

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 21, 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.

Commissioner Warren Taylor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that the Health Advisory Council and Mike Caudill won't be attending this meeting.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this November 21, 2005, meeting. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA

Monday, November 21, 2005

10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order
Motion on Agenda for November 21, 2005 meeting
Motion on Minutes for November 7, 2005 regular meeting, November 8, 2005 public hearing and November 8, 2005 special meeting
- 10:05 Mary Walker
RE: Tax Releases & Refunds
- 10:15 Amy Pardue
RE: Subdivision Plats
- 10:25 George Stancil
RE: Extension Service Budget
- 10:35 Dale Duncan
RE: Citizen Request
- 10:45 Bob Bamberg
RE: Smokey Holler Tree Farm Proclamation
- 10:55 Board of Elections Annual Report
- 11:10 BROC Annual Report
- 11:25 Health Advisory Council Annual Report (removed)
- 11:40 Mike Caudill (removed)
RE: Dispatch Operations
County Business
1. Alleghany Garbage Service—Price Increase
 2. Board of Education Meeting
 3. Library Building Fund Budget Amendment
 4. Other Business
 5. Public Comments—30 minutes
 6. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
 7. Adjourn

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 7, 2005, regular meeting, November 8, 2005, public hearing and November 8, 2005, special meeting. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the October 2005 real property requests in the amount of \$274.37 for refunds and \$146.84 for releases.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the October 2005 real property requests in the amount of \$274.37 for refunds and \$146.84 for releases. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented the October 2005 automobile requests in the amount of \$294.87 for refunds and \$1,312.93 for releases.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve the October 2005 automobile requests in the amount of \$294.87 for refunds and \$1,312.93 for releases. Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mary Walker presented a vehicle tax appeal. She reviewed the vehicle's purchase price, appraised value and her recommendation of \$27,475.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to accept Mary Walker's recommendation on the vehicle appeal. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Amy Pardue, Planner, presented a preliminary plat for Pine View. She explained that this is a 7.93-acre tract being divided into 7 lots. She further explained the location of the proposed subdivision.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon and Amy Pardue discussed the adjoining property being for sale and access to that property.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to approve the preliminary plat as presented by the Planner. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Amy Pardue presented a final plat for The Olde River Club, Phase 2. She explained that this is an 8.55-acre tract being divided into 5 lots using one private county standard road.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to approve the final plat as presented by the Planner. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the subdivision variance meeting scheduled for December 13 at 6:00pm. He talked about the timeline for receiving information concerning the variance.

The Board of Commissioners stated that they think it is necessary to receive the information for their review prior to the meeting.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the information must be to the County Planner by November 30/December 1 in order to go into the Commissioners packet.

George Stancil, Extension Service Director, came before the Board to discuss Extension Service salary adjustments. He reviewed the actions taken by the State in regards to getting Extension Service salaries in line with the other Southern states. He further reviewed the lock-in send-in agreement that the County has with the State that says the County pays 30% with the State providing 70%. He explained that the Extension Service budget is short \$2,932 to cover the 30% of the State allocated raises and benefits.

Commissioner Ken Richardson made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$2,932. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Library Fund #1 in the amount of \$63,334. He explained that this is setting up the finances to pay the next Young-Richardson property payment. He stated that the County has received a check from the library for this entire payment.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve budget amendment Library Fund #1 in the amount of \$63,334. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that after further conversations with Dr. Jeff Cox about the pod-designed units for the schools, the Board of Education and Dr. Cox have decided that they won't work for Alleghany County. He talked about tentatively scheduling a joint meeting with the Board of Education. He reminded the Commissioners that they open bids on December 7 for the Sparta Elementary School classrooms.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams continued discussing scheduling a meeting and the types of discussions needed concerning this project. County Manager Don Adams stated that currently Dr. Cox has no additional information to give the Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners discussed dates to hold the joint meeting and decided on December 9 at 9:00am at the County Office Building.

Bob Bamberg presented a proclamation for Earl, Betsy, Buddy and Meg Deal in regards to sending a Christmas tree to the White House. He stated that the proclamation shows the Board's appreciation. He reviewed the activities planned on November 25 concerning the Christmas tree. He read the proclamation.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the proclamation as read by Bob Bamberg. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Betty Bledsoe with BROCC came to present their annual report. She reviewed their board members. She explained the programs they offer and how individuals can get their assistance.

Dale Duncan came before the Board to request the Board's assistance in having a local DMV officer fired. He gave the Board information regarding his experiences with the DMV officer. He talked about other people he has spoken to with this request.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that he isn't sure what the Board can do and believes this is an individual issue.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon stated that she doesn't see how the Board has any

authority in this matter. She says the State has to monitor their employees. She talked about people need to ban together and take up the issue directly with the State.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated that since he is not a County employee, she doesn't see how the County can do anything.

Dale Duncan talked about placing an ad in the newspaper about the Board not taking any action on this matter.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon stated that the County doesn't have the authority to fire someone who isn't a County employee.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated that on the advice of legal counsel, the Board has no recourse with this matter.

Karen Fender, Director of Elections, came before the Board to discuss voting equipment issues that the County will be facing. She explained that the State Board of Elections will certify a certain number of voting machines and each county must use one of those machines. She stated that she will be going to Chapel Hill next week to see the machines the State has certified. She explained the need for this action. She informed the Board that the current voting machines will not be one of the certified models. She told them about receiving an \$84,000 federal grant to help with purchasing new voting equipment. She reviewed why the current machines will not be certified and that the company no longer offers support for these machines. She stated that the new machines are required to be in place by the May election.

County Manager Don Adams asked how a few companies are going to offer service to the entire state.

Karen Fender talked about the State will act as a liaison between the counties and the companies to handle any problems/services that arise.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about the paper trail will create problems and will cost the County more money on recounts.

Karen Fender agreed. She gave the Board voter registration stats.

County Manager Don Adams stated that he will talk to the County Commissioners Association about this topic. He further stated that he will direct the County Attorney to find out if the State Board of Elections has this authority especially since they certified our voting equipment before we purchased it five years ago.

Karen Fender stated that as long as there are no major problems, she can perform an election but with no support from the company, any law changes could not be incorporated into the election.

Commissioner Ken Richardson asked Karen Fender to communicate with the County Manager about the Elections Board decisions concerning new equipment.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Kenneth Nichols requesting to increase Allegheny Garbage Services fees from \$15 to \$16 effective January 2006 due to fuel price increases. He said he recommends setting a schedule to review this annually. He reviewed the

reasons in the ordinance for price increases.

Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to approve the request by Alleghany Garage Service. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams discussed considering this annually along with the fuel oil pricing contract.

Commissioner Ken Richardson mentioned the meetings that he has attended recently on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about a letter received from the High Country Council of Governments about a meeting in Lenoir on November 29 regarding a water initiative. He stated that he will try to go represent the County.

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

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to enter into closed session at 11:15am under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal and (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

The Board of Commissioners took a brief recess at 11:15am.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to adjourn the closed session at 12:10pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Graylen Blevins seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Eldon Edwards stated no action was taken during closed session.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the proposal from Alleghany in Motion to pay a retiring employee their annual leave and comp time according to the personnel policy and to hire the replacement person for this position. Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Graylen Blevins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:11pm. Commissioner Warren Taylor seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Eldon Edwards
Chairman

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the cultivation of Christmas trees is the chief agricultural endeavor of Alleghany County and brings economic prosperity to our community; and,

Whereas, the Christmas season brings joy and delight to both the young and old; and,

Whereas, the Christmas holiday has deep spiritual significance for many Alleghany residents and is celebrated throughout Sparta, Alleghany County, North Carolina and the world; and,

Whereas, Earl, Betsy, Buddy and Meg Deal have brought honor and attention to Alleghany County and Sparta, North Carolina, through national recognition of the Christmas trees grown here; and,

Whereas, the Deals have provided a Christmas tree to shine as a beacon of goodwill from the Courthouse lawn; and,

Whereas, Christmas trees from their farm, Smokey Holler Tree Farm, will be displayed in the White House in Washington, DC; and,

Whereas, Alleghany County Christmas trees will help ensure goodwill and spread holiday cheer throughout the homes where they are displayed.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Alleghany County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims our sincere wish for a Merry Christmas to the First Family and the hope of peace on earth and goodwill to all people.

Adopted this the 21st day of November, 2005.