissioner Evans seconded.

Commissioner Irwin asked if they had shopped around and if this was the best price.

Jim Brown said he had shopped around with the company that he gets all his pool supplies from and they sale it, but for \$90 a gallon and that's only the epoxy not the second gallon to make it blend and paintable. Whereas what he is recommending is both blends put together for the lesser amount so he believed that was the best deal.

Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams wanted to clarify that at the next meeting there will be a budget amendment to come before the board to out the money in place for the purchase of the paint.

Josh Greene, Public Works director explained the options for fixing the pillar at the transfer facilities. With the first concrete option the transfer facility will need to be closed 4 to 5 days and with the second steel option it will be at most one day if he needs the one.

Commissioner Irwin said the question is how did the pillar get hit.

Josh Green said that he really is not sure how it happened.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the video cameras were put up after this happened so they really don't know.

Commissioner Irwin stated that he was looking to prevent it from happening again.

Josh Green said back to the steel options the steel post will be behind the head high wall and it could not be hit.

County Manager Don Adams explained that Commissioner Davis had suggested it be turned in on insurance. He said he had done that and was hopeful they will honor the claim.

Commissioner Davis stated this is the second time the same pillar has been hit. He went on to say that when they fixed it last time they had poured the concrete themselves.

Chair Smith said seem to him that with the steel option the transfer facility will be closed a day at the most and that Josh Green is recommending it as the better option to the structure of the building then that answers all his questions.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the steel option to repair the Transfer Facility for \$9,300 with closing of one day if needed. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Tracy McCarty, Mark III Representative presented the history of the county insurance and what the options are for the upcoming year. She explained that the original increase was at 20% they then got it down to 16%, but that still was not low enough so they sent it out for other companies to quote it. There were 3 declines to quote and she went on to explain the quotes she did receive. First was Blue Cross and Blue Shield, they then came down to 11%, but the plan was modified. Next was from the League of Municipalities which came in at 7% and is the same plan that the county currently has and Mark III had asked them for a rate cap of 15% for next year just in case.

Chair Smith wanted to clarify that there will be an overall 7% increase and they will recognize our wellness program.

Tracey McCarty said yes exactly and yes they have their own type of wellness plan that is a little different from the blue cross and blue shield plan.

County Manager Don Adams explained that in this particular model if you choose not to abide by the wellness guidelines there are potential penalties on that individual. He said he has a deterrent heads meeting planned later this week and will get feedback from them as well as the Board at the special called meeting next week.

Chair Smith asked if this is an unchanged plan.

County Manager Don Adams said yes they have a great local and Virginia network as well.

Tracy McCarty said the biggest thing will be the prescription differences.

Commissioner Leys said that the League is something new to her, but she just looked it up and it says over 500 cities, villages and counties.

Tracy McCarty explained yes and they have a good reputation. They are a self-funded pool so they will try to keep it even across the board within their pool and they want to keep your business so they will be willing to work with the County.

Commissioner Leys clarified that the benefits are exactly the same and the increase is 7%.

Chair Smith clarified that County Manager Don Adams would be getting feedback from the department heads before they had to make their decision.

County Manager Don Adams said yes he had a meeting set up with them for Wednesday and with Commissioners on the twelfth and then they will be asked to make a decision on the eighteenth.

County Manager Don Adams explained general fund budget amendment number 17 in the amount of \$1,000. He said it is money from Alleghany Partnership for Children to Social Services for children services for smart start eligible children.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve budget amendment number 17 in the amount of \$1,000. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained that the NCDOT is requesting a temporary easement at the corner of the Sparta Parkway and Grandview Drive for work on the bypass. The amount of land being requested is .006 acres for use and they have offered the County \$100 for the use.

Commissioner Leys asked what the easement was going to be used for.

County Manager Don Adams explained the area would be used in the extension of the Sparta Parkway.

Commissioner Irwin asked about the paper work where one spot had \$50 and another had \$100.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the \$50 was what the land was worth and they were offering us the \$100.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the NCDOT temporary easement in the amount of \$100. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained the quote from Skyline for two cameras to be angled showing the picnic area and one toward the memorial wall. Request is \$1,349 with an ongoing cost of \$75 per month.

Commissioner Irwin asked does the one looking at the monument cover any of the parking lot.

County Manager Don Adams said yes it will cover some because you will be looking across the parking lot to see the memorial.

Commissioner Leys asked if the \$75 per month for this fiscal year is included in this \$1,400.

County Manager Don Adams said no it is not that will be extra.

Commissioner Evans asked if there are signs saying this area is under surveillance.

County Manager Don Adams said yes there will be signs there.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve security camera system at Veterans Park. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained that the County have received the USDA loan. He said there will need to be a public hearing and he is looking to schedule that on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to have the public hearing for the USDA loan on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Board had approved to go forward with the E911 dispatch center study at a cost of \$15,512 which is part of the mandated E911 backup center. The Board discussed at the last meeting about the radio assessment portion which would cost \$37,680, but it would look at radio service throughout the county and how to address the issues.

Commissioner Leys stated this was what was on the referendum and it failed. Then she asked where the Board should go from here because the people turned it down. She stated there has to be a funding source.

Commissioner Irwin asked County Attorney Donna Shumate if the County could be held liable in any way.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said she was unsure and that it would really depend on each situation.

Commissioner Evans said he would like to know what the cost might be so that the Board could plan for the future. He asked if the study would be outdated if the Board waited a few years to actually do something about it. He said he did not want to pay for it and then not be able to use it for a few years.

County Manager Don Adams said the dead spots will not change, but the cost of solutions could change.

Commissioner Irwin said he thinks this is a step backwards for the County, but if that is where the majority of the citizens want to go then that is where the Board has to go. He stated he hopes no one will have to pay the ultimate price because of this.

Commissioner Leys said it is difficult to approve something when the County don't have the revenue source to fix the things once it the Board knows what needs to be fixed, but since the citizens voted against it, it is difficult to spend the money. She went on to state that she felt like this voters decision was a conscious decision because the state bond passed in Alleghany County, but the  $\frac{1}{4}$  ¢ sales and use tax did not.

Chair Smith said he was not comfortable spending money on an assessment when there might not be project in the end.

County Manager Don Adams explained the job description for the Veterans Service Officer and the current benefits and salary. He went over a few additions to the job descriptions. One was an outreach aspect and two is technology abilities and insurance experience. He requested to add the clarifications to the job description and whether this is a 30 hour or 40 hour a week job. He explained what the previous model was Monday through Friday 8am to 3pm. With the addition of the outreach he explained that the hours can be used however the employee sees fit, but still have a set schedule so that Veterans can walk into the office. He reiterated that he needed clarification from the Board before he looked at the application to begin his interviewing process.

Commissioner Davis asked how many Veterans visit the office in a week.

County Manager Don Adams replied that he was unsure of the amount.

Chair Smith stated the he felt like the outreach portion was a great idea because he had heard that a lot of Veterans were unaware of the benefits they do have.

Commissioner Irwin said this started about four or five months ago when the County put together a meeting with Alleghany Memorial Hospital, the Insurance Association, the North Carolina Hospital Association, County Commissioners, and there were two or three other organizations there. Out of that meeting came these additional hours as a recommendation from the American Legion Representative that was there Mr. Edmunds and he brought up two or three different things that he said he had never thought of, but one of his purposed ideas from the meeting was to get, the County has roughly 1,100 Veterans and if 10% or 20 % of them to start using the hospital, which the hospital is a choice because it has been approved as a choice hospital through the VA. He said the billing that would be created for the hospital would help them financially big time, but the biggest benefit is that the Veterans in this county, he is traveling you know eight or ten or twelve miles verses Commissioner Irwin said he uses Salem hospital. He went on to say that last week he had a Veteran call him at home and the Veteran had been to Salem and took Alleghany in Motion almost two and one half hours up there and back plus his treatment time and he didn't feel very well coming back that far. Commissioner Irwin said he could understand that, but he said he thinks there are two possibilities helping the Veterans and helping hospital and if you look on the website under the choice program you can pull up a circle and it will show six or eight doctors, local doctors that are approved for the

choice program he explained. He went on to say back to the Veteran that went last week, he had called Alleghany Hospital and they told him that they were not a choice hospital. Commissioner Irwin continued, well the Veteran was on the phone with Suzan so he got on the cellphone and within an hour Bret Liverman had talked to the Veteran and assured him that the hospital was a choice hospital. Commissioner Irwin went on to explain that there is a disconnect. The County has 1,100 Veterans and the Board is discussing \$7,695 additional to what the 30 hour employee was getting. He said he would at least like to see, this new person hired for a minimum of 2 years at 40 hours and if he gets all these little nuances worked out where he doesn't need to be there for 40 hours then that is up to the Board or up to County Manager Don Adams who can cut those hours back if need be, but just because 30 hours worked in the past the County is looking at offering a different program this outreach program and he went on to say that he thinks that the person needs to work with Alleghany Memorial Hospital, there has to be a connection between the VA representative and the hospital he said he was not sure what the connection is, but felt there needed to be one. Commissioner Irwin then stated that if he can call up to the hospital and talk to Bret and get a problem taken care of then really there should not be a problem, but it can be done and the Veteran spoke very highly, the Veteran got in the car and went up there and they talked for about 30 minutes so he said that was a plus and he was happy about that, but he went on to say that with adding all the new programs and just asking for \$7,695 more per year he thought it would be a benefit not only to the Veterans, but will be to the hospital and he said it may come to a time that the County will not have to keep giving the hospital money, the billings may generate enough to offset. He reached out to the audience stating that a representative from Wilkes Community College was present and told of a new program out that Veterans now have free tuition to all community colleges in the State and he continued that in this day this Veteran Service Officer needs to be up to date on all programs like that. He said the County can go ahead and get the Veteran signed up with that program and maybe get the Veteran a job because that's what the community colleges do. He continued with there are a lot of new things that the outreach program could look at, but he said it will take somebody that is book smart, computer smart, tenacious, and not take no for an answer the first time they get it from the VA.

Chair Smith reiterated that the outreach portion does appeal to him.

Commissioner Evans said from what County Manager Don Adams had stated that it would be busy at times and then not so busy at other so without knowing the traffic and he said that there is really only one program being added which is the outreach. He stated that maybe if the office hours were cut down to 3 days a weeks and use the other days as outreach days he was not so sure that wouldn't be enough without the 40 hours and still achieve the outreach goal. He went on to say he thought the outreach was a good idea to go out and help educate folks, but really once that is in place and going on. Then he did not think it would cut down really on the officer's time because they are going to reach out and educate more and get systems in place.

Chair Smith asked what the outreach would consist of. If it would it be meeting with Veterans groups, staff at the hospitals, staff at the doctors' offices, and that type thing.

Commissioner Irwin said yes he thought that it is a new concept for a program as far as he knew for the State and felt like we could be a model if other people would look after us, but it is a new program and there is a whole set of Veterans who are 25 now or 30 years old. They need the community colleges, they need legal assistance at times, he stated there are more new items being brought to the table and he reiterated that for a little over \$7,000 and looking at 1,100 plus Veterans that would not be much of an expense and the Board would not be locking into 40 hours for 20 or 30 years. He said the County could try it for a few years and if everything works out and he is not needed then you could drop those hours back.

Commissioner Leys said first on the additions to be added on the third bullet she said she would like to change the word general to technical because they are going to have to know more than just general knowledge, so it reads "for the ability to gain technical knowledge of private and governmental insurance." She then thanked Commissioner Irwin for his passion on the topic and his service to our Country. She went on to say that without his initial interest in this it would not have gotten to this point. She stated that she felt like she needed to see the need for the 40 hours before she felt comfortable going to that. She said that she would be willing to make it a full 4 days and make it be 32 hours instead of just the 30, but she just was not convinced that there were enough visitors at this point to grow to that and it is too difficult to go 2 years at 40 hours and then cut it back to 30 hours. She said it just doesn't very often work that way. She explained

that she wanted to look at this positively and have this person prove to the Board that they do need an extra 8 hours, another day per week. She stated that would be a great problem to work with and it is just too difficult to cut hours that aren't being fully utilized, it is too difficult to prove it if the Board preapproves the hours that have not been proven currently. She continued with the fact that she was excited about this position and felt like it would be reasonable to make it 4 full days at 32 hours.

Chair Smith reiterated that he was very respectful to the outreach program and added that he thought that it might be logical to start the program off at the original 30 hours and have Monday Wednesday Friday in the office and use Tuesday and Thursday as outreach. He said that appealed to him personally, but understood that this was a new project that the Board is talking about.

Commissioner Evans agreed he said he was in the same position. He would like for the Veterans Service Officer to prove to the Board that they needed more time and wanted them to if that what is decided. He went on to say that once there is a full time position established he felt like it would difficult to change.

Commissioner Irwin said where he got his information from about reducing the hours is something that can be done and be done fairly easily administratively. He continued as saying that that he appreciated everything that everyone had said.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion for the Veterans Service Officer to be 40 hours a week on at least a two year trial period and that would be adding \$7,695 to the current budget for the 1,100 Veterans in the county.

Chair Smith clarified that there was a motion on the floor to make the Veterans Service officer position 40 hours per week while including the additional points to the job description.

There was no second received.

Commissioner Leys asked to make a motion she then explained that there was no disrespect from her toward Commissioner Irwin or the Veterans because of not seconding. She stated that she wants the program to work, but first proven that the need it there. She also stated that she wanted the Veterans to come and utilize this position well. She the continued with her motion.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to make the Veterans Service officer position 32 hours per week and include the additions to the job description.

Commissioner Evans asked County Manager Don Adams if the 32 hours would be a good fit.

County Manager Don Adams said what he would suggest no matter how many hours it is but to have 3 office days and 2 outreach or comp time days. He asked to spread whatever amount of hours over 5 days to allow for time and flexibility for the outreach portion.

Chair Smith clarified that basically it would leave 8 hours for the outreach program if the Board goes with the 32 hours. Having them in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday is 24 hours and the other 8 hours can be spent flexibly on the outreach portion.

County Manager Don Adams said those extra 8 hours could still be office time or they could be at meeting somewhere else or in someone else's office whatever needs to be done for the outreach portion.

Commissioner Davis seconded Commissioner Leys' motion to make the Veterans Service officer position 32 hours per week and include the additions to the job description.

County Manager Don Adams wanted to clarify that the change from general to technical was the only difference in the job description.

Commissioner Irwin asked if there needed to be anything in the description about working with the hospital.

County Manager Don Adams said that it would be with all medical community.



Commissioner Irwin said he was tickled to get 2 more hours he thought that was great, but just once again the Veterans come up short nationally and now locally. He went on to say the he felt like the Veterans got the shaft again.

Chair Smith stated that if Commissioner Irwin's comment was intended to paint the Board as anti-Veteran then he found that rather distasteful. He went on to say that he was raised by a Veteran and lived with a Veteran for 17 years of his life. He stated that the Board is about to make a major change in that particular position and he thought that was a positive change and that the whole expectation was to implement this outreach part which he felt could be done.

Commissioner Irwin reiterated his appreciation to the Board for the extra 2 hours, but he continued as a Veteran that he has to speak for the majority of them, that once again he feels nationally the Veterans have always gotten the short end of the stick and once again for \$7,695 they have gotten it again.

Commissioner Leys stated that she believed what the Board and she had said was just prove that the extra 8 hours is needed. She went on to say if the person works hard enough and proves it then she is willing to go for it, but it needed to be proven. She stated that the Veterans were not coming out and utilizing the previous Veterans Service Officers, but that hopefully they will and if it works out for 1,100 to come use this person then the County may have to have 2 of them. She then stated that she felt like it was a very positive change.

Commissioner Irwin said that would be a good day.

Commissioner Davis stated the Board can always add the hours if needed.

Vote 5:0

Chair Smith opened the floor for public comments. Seeing none he then closed it.

Commissioner Leys said she was informed at the DSS meeting that the NCACC recommend that each county have a liaison to attend meetings, know what is going on and to keep up with NC fast and NC tracks requirements. She explained that Alleghany County will be penalized money for other counties not getting their paperwork done in a timely manner. She informed the Board that this would be on the next agenda and that she would like to be considered to be the liaison. She also informed the Board of a public hearing on the Medicaid reform on Wednesday in Blowing Rock.

Commissioner Irwin said that the state community college board hired a new president and he will begin July the 1<sup>st</sup>. He told a little of the new president's background and his plans once he begins the job.

Commissioner Evans said that he felt like the Veterans are very respected in our county. He went on to say how great it was to take Commissioner Irwin interest, passion because of his experience and his personal connection with this to be able to expand and have the potential to reach out to many of the Veterans that are in need. He stated that this is only a start and he hopes the program grows and he would be willing to add to that when the need arises. He said he was excited that the Board was able to this from Commissioner Irwin efforts.

Chair Smith said he completely agreed with Commissioner Evans and could not say it any better.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker  
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith  
Chair









