

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 8, 2014, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chairman Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for this September 8, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, September 8, 2014
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for September 8, 2014, Meeting
Motion on Minutes for August 18, 2014, Meeting
- 6:35 A. Wendy Williams – E-911/Mapping Coordinator
1. Present information regarding new road name; Green Way Drive.
 2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed new road name. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
 3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed road name
- 6:45 B. John Blevins – Social Services Director
1. Social Worker IAT Open Position, Grade 72, \$41,736.05. Action Requested – Vote on the request to fill the position.
 2. Child Development Budget Amendment. Budget Amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$45,609 to budget for additional monies received for Child Development. Action Requested – Vote on Budget Amendment.
- 6:55 C. Ginger Collins – Blue Ridge Read Publicity Chair
RE: Proclamation to proclaim October as Blue Ridge Read Month. Action Requested – Vote on the Proclamation
- 7:05 D. General Business
1. NCACC Legislative Goals
Proposed goals to NCACC are due 9/19/14. Final requested goals need to be adopted at the 9/15/14 meeting.
 2. EMS Debt Set-Off Program
Additional discussion about participating in the Debt Set-Off Program for EMS. Action Requested – Vote to participate in the NC Debt Set-Off Program to collect EMS fees.
 3. Morgue Cooler Alarm Discussion
Further discussion about the morgue cooler alarm. The additional cost would be \$833.
 4. Northwestern Housing Authority Board Appointment
A new appointment for the Northwestern Regional Housing Authority will need to be made prior to 12/12/14. General discussions need to be held on the process of selecting the new appointment.
 5. Farmland Preservation Program Board Appointments
Reappoint Lewis Upchurch, Appoint Aaron Ray Tompkins, Appoint Alvin Dixon for 3 Years Term ending June 30, 2017 and Appoint Yancey Sparks to Fill Paul Edwards' Unexpired Term which ends on June 30, 2015. Action Requested – Vote on Board Appointments.
 6. NC Cooperative Extension Bonus Leave
The State of NC awarded bonus leave to certain State employees as part of the 2014 State Budget. In order for Extension employees to receive the bonus leave, approval must be obtained from partnering counties. Action Requested – Vote to award the proportional match of the bonus leave provision.
 7. Transfer Facility Equipment Operator Open Position
Grade 61, \$24,401.85. Action Requested – Vote on the request to fill the position.
 8. Wellness Drawing for 2 Grandfather Mountain Tickets

All employees who attended the nutrition education class held on September 4 are entered into the drawing. Action Requested – Draw 1 name.

- E. Public Comments—30 minutes
- F. Commissioners Comments
- G. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 18, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Wendy Williams, E-911/Mapping Coordinator, presented one new road name; Green Way Drive. She explained the location of the road.

Commissioner Smith and Wendy Williams talked about the property owners are in agreement.

Commissioner Davis and Wendy Williams talked about the location of the property being behind the VFW building.

Chair Cox opened the public hearing at 6:32 regarding the new proposed road name and asked for public comments. None were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the road name of Green Way Drive. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins, Social Services Director, explained he is asking for permission to fill the open position of Social Worker IAT. He further explained the duties of this position. He talked about if this position is filled in house then he asks for permission to fill the Social Worker III position because that is the only person eligible for the Social Worker IAT position.

Commissioner Leys and John Blevins talked about the Social Worker IAT and Social Worker III positions.

County Manager Don Adams explained the Social Worker III position is only if that person moves up to the Social Worker IAT position.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve filling the IAT position and if filled in house then advertise to fill the SW III position.

John Blevins talked about he will advertise the IAT position in house, if filled in house then the other position would be advertised.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion on the floor.

Commissioner Leys said that both positions work with children.

John Blevins talked about trying to limit the time without staff.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

John Blevins presented Budget Amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$45,609 for additional daycare funds. He explained that this is pass-through monies.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Budget Amendment General Fund #5 in the amount of \$45,609. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Ginger Collins along with the White Dog presented the Blue Ridge Read proclamation. She explained the White Dog event that started out as a book club has turned into a lot more. She read the proposed proclamation.

Commissioner Smith said that he appreciates the work done on this. He explained his participation in a conversation group.

Commissioner Leys thanked them for their work. She said it is a lovely book, and she enjoyed reading it. She talked about a lot of people are coming out, and this is a great project.

Ginger Collins talked about portions of the conversation group and ideas that come from that. She explained that the author is coming a day early to go to the schools for a writing class.

Chair Cox and Ginger Collins talked about dates for the events regarding the Blue Ridge Read. She listed out all of the events.

Commissioner Smith and Ginger Collins talked about copies of the book will be available.

Commissioner Goudreau thanked them for what they are doing. He thanked the White Dog, the group and what they are doing for the community.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the legislative goals submission deadline is September 19. He talked about providing the Board copies of last year's goals and NCACC legislative session summary, which is in the Commissioners' mailboxes now. He encouraged the Board to review it. He said that one recommendation is to finalize what the Department of Commerce needs to for their partnership. He explained that April Hamm will be appearing before the Board at the next meeting about a substantial reduction in her funding mainly EDTAP, 40% decrease in those funds, which directly impacts the elderly and disabled. He further explained that she is working on a plan of action to survive this year, and the plan will be cutting transportation services. He said that her conversation isn't to come to the Commissioners to supplant State cuts, but they will be out of money in December if no changes are made. He explained in the past several years the money has been used for medical only transportation. He talked about the options available and things they are looking at including raising the co-payments, and looking at limiting RGP. He stated that restoring the funding is one goal. He explained if the County talks about supplanting the money, the State did this and they need to answer for it. He talked about the other goals are the normal, traditional ones; 911, lottery monies, ADM.

Chair Cox and County Manager Don Adams talked about the lottery monies need to be restored because it has been cut in half. They talked about the Medicaid swap with 30 counties being affected.

Commissioner Smith talked about the top 5 goals of NCACC. He further talked about lottery funding.

Commissioner Leys talked about the goal about unfunded mandates and the need to discourage that.

County Manager Don Adams explained how the State budgeted monies for public transit and the second pot of money isn't available any more. He said that one goal could be to not allow DOT to move the monies to other places.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about Medicaid, unfunded mandates that are passed along to the counties, EDTAP, and seeking to restore the funding. He said that he agrees with Commissioner Smith about to keep lottery funds on there. He talked about the original Statutes that was supposed to be on there and keeping NCACC fighting for those funds.

Commissioner Smith talked about one goal for Ag was to adequately fund the Research Station and asked has the Manager heard anything about that this time. County Manager Don Adams said he has not heard anything about that Station, but NC State and Extension Service are revamping their services including Extension Service will start limiting the number of Ag agents and number of directors so it won't impact Alleghany County very much. The County Manager stated that he hasn't heard how that relates to the Stations but it may be an issue.

Chair Cox said in the next few days for the Commissioners to have a conversation with the County Manager and then present the goals back at the next meeting.

County Manager Don Adams explained what he will bring back to the next meeting.

County Manager Don Adams talked about EMS debt set-off. He said he is asking the Board to vote to participate in the NC debt set-off program for EMS.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to participate in the NC debt set-off program for EMS. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams updated the Board about he issued the purchase order for the cooler system at the Hospital, and they have issued design specs, going through that process now. He talked about it takes 60 days for the cooler to be built. He explained that the Agreement that was approved said the morgue would be operated by rules, and those rules are being developed. He further explained how the equipment works and they have to monitor the temperature anyway when using it so the Hospital doesn't see the need at this time for an alarm. He reiterated that this is not a request from the Hospital, and if it becomes an issue then we will address it. He pointed out this is not a county morgue. He explained the rules and procedures need to be set up by the Hospital. He talked about the County is working with the Hospital to operate a morgue. He said he doesn't see how the Hospital would operate this any different than any other morgue and provided examples.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about fees associated with the operation of the morgue. They talked about the equipment is looking at 60-90 days to be installed. He said that people know they have 60-90 days to work on the rules and procedures.

Commissioner Davis and County Manager Don Adams talked about it will only be running when needed.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Northwestern Regional Housing Authority board appointment. He said that Leo Tompkins has served on this board for several years, and he can't serve any more due to his health. He explained that this appointment will come up before December 12. He asked how the Commissioners want to proceed.

Chair Cox explained that he talked to Mr. Choate, and he will be willing to serve if the Commissioners want him to. He further explained that he talked to Mr. Tompkins, who said he can't do it, and that David Choate will be good. He further explained that he asked Mr. Tompkins about County Commissioners serving on this board and Mr. Tompkins explained that a long time ago the board was Commissioners but not now.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Tompkins for his years of service. County Manager Don Adams said he served for 15 years. Commissioner Smith talked about Mr. Choate is familiar with this.

Commissioner Leys said that David Choate talked to her about he would like to serve on this board.

Chair Cox talked about the Housing Authority oversees 30 rental units at Highland Village.

County Manager Don Adams talked about other ways they provide assistance in Alleghany County.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint David Choate to the Northwestern Regional Housing Authority effective December 12. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leys talked about amending the motion to include appreciation for Leo Tompkins.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented a letter from Paul Edwards regarding appointments to the Alleghany County Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program for reappointing Lewis Upchurch, appointing Aaron Ray Tompkins and Alvin Dixon for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2017 and appoint Yancey Sparks to fill Paul Edwards' unexpired term which ends on June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve reappointing Lewis Upchurch, appointing Aaron Ray Tompkins and Alvin Dixon for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2017 and appoint Yancey

Sparks to fill Paul Edwards' unexpired term which ends on June 30, 2015. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams presented information about the State awarded bonus leave to certain State employees as part of the 2014 State budget, and in order for Extension employees to receive the bonus leave, approval must be obtained from partnering counties. He explained that this requires no additional monies.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this is for three employees and one shared employee. They talked about if they take a week off we pay our share.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the bonus leave for Extension Service.

Commissioner Smith said he assumes this is going on statewide. County Manager Don Adams answered yes and this isn't the first time. The County Manager reiterated that this is statewide for Extension Service.

Commissioner Leys and Chair Cox talked about ways people can use the bonus leave.

County Manager Don Adams explained our contract is for the annual amount only.

Commissioner Goudreau asked are these employees considered State employees. County Manager Don Adams said yes they are considered State employees. They discussed that this comes from the State and Extension employees don't get other benefits that County employees get.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about a Transfer Facility Equipment Operator will be retiring October 31. He explained that he would like to advertise towards the end of this month, then interview and have the person ready to start November 1. He further explained that he is trying to start early enough because Maintenance doesn't have time to cover open shifts. He asked for permission to fill this position effective October 31.

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

Commissioner Leys thanked the County Manager for thinking ahead.

Chair Cox talked about the wellness drawing is for 2 Grandfather Mountain Tickets for all employees who attended the nutrition education class. He asked how many attended. Clerk to the Board Karen Evans answered 65. Commissioner Smith drew the name and Chair Cox read the name; Michele Hamm.

Chair Cox opened the public comments' portion of the meeting and asked for comments. None were received. He closed the public comments' portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Goudreau thanked Leo Tompkins for his service on the Housing Authority board. He talked about the Board started looking at procedures to recognize people like this and a future board should look at it.

Chair Cox said he agrees, and said that's a good suggestion.

Commissioner Smith said he agrees. He mentioned the Veterans Park and all of the efforts by the Maintenance staff.

Commissioner Leys asked about land sale on August 29. County Attorney Donna Shumate answered there was a bid of \$2,000 and has been upset to \$2,750 at this time.

Commissioner Leys mentioned receiving a visit from ASU with about 20 people, and they are going to make a plan for the Farmers Market.

County Manager Don Adams explained the visit by ASU; engage them to help with several areas of construction for the Farmers Market. He talked about we will have 2 groups of students that we are working with; 8 students will be selected, 4 are studying to be construction managers and 4 are studying to be engineers. He explained the areas they hope to assist with. He talked about the purpose of the meeting. He said that hopefully at the Joint meeting, they can bring more information. He explained that they are working out the scope of services currently.

Commissioner Leys talked about the Sparta Revitalization Committee will be coming with recommendations to the meeting next week and coming with landscape design for Council on Aging. She mentioned the symphony will be here next week. She talked about a fundraising effort using a letter drive. She talked about the Hillbilly Show is October 18, and UNC-TV will be there. She talked about Alleghany Memorial Hospital Board has an announcement. She read the announcement regarding NC Baptist Hospital. She said she wants to recognize Jim Becker for his services for Alleghany County.

Chair Cox explained that Commissioner Davis also attended the meeting with ASU. He stated that Aaron Ray Tompkins is our contact with ASU.

Ginger Collins said that she contacted WFDD radio, and will have an upcoming radio segment. She talked about the segment and what it will entail. She mentioned being in the Our State magazine.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox
Chairman