

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners reconvened the recessed budget meeting from Tuesday, June 12, 2007, on Monday, June 18, 2007, at 6:25pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, NC.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Milly Richardson was present but arrived late.

Chair Ken Richardson reconvened the recessed meeting at 6:25pm.

County Manager Don Adams handed out surrounding counties' building inspection fees.

Randy Blankenship, Chief Building Inspector, gave the Board a sample of a permit with the proposed increases and the surrounding counties' prices. He stated that he can't say how much money will be generated from the proposed fee schedule increase because of the uncertainty of the number of permits to be issued.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that the Board understands that. He talked about looking at what will be the best for the county in two to three years.

County Manager Don Adams and Randy Blankenship talked about the examples provided; Alleghany County's current and proposed fees, Yadkin County, Wilkes County and Ashe County. Randy Blankenship stated that these are current year rates.

County Attorney Donna Shumate left the meeting at 6:30pm.

County Manager Don Adams and Randy Blankenship talked about fees changing from \$325 to \$350 and leave the remaining amount of increases the same.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about an increase in permits would generate more revenues. He stated that he doesn't think the fees should go to \$350.

Chair Ken Richardson, County Manager Don Adams and Randy Blankenship talked about the \$12,000 shortfall with the original proposed rates. Randy Blankenship stated his recommendation is to leave the proposed rates there, which should be able to cover the \$12,000 shortfall as long as the permits keep coming in.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Commissioner Randy Miller agreed. Commissioner Randy Miller stated that he has talked to the contractors, and they are willing to pay the additional fees for the additional help.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Randy Blankenship talked about the timeline for Brian Killon and the new person to be out in the field. Randy Blankenship stated that it takes two years for someone to certify at level one.

County Manager Don Adams talked about trends since June 2003 regarding the total number of permits issued.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and Randy Blankenship talked about staying up with the new construction demand.

Chair Ken Richardson informed Randy Blankenship that they will probably approve the rates tonight and is leaning towards adding the new person when the budget is passed.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the \$325 proposed fee schedule. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the regional tourism group, Blue Ridge Heartland. He further talked about the purpose of the regional group, and they are not to the point where it is self-sufficient. He stated that Alleghany County provided \$7,500

this current year, if Alleghany County provides funding this upcoming year, it will be made clear that Alleghany County will not provide additional money if they are not self-sufficient by year end. He explained that Surry County is the driving force, and the monies would come from the economic development fund.

County Manager Don Adams talked about two new requests in the economic development fund; \$15,000 for a speaker system at the fairgrounds and the \$7,500 for the tourism group. He explained the revenues and expenses in the economic development fund.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that he thinks the tourism group warrants a second year by agreeing to fund it for one more year.

Chair Ken Richardson reviewed the counties that have agreed.

County Manager Don Adams and the Board of Commissioners talked about being a member of High Country Host versus the Blue Ridge Heartland. County Manager Don Adams talked about their marketing plan.

Chair Ken Richardson explained that this money doesn't come from any tax dollars.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to approve the \$7,500. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the fairgrounds requests of \$15,000. He explained the request for the speaker system.

Commissioner Milly Richardson arrived at 6:53pm.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the fairgrounds budget, and explained how they will be using the money in the fairgrounds budget. He stated that he thinks the fairgrounds board is doing a good job

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the sound system. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Randy Miller and Chair Ken Richardson talked about the members of the Blue Ridge Heartland board. They talked about this organization has to prove itself before Alleghany County can put advertising monies into it. Chair Ken Richardson explained that the group is working on creating a brand to put on any type of products coming from Northwestern North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the other funds, Scattered Site and Fairgrounds. He talked about the Drug Fund, and monies will be coming into the fund from a drug bust in another county soon.

Commissioner Randy Miller and County Manager Don Adams talked about expenses from the Drug Fund must be agreed upon by the Sheriff and the Board. County Manager Don Adams explained that the monies cannot be tied to personnel and must be tied to drug enforcement.

County Manager Don Adams explained the Register of Deeds fund has to be associated with technology. He talked about the library agency fund. He explained the Blue Ridge BDC fund having \$5,000 transferred from the General Fund, and budgeting \$15,000 that was left over from the building project to use these monies to open up the trail between Wilkes Community College and Alleghany High School. He talked about this amount probably won't take care of the entire trail. He reviewed items that the monies will be used for.

Commissioner Warren Taylor and County Manager Don Adams talked about getting the high school involved in assisting with the trail. Commissioner Taylor stated the need to move ahead with this and it has been discussed for a couple of years.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the revaluation fund.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the General Assembly may enact law stating that counties must do revaluation every four years, instead of eight years. He explained the reason for putting the money into this fund a little each year.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the QZAB funds and conversations with Dr. Cox about the fiber connectivity and the e-rate funding. He reviewed the projects that would be taken care of with the QZAB funding. He explained the amount of funding requested versus his recommendation regarding the capital needs.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he just came from the state board meeting where they have been talking about in exchange for Medicaid relief; the State is considering taking ADM monies.

County Manager Don Adams explained what that means to Alleghany County.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about other options that are being discussed for Medicaid relief.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the schools should be excited about this recommended budget because it is the largest budgeted capital funding provided by the County. He reminded the Board that they also have rollover monies, and the majority of it will be already obligated.

Commissioner Warren Taylor talked about safety needs that should be addressed, and hopes that by supporting this funding those safety needs can be addressed.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about when this budget meeting is done, the Board needs to set a time when they can come back to approve this budget for 2007/2008.

Being further business, Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman