

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in recessed session on Monday, June 22, 2009, at 7:00pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Steve Roten, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Chair Ken Richardson reconvened the recessed meeting.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the proposed fee schedule for EMS including the projected increase. He talked about his recommendations being \$40,000-\$45,000 for the \$1 per mile increase.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams talked about the allowable charges through Medicare.

Commissioner Steve Roten talked about raising it to what they will pay.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about how this does not cover the EMS expenses.

Commissioner Steve Roten made a motion to adopt the proposed fee schedule and with the \$2 per mile charges. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the inspection fee schedule. He reviewed one change on the schedule regarding trade permits and the number of inspections covered by the initial permit. He said that Randy Blankenship requested that to cover the additional trade permit inspections and get clarification on this.

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

County Manager Don Adams presented the recreation fee schedule. He explained that there are no changes because it is in the middle of season and David will recommend changes for next year in January.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adopt. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he is requesting that the ropes course fee schedule be eliminated. He further explained that the Board of Education is assuming all responsibility for ropes course but the County will require liability forms because it is on County property.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how the Alleghany in Motion fee schedule has no changes.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adopt the fee schedule with no changes. Commissioner Randy Miller seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the fire inspections fee schedule. He reminded the Board that the fees were cut in half last year.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the fee schedule with no changes. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the solid waste disposal fee schedule with no changes.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the fee schedule with no changes. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented the salary scale for 2009/10. He explained that the only change is adding the position of Telecommunications Co-Supervisor at a grade 63. He further explained that it was a Telecommunications Supervisor at a grade 64. He said that this is splitting the supervisor between two people instead of hiring an additional person. He stated that the money is there for this change.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that he sees no problem in creating this. He talked about his idea of dispatch being a separate department.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the position can be rearranged later.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the County has received some preliminary insurance information about the EMS building. He said that there needs to be serious discussions with the insurance company about the building, and he needs to get Randy Blankenship in on this conversation. He explained that the information was received today, and the amount is significantly lower than what it will take to put it back.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about building changes for having communications in the building. The County Manager talked about the space needed, back up generator and additional wiring.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked is this anticipated to be doable for this budget year. County Manager Don Adams said that he will get with Randy Blankenship next week to talk with the insurance company, and Randy has designs about putting the building back. He said that if board wishes to include dispatch, he needs to know within a month or two.

The Board talked about dispatch becoming a separate department. The County Manager talked about his conversation with the Sheriff about dispatch.

Chair Ken Richardson explained that this conversation has been ongoing and they went on with the prior Sheriff.

Commissioner Randy Miller reminded the Board about the conversations with the fire departments and said they want it out.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Commissioner Steve Roten talked about if having them in a separate location would help. Commissioner Roten stated that the con would be the expense side.

Chair Ken Richardson said that if EMS had not caught on fire, this wouldn't be a conversation.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board that now would be the time to price it out.

Chair Ken Richardson mentioned information about revised 911 fees, and asked would this qualify.

County Manager Don Adams explained that his information is that it is more for getting it to the repeaters.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about not installing the dispatch console twice.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how he has worked with dispatch for 12 years, attending fire commission meetings and talking with the different supervisors. He stated that the key is the supervisor. He said that this department needs to be treated like any other department. He talked about working with the different supervisors. He further talked about the need for continuing education and professionalism. He reminded the Board about a meeting showing the emergency personnel that the County had the technology there and the need to provide staff training to use it. He stated that the County has good dispatchers, and they do a good job.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about if the County doesn't address this issue now it will be 10 to 20 years before it is discussed again, if ever. He said that the County has already been talking about it that long.

Commissioner Randy Miller asked if there is any other place in the jail for dispatch.

Commissioner Steve Roten explained that was started.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the previous Sheriff started it.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the parking.

Chair Ken Richardson and Commissioner Doug Murphy talked about getting the numbers and look at it.

County Manager Don Adams explained that he has had conversations with the Sheriff is to allow him the opportunity to talk to the Board about this issue.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve adding the position to grade 63. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams stated that the furloughs and longevity does not change this.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams talked about the part-time pay plan and how part-time pay is calculated off of full-time pay.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed the budget worksheets and the General Fund changes. He said that he had told the Board previously that \$100,000 equals 1%, and actually it is \$120,000 equals 1%. He explained that the recommended budget is 22% fund balance, and it is not quite at 21% right now because of the fund balance of \$244,804 being used. He began discussing the breakdown of the Commissioners' discussion from the last meeting beginning with personnel: restore tax office, LEC, DSS positions; restore longevity and restore holiday pay.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the personnel category. The consensus with the Board is to do everything listed in the personnel category.

County Manager Don Adams presented the next category of sa-primary (plus group homes) for restoring funding to the 08/09 level for the library, health department, Wilkes Community College, Council on Aging, Mental Health, Group Homes and providing \$90,000 to the fire commission.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the sa-primary category. The consensus with the Board is to do everything listed in the sa-primary category.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the next category of sa-secondary. He explained that this is the group that the Board had discussed several different scenarios of cuts ranging from 10% to 25%. He presented information to the Board showing the amounts of money for the different percentages and how much money is associated with each scenario.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the sa-secondary category, fund balance numbers, money for schools for personnel, and state budget.

Commissioner Randy Miller asked the Board what we are willing for the fund balance to go to. He asked the County Manager for his recommendation.

County Manager Don Adams provided information for the fund balance percentages according to our population size and how the LGC reviews the fund balance numbers. He talked about not going below 15%.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about if the Board does everything that was discussed at the last meeting, the fund balance will be 16.27. She said she is not comfortable going below that number.

Chair Ken Richardson answered 15%

Commissioner Randy Miller agreed.

Commissioner Doug Murphy answered 16%-17% is where he is comfortable.

County Manager Don Adams reminded the Board that there are two or three issue coming up; EMS building, training facility, schools.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about a presentation by the Local Government Commission saying more QZAB money is available and money for purchasing land.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how these things will probably require borrowing money. He explained that they look at the fund balance among other things for the interest rates.

Commissioner Steve Roten stated that he hates to see the Board go as low as the Board is talking about. He talked about having to make some hard discussions for next year.

Chair Ken Richardson asked about personnel for the board of elections and the amount of money.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the elections office used to be three days a week with one person, and now has two people for five days a week. She said people are asking why they weren't considered in the personnel cuts.

County Manager Don Adams reviewed his logic of trying to see what would have the least impact to the department and the public when looking to reduce personnel. He stated that is why he looked at the larger departments. He reviewed the elections budget.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked how it compares to five years ago.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams talked about the elections budget and their structure of department. They discussed what is at the commissioners' discretion regarding the board of elections.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams talked about the economic impact to the mapping/911 department.

The Board of Commissioners continued discussing the sa-secondary and Board of Education and board of elections.

The Commissioners recessed this meeting until June 29 immediately following the joint meeting with the Town that starts at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman