

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 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 Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this September 8, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for September 8, 2015 Meeting
Motion on Minutes for August 17, 2015, Meeting
- 6:35 A. David Bare Presentation
- 6:40 B. Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper
1. Present information regarding a proposed new road names; Cycle Lane and Sparks View Drive.
 2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed road names. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
 3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed road names.
- 6:50 C. Travis Dalton – Planning Director
1. Present information regarding a proposed language change in the Wireless Communication Tower Ordinance.
 2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed change. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
 3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed change.
- 7:00 D. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. Motor Vehicle Appeal
Action Requested – Vote on the request.
 2. Residential Solid Waste Fees Refund Requests
Action Requested – Vote on the requests.
 3. Residential Solid Waste Fees Release Request
Action Requested – Vote on the request.
 4. Late Application for Present-Use Value
Action Requested – Vote on the request.
- 7:15 E. Brian Edwards/David Wyatt
1. Cherry Lane Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report. No action requested.
 2. Request to Waive or Reduce Building Permit Fee of \$2,500 for New Addition at Fire House. Action Requested – Vote on the request.
- 7:30 F. Dale Sheets, Assistant Fire Chief
- RE: Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report. No action requested.
- 7:40 G. Kay Luffman
1. JCPC Annual Report. No action requested.
 2. Alleghany Connections Annual Report. No action requested.
- 7:55 H. General Business
1. Veterans Memorial Park Budget Amendment
Veteran's Park Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount of \$30,000 to budget for a donation for memorials at the Park. Action Requested – Vote on Veteran's Park Fund Budget Amendment #1.
 2. US Motto Samples

Enclosed are samples of the Motto for the Board Meeting Room showing different color schemes. Action Requested – Vote to select a color scheme for the Motto.

- I. Public Comments—30 minutes
- J. Commissioners Comments
- K. Closed Session—NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel
- L. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith presented a plaque to David Bare for his years of service to Alleghany County. He read the plaque. Sheriff Bryan Maines talked about working with David Bare and stated his appreciation to David Bare. David Bare stated his appreciation to everyone. He mentioned he worked under three different sheriffs. He reiterated his appreciation for everyone's support.

Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper presented two road names to be considered by the Board; Cycle Lane and Sparks View Drive. She explained the locations of the roads.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing at 6:36pm and asked for public comments regarding the proposed road names. None were received.

Chair Smith and Wendy Williams talked about all of the property owners located along the roads have agreed to the proposed road names.

Chair Smith closed the public hearing at 6:37pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the proposed road names. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Travis Dalton, Planning Director, reviewed proposed language changes in the Wireless Communication Tower Ordinance regarding residential towers. He read the proposed changes.

Chair Smith and Travis Dalton stated that the Planning Board has approved these changes.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing at 6:39pm and asked for public comments regarding the proposed Ordinance wording changes.

Melvin Collins thanked everyone for their work on these changes. He mentioned how much this will help the ham radio operators. He urged the Commissioners to approve the changes.

Chair Smith asked for additional comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing at 6:41pm and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the Ordinance changes regarding residential towers. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, presented a motor-vehicle appeal for a 2013 Ford F250 truck. She reviewed the highlights of the appeal including the assessed value of \$49,077, appraised value of \$42,000 and her recommendation of \$42,000.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the Tax Administrator's recommendation of \$42,000. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented two residential solid waste fees refund requests for properties at Olde Beau. She explained that she had requested the solid waste fee to be released in 2015 because the property was under construction on January 1 and is still incomplete. She presented the first property; 60 Prestwick Court for the fees back to 2010.

Commissioner Irwin and Rita Miller talked about the house is incomplete.

Chair Smith and Rita Miller talked about an occupancy certificate hasn't been issued yet.

Commissioner Irwin and Rita Miller talked about going back this far on the request. She explained that releasing taxes is different than solid waste. The County Manager said that it is clear that no one has lived on this property, and talked about things that the Board has considered regarding releasing the solid waste fees in the past but has never had evidence like this.

Chair Smith said we were in error to collect these fees when the house wasn't completed. Rita Miller explained the Tax Office put the fee on the property assuming the house would be finished during that year, and Olde Beau didn't see it on their bills.

Commissioner Evans and the County Manager talked about the contractor would have paid the solid waste fees during the construction of the property.

Commissioner Leys summarized the request is for a refund of \$60 per year for 5 years. Rita Miller agreed.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented the second Olde Beau's request at 38 Beau's Valley. She said it is the same exact situation.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented a request for a release of a solid waste fee for 2015 and forward for property that is for sale. She explained that no entry was obtained, and water/power have been turned off. She stated that it is 2 apartments.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller talked about the taxes are up to date.

County Manager Don Adams and Rita Miller talked about how would the Tax Office be notified when the property is being lived in. Rita Miller explained that the power is on in the building because of a commercial business upstairs.

The County Manager explained how solid waste fee releases started with property that was uninhabitable and then to property where no one lived at the property. He reviewed previous examples like a hunting cabins, and the decision was made if the property was used at all during the year then the solid waste fee is charged.

The County Manager and Rita Miller talked about the power was disconnected in November 2014 so someone could have lived in it during the past year.

Commissioner Leys and Rita Miller talked about Rita Miller's recommendation is for them to come back once it has been vacant a year.

The County Manager clarified if they come in January of 2016 it would be a release going forward.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to not take the solid waste fee off until January, when it has been vacated for 1 year and then the property owner would need to request it to be released from that point forward. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller presented a late present-use application for 2 pieces of property. She reviewed the history regarding the ownership of the properties. She explained if the application was received in January it would have been approved because it does meet the qualifications. She further explained that her recommendation is to approve it. She explained that taxes are due on the property because of health issues, they have made a payment agreement, and they have paid the payments according to the agreement.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the late application. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Brian Edwards presented the Cherry Lane Volunteer Fire Department's annual report including total calls and types of calls, assistance calls for adjoining fire departments, and calls to date this calendar year.

Commissioner Irwin and Brian Edwards talked about the impact of the Highway 21 construction project.

Commissioner Leys and Brian Edwards talked about the number of members and junior members they have.

Chair Smith and Brian Edwards talked about problems with the stoplight at the fire department for the highway construction project.

Brian Edwards explained they are starting a 3-bay building, and ask the Commissioners to waive or reduce the building permit fee of \$2,500. He further explained that they are unable to have fundraising activities at the fire department because of the highway construction.

County Manager Don Adams explained that previous boards have considered larger fire departments' projects paying the minimum commercial fee, which currently is \$265. He reviewed the different permits purchased by other fire departments including the project costs and permit fees, which shows the maximum fee charged has been the minimum commercial fee.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to follow that history and go down to \$265. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Leys asked for more information about the building project. Brian Edwards explained that the project cost is \$269,000, and the footer should be dug very soon. They talked about additional parking for the department.

Chair Smith and Brian Edwards talked about the building is used for voting.

Brian Edwards mentioned that the Highway 21 construction project will make them lose some parking.

Commissioner Leys and Brian Edwards talked about the location of the new building.

County Manager Don Adams asked does the Board want make this an official policy on permit fees or take it case by case.

Chair Smith said make it a policy.

Commissioner Evans agreed and said he thought that was the consensus of everyone.

County Manager Don Adams stated the fire departments may still come back before the Board about minimum fees for smaller projects.

Dale Sheets talked about Laurel Springs just finished their 9S State inspection and all of the new regulations. He presented Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department's annual report including total calls and types of calls, training hours, number of regular members and 1 junior member. He thanked the Board for their assistance. He said that their annual dinner will be on September 28, and he invited everyone to come.

Commissioner Davis said that it is a really nice building since the remodel. Dale Sheets said thank you.

Commissioner Irwin asked how communications are. Dale Sheets said that it is not very good. Dale Sheets talked about communications are a problem, and they may have found a solution to their reception in the building.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the move the County is working on with Skyline should drastically improve the communication abilities.

Dale Sheets said he knows that everyone is working to make it better but it has always been an issue.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager Don Adams talked about the State Highway Patrol uses the viper system, and the advantages of the viper system. The County Manager explained that Allegheny County does have banked channels, Town of Sparta currently uses some of them, issues include the system uses different equipment, hard to work with the volunteer base and it doesn't have a paging system. Dale Sheets mentioned that the radios aren't very durable. The County Manager talked about may be able to use it in the future but have to a version of the current system because the viper system doesn't meet our needs. The County Manager explained that other counties have two systems when using the viper system.

Commissioner Leys asked how many assists to other fire departments were there. Dale Sheets said around 17. Commissioner Leys said thank you.

Kay Luffman presented the annual report for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). She reviewed the information including the programs and the number of people served. She talked about Barium Springs and JCPC was not able to access their programs. She explained they transferred those monies to JCPC Support Services for parenting programs. She further explained that juveniles are going to a higher level of services needed.

Chair Smith and Kay Luffman talked about the parenting programs and work with the programs.

Commissioner Leys and Kay Luffman talked about the age group for the children would be all grade levels.

Commissioner Leys and Kay Luffman talked about the JCPC Support Services with 11 served. Kay Luffman explained this is children who are referred through the court system. They talked about Project Challenge is like community service along with restitution. Kay Luffman provided examples. They discussed that Allegheny kids stay in Allegheny County and why some Ashe kids work in Allegheny County. The County Manager talked about the value of the restitution back to the victims.

Commissioner Leys said it is an excellent program and thanked Kay Luffman for the leadership.

Kay Luffman presented the annual report for Allegheny Connections. She reviewed the mentoring program including the number of mentorees, adult mentors along with a volunteer director. She said they hope to expand to 10 youth this year. She stated that they have 7 board members.

Commissioner Leys and Kay Luffman talked about who are the board members.

Kay Luffman presented information about the retired teacher tutoring program including the number of tutors, number of students served, number of contact hours, yearly budget. She explained the purpose of these programs.

Chair Smith and Kay Luffman talked about the retired teacher program, and they work wherever they are needed.

County Manager Don Adams presented budget amendment Veteran's Park Fund #1 in the amount of \$30,000. He stated that Allegheny County has received a \$30,000 donation for the proposed memorials at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Chair Smith said that Commissioner Irwin did a good job presenting the information at the Joint Meeting with the Town.

County Manager Don Adams said he is meeting with Maintenance tomorrow morning to get it started, and the initial goal is to be done by the end of November. He explained they are working on the site layout tomorrow.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about portions of the project that will be bid out, and a lot of work will be done by Maintenance.

The County Manager mentioned that the donators are anonymous initially but will be recognized when the time is appropriate. He talked about if the project is under budget he will work with the donators to see what else can be done at the Park. He said the committee will meet Friday. Commissioner Irwin talked about the design work that has been accomplished by the committee and the design work that is remaining to do.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve budget amendment Veteran's Park Fund #1 in the amount of \$30,000. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager said he thinks the Park is going to be even more special when people are visiting it 10 years from now.

Commissioner Evans talked about if there are some others out there that would like to donate, he encourages them to because there are multiple ways to honor veterans throughout the Park. The County Manager agreed.

Commissioner Irwin said he appreciates that the Park is being used.

County Manager Don Adams presented proposed color samples for the wording of In God We Trust below the County seal in the Board Meeting Room.

Chair Smith talked about the differences between the two samples. He said that he is open to either one.

Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Evans talked about they like the dark background. Commissioner Leys agreed.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the black background sample. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the lettering on the exterior at the County Administration Building and at the Courthouse. He explained he has been talking with the sign company about the white lettering at the Courthouse. He showed the Board the type of plastic letters that it will be. He explained that he is concerned about the type of letter material that is being proposed. He gave the Board samples of the materials for the lettering at the County Administration Building. He said he could talk to the sign company about having the same material and have the words near the top of the Courthouse, not above the door.

Commissioner Irwin and County Manager talked about that type of material will last forever. The County Manager reiterated his concerns about using plastic lettering.

The Board discussed the location of the wording on the Courthouse. Commissioner Evans and Chair Smith said that it sounds like the consensus is to go to the top of the Courthouse with the wording.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager talked about having painted plastic letters.

The County Manager mentioned the size of the lettering at the Courthouse, and he will proceed forward with the conversations. He said we may have to provide assistance to get the letters up.

Commissioner Irwin talked about the Courthouse will be the center of attention downtown.

Chair Smith opened the floor for public comments and asked for comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Chair Smith explained that all of the Commissioners had a chance to meet with the new superintendent earlier today, Chad Beasley. He stated he wishes him the best.

Chair Smith explained that he, Commissioner Leys and Commissioner Irwin had an opportunity to go to the High Country Council of Government's annual banquet. He stated the Council of Government is comprised of 7 northwest counties along with their municipalities. He announced that County Manager Don Adams was presented with an award of Outstanding Local Government Manager at the banquet. He said that we were all proud of him and congratulates him on that award. He further said thank you for what you do for Alleghany County.

Commissioner Leys invited everyone to attend the open house at Alleghany Memorial Hospital on Thursday starting at 5:00pm. She explained they will be highlighting their services offered. She talked about the recent meeting with Susan Moffitt Thomas and Allison Platt regarding their downtown experiences with New Bern. She further talked about they did a good job, and she would like to thank Ricky Brown for setting that up. She congratulated the County Manager on his award and welcomed Chad Beasley. She said she has great appreciation to the donators of the \$30,000 and that is a wonderful gift to the veterans.

Commissioner Irwin talked about the current challenge for the Friends of the Auditorium to redo a lot of the seats in the auditorium. He said that at some point in time, the Commissioners need to get involved with the project. He talked about the potential economic development impact. He mentioned that Commissioner Evans is working with people about putting air-conditioning in the auditorium. He reiterated the economic development impact. He said that he would like for the school subcommittee to get going again to work on the school system, and he would like to see a partnership with the school system and the auditorium. He mentioned the County Manager's award was an award that was earned.

Commissioner Evans said that he recently renewed his driver's license online and that service may be a timesaver for people to use. He talked about the auditorium work mentioned by Commissioner Irwin and wanted to make everyone aware that he is only volunteering to consult on that project with no money involved. He talked about currently the State budget doesn't sound as bad as before for the school system.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to enter into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)—personnel at 8:09. Commissioner Irwin seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn closed session at 8:35pm and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Smith stated no action was taken during closed session.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 8:37pm. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair