

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 16, 2012, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Cox, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Chair Richardson stated that F. 2. needs to be added to the agenda for a New River Service Authority update by Commissioner Cox and G. needs to have (a)(5)—contracts and (a)(6)—personnel added.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the amended agenda for this April 16, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, April 16, 2012
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer
Motion on Agenda for April 16, 2012, meeting
Motion on Minutes for April 2, 2012, meeting
- 10:05 A. Public Comments—30 minutes
B. Rita Miller
RE: March Releases and Refunds
March Collections Report
Late PUV Application
Budget Amendment Conversation
- C. Social Services Annual Report
D. Extension Service Annual Report
E. General Business
1. Draft Alleghany Community Transportation Plan Maps
2. Budget Amendment—Jail
3. Reimbursement Resolution for Piney Creek Septic System
4. FY 2012/13 Budget Requests Summary
- F. Commissioner Business
1. Discussion on House Concurrent Resolution 107—Commissioner Goudreau
2. New River Service Authority Transition Board Update—Commissioner Cox (added)
- G. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)—legal
NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (5)—contracts (added)
NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel (added)
- H. Adjourn

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Richardson opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for public comments.

Dennis Smith read two letters from 1945 regarding an Alleghany military man that died during the war. He talked about his conversations during the last meeting about putting Alleghany military personnel at risk of being killed because of international interests. He said he doesn't think anyone here supports that. He further talked about following the Constitution regarding declaring war. He said if the Constitution isn't followed then what did that generation fight and die for. He talked about freedom is never free because if it is ignored and taken for granted it will soon die then evil men will bring death and destruction to America. He further talked about a book of The Final Days and quoted information from the book. He said that he has asked the Board for a small thing of writing/ mailing a letter to several people. He asked will it change things, only God knows but at least you will be doing something. He said that if everyone would do a small thing then it will add up to big things. He read a prayer offered in the US Senate.

Susan Miles stated her appreciation for providing funding to emergency personnel. She explained a situation where a call was made to Dispatch regarding a structure fire including the amount of emergency personnel responding to the fire. She reiterated their appreciation for everyone responding to emergencies. She talked about this fire serves as a reminder to support all of those involved. She thanked the Board for supporting them because without their response the house could have been a total loss.

Chair Richardson asked for additional public comments. None were received. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented the March auto releases and refunds.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the March auto releases and refunds. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the March real property releases and refunds.

Commissioner Smith and Rita Miller talked about one release involving deferred property.

Commissioner Roten and Rita Miller talked about deferred taxes has to be paid prior to the deed transfer or the new owner has to assume the liability.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the March real property releases and refunds. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the March 2012 collections' report.

Rita Miller presented a late application request for present-use value for horticulture. She explained the application, it does meet the requirements and her recommendation is for approval.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the late application. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller explained her request for a budget amendment for repair of their vehicle in the amount of \$910. She explained the purpose of the request.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about insurance will not cover this because our deductible is \$1,000.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller explained her next request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$500. She explained the purpose of this request being to continue doing social security and address searches for the debt set-off program as well as searches for returned mail and bankruptcy information.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller said per a request at the last Commissioners' meeting, she is reporting to the Board at that the percentage of property in present-use value is 58%.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, came before the Board to present their annual report. He provided handouts to the Board. He stated his appreciation of his staff. He talked about April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. He presented statistics including the number of children in adoption assistance, number of total phone calls/visits, Medicaid numbers, information about audits that have been performed and the agency received a 100% accuracy rating, information about food and nutrition services, child support unit, daycare, and crisis fuel assistance. He talked about upcoming budget challenges. He explained that the General Assembly is looking at changing the Statutes regarding guardians, and explained how that will impact Social Services. He talked about the new transportation/Medicaid person has been hired. He further talked about how the gas vouchers program is working. He talked about other changes coming to their programs including the NC Fast program. He reviewed the pie chart of the money breakdown. He presented the annual report from the Child Protection Team/Child Fatality Team.

Chair Richardson asked the Board to look at pages 5 and 6. He said that Social Services' total budget is larger than the entire county. He talked about there is a lot to be proud of including the 100% audit results. John Blevins stated that he does have a good group of people.

Commissioner Cox said he noticed two Medicaid audits. He asked is that more than normal. John Blevins answered that they audit Social Services regularly and explained how the audits work by sending papers to Raleigh.

Amy Lucas introduced the new interim County Extension Services Director, Bryan Cave. Bryan Cave presented the annual report for the Extension Service. He talked about they had over 49 teaching

activities, almost 2,000 participants, over 10,000 contacts for information, and over \$30,000 grant funds were obtained. He explained that he has been learning about Christmas trees with Brad Edwards. He talked about the 4-H program, corn mazes, Christmas trees/water retention study, farm safety day, corn silage test plot, 3rd grade steps to health program and prescribed grazing program. He thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Commissioner Cox stated his appreciation for Bryan Cave being here and his involvement.

Chair Richardson said that two Surry County Commissioners have told him how fortunate Alleghany is to have Bryan Cave.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about the Community Transportation Plan including there will be a joint public hearing on April 30 at Sparta Town Hall at 7:00pm, written plan is online at www.regiond.org, this is open to the public for review, maps can be found at the Administration office in the County Administration Building, Sparta Town Hall and the Library. He explained that he is tentatively scheduled to bring the maps back before the Board on May 7.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment General Fund #24 in the amount of \$5,000 for juvenile housing. He explained the reason for the budget amendment is because juveniles must be housed out of the county when they are detained.

Commissioner Smith talked about this situation is similar to female inmates. County Manager Don Adams agreed.

Commissioner Cox talked about juveniles are housed in Wilkes. County Manager Don Adams answered yes, if there is a spot available.

Commissioner Roten made a motion to approve budget amendment General Fund #24 in the amount of \$5,000. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the reimbursement resolution for Piney Creek School septic system. He explained the purpose of the resolution is to be able to reimburse monies spent prior to the loan if a loan is obtained for the project. He stated two grants have been submitted. He reviewed the monies associated with the project; planning grant obtained from the Rural Center for \$30,000 including \$10,000 from Alleghany County, current application in to the Rural Center for \$364,000, pre-application in to ARC for \$182,000. He talked about depending on the process he hopes to go out to bid by the summer. He said the resolution may be for a later time depending upon whether a loan has to be obtained. He explained that the permission to proceed permit has been obtained. He further explained that now they understand the type of system needed, and the engineer is drawing up the plans to be submitted to the State. He stated that the local Health Department is aware of this; school will be in session while work is ongoing, and the Health Department will work with us. He reiterated that the best case scenario is to go out to bid in mid June.

Commissioner Smith asked about school opening school. The County Manager stated that they are aware and talked about conversations from several months ago been letting the Health Department know and their verbal indication is that they will work with us about getting the school open.

Chair Richardson said this resolution will be brought back. The County Manager answered yes only if there is a need to look at borrowing money.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the budget timeline. He reviewed the budget packets; General Fund 2011/12 budget of \$14,134,367 and the 2012/13 budget requests are \$15,882,896, breakdown of special appropriations, capital/capital improvements requested. He talked about items not included in the budget requests at this time is the quick response vehicle for EMS of \$57,000 and that vehicle's miscellaneous equipment. He continued reviewing the packet; summary of new positions/salary increases. He talked about items not included in the budget request is quick response personnel for EMS at a costs of \$130,000. He explained that if the Board chooses to go with a cost-of-living increase then it will be across the board and he will use a true CPI for the rate. He further explained that he is not at the point where he will say that he will recommend the quick response for EMS or not because he is still collecting the data. He reviewed the insurance summary: property/liability \$7,483 increase, explained that the facilities have been assessed and increase was not driven by claims; workers compensation \$8,858 increase driven by claims; inmate medical increase of \$973; unemployment stayed the same; employee bonds stayed the same; Cobra and Medicare stayed the same; health insurance increase of \$192,945 and after looking at health insurance reimbursements from outside sources and other funds of \$36,309.89 the impact to the General Fund for health insurance is \$156,635.11. He reminded everyone that insurance has to be done before budget conversations because of the timing of renewal being effective on July 1. He said that he is looking for direction from the Board about health insurance. He further said if the Board

is looking to reduce this amount then he needs to start now. He talked about these are the General Fund budget requests, and they will be get tweaked and changed throughout his review of the budget.

Commissioner Roten and County Manager Don Adams talked about the percentage of health insurance increase last year. The County Manager explained that this year's increase is due to some large claims, how one or two large claims will impact our rates, and the industry standard is around 6-7% increase regardless of the claims.

Chair Richardson encouraged the Commissioners to go talk to the County Manager about insurance. The County Manager agreed and stated that the rates we have right now are locked in for 60 days so this needs to be done by the first meeting in June.

Commissioner Smith and County Manager Don Adams talked about setting up an insurance committee and have conversations about alternatives.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about at the last meeting Dennis Smith asked the Board to look at House Concurrent Resolution 107 and suggested the Board adopt a resolution. He said he has reviewed it and included language for the resolution in the Commissioners' packets. He further said if there are questions or comments the Commissioners can discuss it.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to go forward with the adoption of supporting House Concurrent Resolution 107.

Chair Richardson asked is this still in committee. Commissioner Goudreau answered yes. Chair Richardson asked if it is known whether it will come out of committee favorably or unfavorably. Chair Richardson further asked are we premature in doing this. Commissioner Goudreau talked about supporting it as written in order to get it out of committee along with getting additional sponsors. Chair Richardson asked Commissioner Goudreau did he talk to Senator Hagan when she was here last week. Commissioner Goudreau answered no.

Commissioner Roten seconded the motion on the floor.

Commissioner Smith stated that he has followed this pretty closely, and this has already been challenged. He said he is not quite ready to initiate any impeachable process.

Commissioner Cox and Commissioner Smith talked about the language of impeachable high crime is in the resolution.

Commissioner Cox talked about we have our hands full with our local issues and would appreciate issues be on local interests. He talked about his appreciation on how his father made it in 1944. He reiterated that he thinks everyone needs to concentrate on local issues. He urged people to talk to Senator Burr, Senator Hagan and Representative Foxx about this.

Commissioner Roten said he understands but he is not concerned about the impeachable part, and this has been since the Vietnam conflict. He further said war should be a declaration of Congress. He talked about short stepping the Constitution. He stated that this isn't any particular party, and this has been going on since the Korean conflict. He said that he doesn't understand how anyone thinks this is right.

Commissioner Cox said that he didn't say it was right but thinks we need to focus on Alleghany County.

Commissioner Goudreau said that he thinks the tie to Alleghany County is Alleghany County's armed forces.

Commissioner Smith reiterated that he thinks it has been challenged and has been brought to light. He said that he doesn't like some of the wording and would like the process to go a little farther.

Commissioner Roten said this has been debated for the last 50 years, and they continue to do the same thing.

Chair Richardson said he would support a motion to encourage the citizens of Alleghany County to contact their representatives but this resolution is premature.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 2:3 (Larry Cox, Ken Richardson, Tom Smith).

Commissioner Cox asked the Chair if his wording was in the form of a motion.

Chair Richardson said yes and urged people to individually be in contract with Federal legislators on this issue while it is still in committee.

Commissioner Cox said this is an important issue but our focus needs to be on local issues. He further said that this isn't something as an American that we can ignore.

Commissioner Roten reiterated not saying anything about the impeachable part but we don't need to commit troops to these places.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion on the floor.

Chair Richardson stated the motion again is the resolution would be to encourage the citizens of Alleghany County to study the House Concurrent Resolution 107 and make their feelings known to the representatives in Washington. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Cox updated the Board about the New River Service Authority (NRSA) Transition Board's recent actions; met last week, made motion seeking assistance of dealing with Medicaid negotiations about what was owed to NRSA and what they say NRSA owes, LGC's requirement of producing an audit, Ms. Edmundson supplied a list of auditors, asked Peggy Wallace to contact those firms to see if they are interested in looking into NRSA for an audit, authorized our Chairman to sign off on the settlement of the Crossroads lawsuit in the amount of \$150,000 with no county funds.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to enter into closed session at 11:30am under NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (3)—legal, (a) (5)—contracts, (a) (6)—personnel. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn closed session at 12:25pm and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

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

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between Alleghany County, Ashe County, Avery County, Watauga County, and Wilkes County in the defense of litigation arising out of claims against the New River Service Authority. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further business, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn at 12:27pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman