

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 16, 2009, at 3:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Randy Miller was present but arrived late.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that Joy Hines and closed session for personnel needs to be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda for this November 16, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA
Monday, November 16, 2009
3:30 PM

- 3:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
Motion on Agenda for November 16, 2009, meeting
Motion on Minutes for October 29 and November 2, 2009, meetings
Motion on October Tax Releases and Refunds
- 3:35 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Mary Walker
RE: Tax Appeal
Debt Setoff Program
Joy Hines (added)
RE: Smoky Mountain Mental Health Quarterly Report
- C. Health Department Annual Report
D. Public Hearing
RE: QSCB Project for Glade Creek School
- E. County Business
1. Updated EMS Drug & Alcohol Policy
2. Sheriff's Record Retention Schedule Update
3. Budget Amendment—Transfer Facility
4. Long Term Care Community Advisory Appointment
5. Other Business
6. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel (added)
7. Adjourn

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 29, and November 2, 2009, meetings. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the real refunds and releases for October. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the auto refunds and releases for October. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented a motor vehicle appeal for a 2000 Ford which has been appraised for \$8,500. She talked about her recommendation of \$8,500.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Mary Walker talked about the assessed value, value from NADA, the pricing book used for taxes and high mileage adjustments.

Commissioner Randy Miller arrived at 4:36pm.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to approve the tax administrator's recommendation. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker talked about the debt set-off program. She explained that the debt set-off program is where the tax office can garnish individuals from their State income tax return. She further explained that the account has been set up at the State level. She continued explaining how the program works including the bill has to be \$50 and the taxpayer is charged an additional \$15 fee. She said she has talked to the Town Manager and the County Attorney about this. She continued explaining how the program works.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked would this be creating a new position of a hearing officer.

Mary Walker answered not necessarily. She explained that she was at a meeting recently where they suggested different people to serve as the hearing officer. She talked about Missy Smith in the Tax Office could devote time to this to serve as the hearing officer. She further talked about there is a lot of information involved with this program, and this is something she would like to have completed before she retires.

County Manager Don Adams and Mary Walker talked about the amount of the bill has to be \$50 and the number of people that this could apply to.

Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Milly Richardson and Mary Walker talked about the outstanding motor vehicle bills from 1999-2009 being \$400,000 to \$500,000. Mary Walker explained why part of this cannot be collected.

Commissioner Randy Miller and Mary Walker discussed how much of that she thinks could be collected; 35%-40%.

Commissioner Steve Roten and Mary Walker talked about the motor vehicle bills are the problem with collections. She explained that in July 2011 DMV will start collecting the taxes when the tags are issued but they won't take over delinquent taxes.

Mary Walker stated that she wanted to make the Board aware of this project and see if she has the Board's approval for this project.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the amount of time and postage spent sending out the bills/notices multiple times and not getting any response.

Mary Walker talked about how some counties handle motor vehicles by dropping them off the books after three years but previous boards didn't want to do that. She talked about she is working on this and will continue.

Chair Ken Richardson asked Mary Walker to bring back a proposal to the Board. He talked about anything to help to bring in additional money will be helpful.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about how the county could use the additional money without having to raise other fees or taxes.

Joy Hines, Finance Officer, came before the Board to present information from Mental Health. She explained that recently we learned that she has to present information periodically to the Commissioners. She reviewed the handout that she provided to the Board that contained Mental Health's financial information including the percentage collected and spent at this time. She presented information about their account receivables. She reviewed the explanation of the line items over/under and their fund balance of expected appropriations and designations for the year.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Chair Ken Richardson discussed this is regarding Smoky Mountain rather than New River Behavioral Healthcare.

Danny Staley, Appalachian District Health Department, presented their annual report. He talked about the different types of flu shots this year, new no smoking law

taking effect January 2010, reaccredited for the next four years, environmental health functions, WIC has changed their programming focusing on fresh fruits/vegetables and low fat, reviewed the state of the district information including leading concerns of cause of deaths, suicide, access to healthcare, H1N1 and Eat Smart Move More program. He informed the Board of a grant opportunity that they are involved with where the Health Department is one of two communities selected to move forward about obesity.

Commissioner Milly Richardson thanked Danny Staley for the good job that is done.

Chair Ken Richardson opened the public hearing at 4:07pm regarding the QSCB project and asked for public comments.

Clarence Crouse, Chairman of the Board of Education, along with Board of Education members Betsy Dillon and Brad Mabe, stated their support for the project. He talked about the needs at Glade Creek Elementary School. He further talked about looking at the current needs as well as planning for the future. He said that he hopes that everyone recognizes the amount of hard work that has been put into working on these plans. He said that he strongly supports this project and this method of funding.

Betsy Dillon talked about this is an example of the wonderful effort between the two boards. She further talked about their needs, and this is a way to address those needs.

Brad Mabe thanked the Board for their support. He said that people shouldn't short cut the kids. He talked about this being a joint venture.

Dr. Jeff Cox, Superintendent, said that he echoes what the Board of Education members said in thanking the Board of Commissioners. He talked about the amount of time and effort spent for getting these funds. He further talked about he greatly appreciates the fact that the Commissioners support this project. He explained that these needs will grow and will only get more as time goes by if nothing is done. He talked about this project wasn't able to get a 0% loan since no one is offering 0% but the interest rate that we are getting is better than a regular loan. He said that he is excited about getting the project moving.

Janice Linker, Principal at Glade Creek Elementary School, stated on behalf of the staff and kids at Glade Creek Elementary School she wanted to thank the Board for their support on this project including adding additional monies. She reiterated their appreciation.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for additional public comments. No one spoke.

Chair Ken Richardson declared the public hearing closed at 4:13pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

County Manager Don Adams presented the resolution for final approval of terms and documents for the QSCB financing for Glade Creek Elementary School. He reviewed the resolution including this is for \$3,339,585 to renovate existing classroom space, renovate office area to make the school more secure, renovate gym into new cafeteria, add new gym, renovate existing cafeteria into three classrooms and nine new classrooms for a total of 15,044 square feet new construction and 26,333 square feet renovated space. He continued reviewing the resolution including the proposed terms of the loan being 15 years at 1.97% interest with BB&T. He said that he is requesting the Board approve this resolution which will give the County Manager, Clerk to the Board and Chairman permission to proceed with the loan closing which is scheduled during the week of December 14.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to move forward with this project. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented an update to the Sheriff's Records Retention Schedule.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$23,398 for the loader repairs.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment Transfer Facility #1 in the amount of \$23,398. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter requesting that Inez Worrell be reappointed to serve on the Alleghany County Long Term Care Community Advisory Committee. He reminded the Board of the committee's purpose regarding nursing homes.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to grant the request. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to go into closed session at 4:20pm under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson left the meeting at 4:28pm.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to adjourn closed session at 4:44pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

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

Chair Ken Richardson mentioned that on Friday, December 4 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Blue Ridge Electric there will be the closing of the sesequicentennial. He invited everyone to attend.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed a summary of the surplus sale that was held on Saturday, November 14.

Being no further business, Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to adjourn at 4:46pm. Commissioner Steve Roten seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman