

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 2005, at 10:00am in the Conference Room of the County Office Building, 90 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Eldon Edwards, Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Graylen Blevins, Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon, Commissioner Ken Richardson, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Eldon Edwards called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda for this August 15, 2005, meeting. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, August 15, 2005
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order
Motion on Agenda for August 15, 2005 meeting
Motion on Minutes for August 1, 2005 meeting
- 10:05 Mary Walker
RE: Tax Releases & Refunds
- 10:15 Nedra Barker
RE: Tax Appeal
- 10:25 Bruce Cook
RE: Alleghany Citizens for Environmental Safety
- 10:40 Linda Edwards
RE: EMS Annual Report
- 10:55 Jane Phipps Boger
RE: WCC Annual Report
County Business
1. Reminder Joint Meeting
 2. Reminder Labor Day Meeting
 3. CDBG Budget Amendments
 4. Maintenance Budget Amendment
 5. Telecommunications Contract
 6. Other Business
 7. Public Comments—30 minutes
 8. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
 9. Adjourn

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 1, 2005, meeting. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the July 2005 real property requests in the amount of \$1,567.65 for refunds and \$4,364.58 for releases.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the July 2005 real property

requests in the amount of \$1,567.65 for refunds and \$4,364.58 for releases. Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented the July 2005 automobile requests in the amount of \$336.06 for refunds and \$1,755.00 for releases.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to approve the July 2005 automobile requests in the amount of \$336.06 for refunds and \$1,755.00 for releases. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker explained that she had completed a discovery in May on Rufus and Nedra Barker. She stated that they own 40.08 acres. She further explained that the discovery was for 20 of the 40.08 acres that hasn't had taxes paid on it from 2000-2004. She stated that the 20 acres was listed on the tax bill and the property record card with no value listed. She further stated that the discovery did not have any interest or penalties because it is real property. She said that the discovery is in the amount of \$552.

Nedra Barker joined the meeting. Mary Walker explained to Ms. Barker the information that has been shared with the Board. Ms. Barker stated that she didn't think she should have to pay this bill especially since her tax bill listed 40.08 acres.

Mary Walker explained that the tax bill included the value for the house and 20.08 acres.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Mary Walker discussed that there was no way for Ms. Barker to know she wasn't paying taxes on the 20 acres unless she had reviewed the property record card.

Chair Eldon Edwards, County Manager Don Adams and Mary Walker discussed the amount owed and actions by previous boards.

Mary Walker explained the actions that the Commissioners could take and everyone should check their property record card.

County Manager Don Adams and Mary Walker discussed the Commissioners being personally liable when releasing taxes.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that this matter should be tabled to allow the County Attorney time to review the law to see if the Board can legally release anything.

Bruce Cook came before the Board to state that their group has formed the Alleghany Citizens for Environmental Safety and will be joining the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. He stated that they are doing research and informing the citizens of the environmental, safety, health and tourism impacts of an asphalt plant. He further stated that they are here to show support to the Board concerning the polluting industries. He talked about they are having a fundraiser on September 2. He explained their actions and their mission. He reiterated that they are coming to let the Board of Commissioners know of their support and will keep coming to let their progress be known.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and Bruce Cook talked about sharing their research information with the land-use committee.

Bruce Cook talked about having tri-fold pamphlets to disperse explaining the effects of an asphalt plant.

Chair Eldon Edwards talked about the County Attorney is researching this issue. He stated his appreciation for everyone's concerns.

Bruce Cook talked about bringing information to the Board to make decisions based on true accurate facts. He further talked about the growing tourism business in the County. He thanked the Board for what is being done.

Linda Edwards, EMS Administrative Director, came before the Board to present the EMS annual report. She talked about the current staffing numbers, number of calls and transport miles. She explained changes that have been made like offering quicker access to Air Care and having IV pumps so medications doesn't have to be stopped when transporting patients. She explained how the State tracks a lot of their information electronically. She talked about meetings that are held regarding paramedics' performance, the amount of required continuing education for paramedics and recognition received for the paramedics going above and beyond their call of duty. She explained other highlights during the past year.

Chair Eldon Edwards thanked Linda Edwards for a good report.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and Linda Edwards discussed purchasing things like IV warmers for EMS.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that his opinion is that when counties contract for EMS it takes away the personal care aspect.

Linda Edwards talked about the number of employees that also volunteer on the Rescue Squad.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the medical oversight and the additional effort and time spent on the EMS department because of their uniqueness in the medical field.

Jane Phipps Boger came before the Board to present the Wilkes Community College annual report. She reviewed their mission statement and accomplishments for the prior year.

Chair Eldon Edwards and Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon stated their appreciation for the good report.

Jane Phipps Boger talked about the advantages and disadvantages being at the new location with the disadvantage being the facility isn't as visual as it was on Main Street.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and Jane Phipps Boger talked about having signs on Main Street for the College.

Commissioner Warren Taylor, County Manager Don Adams and Jane Phipps Boger discussed the plans for the walkway between the High School and the College, WCC bringing estimates to the Board and Blue Ridge RC&D is willing to assist with the project.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board about the Joint Meeting with the Town on August 29 at 7:00pm at the County Office Building.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the next regular meeting falls on Labor Day. He asked the Board when they would like to schedule the next meeting.

The Board of Commissioners discussed different dates for the meeting and decided on Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of (\$263,293) and budget amendment CDBG Fund #1 in the amount of \$263,293. He explained that this is moving the Scattered Site housing program monies to its own fund. He further stated that no county money is involved.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of (\$263,293) and budget amendment CDBG Fund #1 in the amount of \$263,293. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #6 in the amount of \$2,301 for insurance proceeds for repairing lightning damage to an elevator.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #6 in the amount of \$2,301. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a contract regarding telecommunications with Robert Segal. He reminded the Board of the sales tax audit discussions previously with Mr. Segal. He informed the Board that the sales tax information did not involve enough monies to have the audit performed. He explained that the telecommunication audit will review all of the county's phone systems and bills. He told the Board about phone billing errors the BDC has found. He stated that Mr. Segal retains 50% of any money the County saves from billing errors for a period of two years. He talked about Mr. Segal may recommend changes but it is up to the Board to decide on the changes.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and County Manager Don Adams discussed the time factor involved for the employees with this audit.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to approve the contract with Robert Segal for auditing the telecommunication expenses. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Warren Taylor mentioned a letter received by David Linton asking about the difference between the lawnmower race track and the asphalt plant and their property value. He stated that he is recommending that the County Manager and the County Attorney reply about the difference in these two situations.

Chair Eldon Edwards talked about the differences.

County Manager Don Adams talked about their recourse concerning their property value.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon mentioned a letter she received concerning the Allegheny Youth Football. She stated that she is proposing that the County fund their request now and put it in the budget next year. She talked about the amount of money needed this year.

County Manager Don Adams and Amy Pardue informed the Board that they need \$2,373. The County Manager explained the Recreation Department can't take on new programs without the Board's approval and the reason for waiting until next budget year to bring it into the County's budget.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to give them \$2,373 this year without the County taking over the program.

County Manager Don Adams and Amy Pardue discussed the swim team and wrestling.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that budget time is the time to be deciding on additional recreational programs.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins talked about the recreation program being for all of the sports.

Amy Pardue stated that some of the programs want to keep their programs in house rather than turning them over to the County for operation.

Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion on the floor for the \$2,373.

The Board of Commissioners, County Manager Don Adams and Amy Pardue discussed the recreation department, volunteers operating the programs, the County assuming personnel when taking over programs and making the recreation program all it can be for everyone.

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

Commissioner Ken Richardson stated that the NC Council has asked him to be their County Commissioner representative.

Chair Eldon Edwards talked about a letter received from NCACC requesting a contribution from each county for a Ron Aycock scholarship. He stated that he isn't sure that this is something the County should fund.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that if the County decides to contribute to a scholarship, it should be our local scholarships.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins and Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon agreed.

Chair Eldon Edwards asked for public comments.

Jane Phipps Boger talked about the importance of the Recreation Department and their involvement in ensuring the safety of the children participating in sports.

Charlie Scott talked about a letter he gave the Board requesting funding for expanding the Channel 50 services. He explained that the channel will be like a public service station. He further explained what they are looking at doing.

Chair Eldon Edwards asked for further public comments. None were received.

Chair Eldon Edwards made a motion to enter into closed session at 11:45am under NCGS

143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Eldon Edwards declared a 5-minute recess at 11:45am.

Amy Pardue joined the Board at 11:53am and left at 12:34pm.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:44pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that no action was taken.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to hold a public hearing on September 13 to consider a 90-day moratorium to allow time to review adopting a polluting industries zoning ordinance. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:46pm. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Eldon Edwards
Chairman