

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 19, 2016, at 10:00am 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 Davis, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker. Commissioner Mark Evans was absent.

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

Chair Smith said he had some additions to the agenda, add the right before general business. One is to discuss a rental options of the old post office and a letter of request from the Girl Scouts.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions for this September 19, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Irwin Vote 4:0

AGENDA  
Monday, September 19, 2016  
10:00 AM

10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for April 18, 2016, Meeting  
Motion on Minutes from March 21, 2016 and September 06, 2016.

10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator

1. August Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. **Actions Requested** – Vote on releases and refunds.
2. August Collections Report - Monthly 2016 collection rates compared to 2015 and 2014 monthly collection rates. No action requested.
3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of August 2016. No action requested.
4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No action requested.
5. Request for Release of Residential Solid Waste Fee – **Action Requested** – Vote on the release.
6. Appeal of Motor Vehicle Assessed Value - **Action Requested** - Vote on the appeal.

10:20 B. Bryan Maines, Sheriff

Re: A Corporal position that was overlooked during the salary study so the money was not allocated for the position either. The amount needed to cover the positions pay raise is \$4,310, which includes salary, holiday, retirement, 401K and FICA. **Action Requested** – Decide how to proceed.

10:35 C. Wendy Williams, E911/Mapping Director

1. E-911 Fund Budget Amendment #1 in the amount \$15,996 to replace the 911 server in Dispatch. **Action Requested** – Vote on budget amendment.

10:40 D. Karen Evans, Finance Officer

1. Annual Financial Information Report – Request is to authorize Martin Starnes and Associates to complete the required Annual Financial Information Report. The completion of the request will be \$3,500 – **Action Requested** – Vote on the request.
2. Post-Employment Benefits Report – The report was required by the State in order to be included in our 2015/2016 audit. The date was based on all employees and retirees as of 12/31/15. This request is mandated to be completed every 3 years. The cost of the report was \$4,952. – **Action Requested** – Vote on the request.

11:00 E. General Business

1. LGC Application – proposed support resolution for LGC Application for Library renovation project. – **Action Requested** – Vote on resolution.
2. Draft Financing Agreement - A resolution giving formal approval to the draft financing documents with Blue Ridge Electric for the Library renovation project. – **Action Requested** – Vote on resolution.
3. Library Project Ordinance Amendment – Proposed ordinance amendment budgeting library furnishing monies. – **Action Requested** – Vote on ordinance amendment.
4. Propane Bids – **Action Requested** – Vote on awarding the bid for propane.

- D. Public Comments—30 minutes
- E. Commissioners Comments
- F. Closed Session – NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)-Personnel
- G. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve minutes from March 21 and September 6, 2016. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller Tax Administrator, went over the tax and tag report.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller next went over the auto release of a \$30 fee and one refund for the amount of \$12.13 under the old vehicle tax system.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve auto releases. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the real property releases for August. She explained that one was a clerical error because it was coded wrong and she said a program has been put in place to keep that from happening next year.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the exempt ones was a clerical error.

Rita Miller said the software program doesn't track that particular item so it was over looked.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve real property release. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the real property refund for August. She stated that August is when citizens can get a discount and many forgot about the discount so many of these are from that in the amount of \$11,680.97.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve real property refunds.  
Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the collection rates, payment agreements and enforced collection reports. She then explained a request for release of residential solid waste fee for Jerry Andrews right off Hwy 18. She explained there is no water or electric to the building.

Commissioner Leys asked if their taxes were up to date.  
Rita Miller answered yes.

Commissioner Leys made a motion approve request for release of residential solid waste. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller explained a second request for release of residential solid waste fee at 952 Mountain High road. She stated the house had never been finished it was just a shell with no windows and explained that just like the previous property during revaluation the fee got put on the property and she noted all taxes were up to date.

Commissioner Irwin asked when it was started.

Rita Miller said it was started in 2002, but was never finished.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve release. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over a motor vehicle appeal. She said after checking multiple places for value it was her recommendation to adjust the vehicle value to \$3,000.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the assessor's value.  
Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over a motor vehicle appeal. She said after checking multiple places for value it was her recommendation to adjust the vehicle value to \$2,500.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the assessor's value.  
Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over another motor vehicle appeal. She said after checking multiple places for value it was her recommendation to adjust the vehicle value to \$3,808.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the assessor's value.  
Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller finished up by going over some of the things she learned in class which were about the revaluation for the County and antique vehicles.

Bryan Maines, Sheriff went over the missing position and asked for the Board to allow him to fill the position.

Commissioner Leys asked if the position was vacant when the study was being done and why it was missed.

Bryan Maines said yes it was missed. He continued in hind sight that is what they thought had happened to the position.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the request to fill the missing position. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 4:0

Bryan Maines went over a few things that was going on in the Sheriff's Office and some things that will be coming soon.

Commissioner Irwin asked how the body camera grant was going.

Bryan Maines said they did get approved and that the money will come in on October 1<sup>st</sup> and they will be ordered soon after.

Wendy Williams, Mapping/E-911 Director went over the budget amendment for the replacement of the E911 server.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment E911 Fund #1. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Karen Evans, Finance Officer asked for approval for Martin Starnes and associates to complete AFIR for \$3,500.

Chair Smith asked if she thought she would be able to complete the report at some point in the future.

Karen Evans said yes, one day, but not this year or next probably.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Martin Starnes and associates to complete AFIR. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Karen explained an OPEB report that had to be completed for the audit that she was unaware of how much it would cost \$4,951. She said being unaware of this price or that it needed to happen to have put it in her budget request. She is requesting for the Board to allow this back in her budget.

Commissioner Leys asked what the report was about.

Karen Evans explained it had to do retirees.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the money would come out of the general fund.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the money for the OPEB report. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Karen Evans explained the resolution for the LGC.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Karen explained the next resolution from Blue Ridge Electric to lay out the terms of the borrowing.

Chair Smith asked County Attorney Donna Shumate if she felt like it was ok.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said she felt like everything was fine with it.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Karen Explained the Library Project Ordinance Amendment.

Chair Smith clarified that this would be to satisfy the LGC.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the Library Project Ordinance. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith went over the bids for the County propane.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to award Blue Ridge Energies the County propane. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith explained that the Alleghany County Democratic Party is wanting to rent the Library Annex building for the next couple months. He explained it had to go before the Library Board and the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Irwin asked if the rent money will go to the Library.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the lease for Library Annex to the Democratic Party. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 4:0

Commissioner Leys read a letter from the Girl Scouts Troop to offer their service to help keep the flower beds wedded and clean.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the Girl Scouts request. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith opened up the public comments. Seeing none he closed the section.

Commissioner Irwin said the Heritage Festival went very well, there was a lot of people that turned out. He went on to explain the minutes that all the Board of Commissioners had received from the Veterans Advisory Committee. He also invited all the Commissioners to join the celebration at Wilkes Community College for the arrival of the Community College President.

Commissioner Leys said the Festival was wonderful. She let everyone know of a promotion of Doughton Park on October 15 11am – 4pm.

Chair Smith explained the legislative goals and what need to happen with them at this point.

Clerk Lauren Linker went over the goals that Commissioner Evans had sent.

Commissioner Davis asked if the State would help pay for some of the voting machines.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the voting machines goal. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Lauren Linker went over the second legislative goal from Commissioner Evans.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the lottery goal. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Lauren Linker went over the third legislative goal from Commissioner Evans.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the mental health goal. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Lauren Linker went over the fourth legislative goal from Commissioner Evans

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the prescription drug abuse goal. Commissioner Davis seconded. Vote 4:0

Commissioner Leys said she would add the tax revaluation timeline as a legislative goal.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the revaluation goal.  
Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith talked about the distribution of money from the NC Connect Bond for Alleghany would be enter as a 3:1 match, but since the main campus is in Wilkes County it will be a 2:1 match instead. He asked Commissioner Irwin if the States Board of Community Colleges was taking care of it or should the Board look at making it a legislative goal.

Commissioner Irwin said the State Board of Community College realizes there is a problem and it will not be done that way again. He went on to say he thought it would take care of itself.

Commissioner Leys clarified that the County match would be changing from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith stated the Board was back from closed session and no decisions were made.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker  
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans  
Chair