

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in reconvened session from April 12, 2016 on Tuesday, April 19 2016, at 5pm 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 Lauren Linker.

Chair Smith called the meeting back to order at 5pm.

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

Special Called Meeting
April 19, 2016
Agenda

5:00pm Meeting Called to Order
Motion on Agenda

1. Health Insurance
2. Summary of Requests Presented 2/11/16 & 3/24/16
 - a. Business Recruitment & Tourism Committee
 - b. Wilkes Community College
 - c. Healthcare Committee
 - d. Alleghany County K-12 Schools
3. Summary of Available/Additional Funds
 - a. Economic Development Fund
 - b. Reallocated Expanded Sales Tax Revenue
4. General Discussions
5. Adjourn/Recess

County Manager Don Adams explained that the Reallocated sales tax of \$224,000 has now gone down to \$200,000. He also went over the County's loan debt and how the LGC looks at debt compared to the County value to see if the County is eligible to borrow.

Chair Smith asked for clarification that the County has a \$9,000,000 capacity before having to worry about not being approved for a loan.

County Manager Don Adams explained yes, on top of the \$6,040,000 the County already has as of next year. He explained that the County is not close to their limits at all nor is the County anticipating spending that much money it is just knowledge to show that the County is in good financial standings.

Chair Smith recapped all that was talked about last week's meeting about economic development, healthcare, and Wilkes Community College. He said his thoughts about K-12 would be to have Alleghany County Schools to prioritize their needs.

Commissioner Irwin said he felt like the auditorium is also a part of Economic Development. He stated that he was in support of the project for the auditorium.

Commissioner Leys asked if Commissioner Irwin was in support for the full \$4,200,000.

Commissioner Irwin clarified it was \$3,800,000 and yes he was. He said he looks at it two ways first for the school, but then also as part of the Economic Development with the auditorium.

Commissioner Leys asked if the county would have to borrow that full amount.

Commissioner Davis asked if borrowing money would cut down on the amount the schools received in the coming years.

County Manager Don Adams said yes the County would have to borrow and what the schools receive in the coming year depends in the Board at that time.

Chair Smith asked would it be appropriate for the Board to ask Alleghany County Schools to prioritize their most pressing needs.

County Manager Don Adams said yes so the County can understand what needs to be done first and once they do then the County can start looking at QSCB loans.

Commissioner Irwin asked if there are other 0% interest loans that the schools could look into it.

County Manager Don Adams stated that there are some, but those are things the school system will have to do. He also wanted to clarify that the money amount being talked about is for the Middle school and auditorium renovation and not the extra capital they are asking for in their budget this upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Leys asked if the school system has said what the extra \$600,000 is for in their budget.

County Manager Don Adams replied that he was not sure yet with the budget not being completed.

Chair Smith stated that he was looking at the monies separately.

Commissioner Evans said he thought there needs to be a budget set aside strictly for the continuation of the advertisements and web design to help these marketing ideas continue make it further down the road.

Commissioner Leys said when they presented the budget for economic development plan they said it was overly exaggerated just to make sure everything was covered.

Commissioner Irwin said he felt like marketing and branding seems to stand out in almost every committee or group that the Board has heard from or been a part of.

Commissioner Davis asked if Wilkes Community College had received their money from the state bond yet.

County Manager Don Adams said since the bond did pass he thought they were trying to work some things out at the college level. He also included that he had spoken with Dr. Cox about the roof idea from earlier meetings and he thought there might be opportunity for extra matching money from the college.

Chair Smith summarized the amounts to WCC would be \$50,000 from the Board with WCC matching it with \$150,000 as well as an annual amount increase of \$50,000. He asked what the others thoughts were on the WCC opportunity. He went on to explain that he was in favor of doing this with WCC.

Commissioner Leys said that amount of money is nothing compared to all the benefits that our student would have from us moving forward with WCC's excitement.

Commissioner Davis agreed saying it will really help the kids.

Commissioner Irwin asked what salaries the Board pays for at WCC's Sparta campus.

Chair Smith called a brief recess at 6:00pm.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the County pays \$53,550 in salaries and an extra \$8,000 to the Business Development Center.

Commissioner Irwin asked what the new \$50,000 pay for.

County Manager Don Adams explained for the first year it will be the match money for the bond after that it is for personal, but that will be decided next year by the Board.

Commissioner Leys explained what the Health Care presentation was about to remind everyone.

Commissioner Evans said with the Healthcare and Economic Development both he would like to get feedback from them to see how it is going along the way so that the Board can be kept in the loop and be able to keep the public abreast of the progress.

Chair Smith declared a recess at 6:27 pm for the Board of Equalization and Review.

Chair Smith stated the Board of Commissioners meeting is back in session at 7:32 pm.

County Manager Don Adams explained the clarification letters from four county departments asking for this year's budgeted amount.

Chair Smith said when he looked at the average of surrounding counties and the average for Alleghany County we were across the board at a lower pay scale.

County Manager Don Adams agreed yes that is a fair synopsis.

Commissioner Evans asked about longevity and how that was effected in this new plan.

County Manager Don Adams clarified there is a ½ % per year of service in that position. Longevity is your total amount of years of service. Longevity is not a part of this plan and she has not given any suggestions for longevity right now. That is something the Board will have to discuss.

Commissioner Evans said he thought it made more since to have one plan so just have the years of service incorporated into that plan somehow.

Chair Smith said it has taken at least 6 years to get to the .05% for longevity that we're at now.

Commissioner Evans said he was not suggesting taking it away at all just that maybe the two plans could be combined.

County Manager Don Adams said combining the two becomes an issue in regards to the policies that are currently in place.

Commissioner Evans said the problem he has with longevity is because it's not performance based paid.

Commissioner Leys said length of service is not included in this plan and if the Board was to consider implementing it would have to be revamped to include length of service.

County Manager Don Adams explained that this plan give a percentage for the number of years of service in that particular job, but when positions are changed then it suggest to start over at the higher paid position and with noting for service until in that position for a full year.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the Board goes with this plan, what the increase is for the first year to the budget.

County Manager Don Adams stated it would be around \$274,000.

Commissioner Irwin asked where the money would come from.

County Manager Don Adams said that the County is not looking at any additional revenue sources so it would have to come from our growth or from other operations.

Commissioner Evans stated the County needs to stop training employees for other Counties.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the biggest turnover was in the Sheriff's Department and if it was only because of the salary.

County Manager Don Adams explained yes the biggest turnover is the Sheriff's Department and it is being presented as the salary.

Commissioner Irwin stated we have to do something with this salary for these people.

Chair Smith said he would agree that something needs to be done and reiterated that after the 4 years of implementation all together this plan would cost roughly \$800,000

Commissioner Evans asked what kind of growth the County has.

County Manager Don Adams said on the sales tax 2-3%. Suggested maybe on the high side about \$300,000. He also stated that there are going to be some choices that will need to be made.

Commissioner Irwin asked is there any department where someone could be cut.

County Manager Don Adams said no not at all most of our departments only have a few people. The bigger departments have like Sheriff's Department and Social Services are the biggest ones and other than those the next biggest is about 7 people.

Commissioner Irwin said he just want to look at all possibilities and asked what the next step is.

Chair Smith said I think we're all in agreement that we need to do something, but we just need to figure out what and where to find the money.

Commissioner Irwin asked what the Board is doing with the 911 stuff.

County Manager Don Adams explained the Board didn't fund the radio analysis, but are still doing the dispatch assessment and the backup plan for dispatch. The law can't be changed the County will have to fill out the paper, but there are other avenues that may help to get through this.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 5:0

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Tom Smith
Chair