



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 21st, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve minutes from 9/8. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

**AGENDA**  
Monday September 21, 2020  
10:00 am

10:00 Meeting called to order  
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation  
Approval of agenda  
Motion on minutes from 9/8 (pages 111-116)

**Public Hearing: River House Drive (pages 1-6)**  
**Public Hearing: Glory Ridge Place (pages 7-9)**

- A. 10:05 **Public Comments/Agenda Items:** Citizens are encouraged to comment at this time on any item(s) specifically listed on this meeting's agenda. Guidelines for public comment are posted in the meeting room.
- B. 10:10 **Presentations to the Board**
- i. COVID – 19 update: Jen Greene, AppHealth
  - ii. Chamber update; Lisa Bottomley
- C. 10:20 **General Business**
- a. Fairgrounds Fee Schedule changes
  - b. Waive Trunk-n-Treat fee
  - c. Resolution declaring AIM vans surplus property (pages 10-12)
  - d. Bypass traffic discussion (pages 13-24)
  - e. BDC contract (pages 25-28)
  - f. BDC server room quotes (page 29)
  - g. Materials accepted at Transfer Station
  - h. Solid Waste Disposal Fee discussion (pages 30-31)
  - i. Telephone/Internet equipment and services RFP (pages 32-36)
- D. 10:45 **Consent Agenda (Board action requested) (pages 37-110)**
- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
    - a. License Plate Agency month end report

- b. Request for Board approval of late application – James Fender
- c. Request for Release of residential solid waste fee
  - 1. Randy & Debbie Sturgill
  - 2. Neil Wilkes
  - 3. JoAnn Fender
- d. August auto refunds
- e. August real and personal property refunds
- f. Real and personal property releases
- g. Collections monthly totals report

E. 11:00 **Public Comments:** Citizens are encouraged to comment at this time on any item(s) requiring the attention of the Commissioners. Guidelines for public comment are posted in the meeting room.

F. 11:10 **County Manager Comments**  
i. Facilities updates

G. 11:30 **County Commissioner Comments**

H. **Request for Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-(6) Personnel**

I. **Adjourn**

**Public Hearings**

Chair Bill Osborne opened the public hearing on River House Drive.

Jim Heckman explained the infrastructure he and his wife are putting in on Glory Ridge Place.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve River House Drive. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded.

Chair Bill Osborne opened the public hearing on Glory Ridge Place.

Chair Bill Osborne closed the public hearing on Glory Ridge Place.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve Glory Ridge Place. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

**Presentations to the Board**

COVID-19 update; Jen Greene

Jen Greene gave a COVID-19 update. She said AppHealth updates their website every day.

Jen Greene explained the steps AppHealth is taking to protect farm workers in the county including working with the Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Jen Greene explained false negatives are more likely to come from rapid tests.

Chamber update; Lisa Bottomley

Lisa Bottomley said the Visitor’s Center reopened last Monday. She said the Chamber is launching a scavenger hunt in conjunction with Streetscape being completed. She said a ribbon cutting will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for Streetscape with a much larger celebration later in the year. She introduced 2 new Chamber members. She explained a coffee-club idea at the Chamber for citizens to stop in and share their ideas. She said the Mountain Heritage Festival is canceled but the Chamber is offering an online option to

vendors. She said CycleNC has been canceled this year. She highlighted the magazine ads in Blue Ridge Digest and Blue Ridge Country. She said the Chamber is working on 2 grand opportunities for advertising. She said the Chamber is looking into “Leave No Trace” to address the concern of visitors disrespecting our natural resources. She encouraged people to shop local and said the Chamber is working hard to help local businesses market. She explained how current Chamber member will be handled moving forward with the structure change of the Chamber of Commerce.

### **General Business**

#### Fairgrounds Fee schedule changes

Megan Edwards explained the proposed Fairgrounds fee changes.

There was discussion about how to dispose of used sawdust from the barn. Megan Edwards explained the idea was to fertilize the corn maze with the fertilizer.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the new Fairgrounds fees. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### Waive Trunk-N-Treat fees

Megan Edwards explained the Trunk-N-Treat drive-thru proposal from the SRC. She said Bob Lane was going to handle traffic control. She explained the health restrictions on vendors (masks, social distancing). She said the fees would be \$100 if not waived.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to waive the Trunk-N-Treat fees due to COVID-19. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince nay: Commissioner John Irwin)

County Manager, Michael Carter explained if the Black building is going to be used as a temporary court facility, there will need to be monitoring of uses to be sure there is no overlap with court dates.

There was discussion about liability and responsibility of the Fairgrounds Committee.

County Attorney, Donna Shumate asked to defer these types of questions until she can review the Fairgrounds Committee bylaws.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked that the minutes include that County Manager, Michael Carter and Megan Edwards, Recreation Director both referred to the Fairgrounds Committee as an advisory board.

Megan Edwards, Recreation Director said the Fairgrounds Committee agrees it is an advisory board.

#### Resolution declaring AIM vans surplus property

Tiffany Boyer, AIM Director explained the request to declare surplus property and the request to donate one of the vans to Council on Aging for meal delivery.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to declare AIM vans surplus. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained that if the board donates the van to Council on Aging, it is no longer the responsibility of the County.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to donate the van to Council on Aging as-is. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### Bypass traffic discussion

There was discussion between the board and County Manager, Michael Carter about the bypass traffic accidents and a possible resolution.

County Manager, Michael Carter suggested having a meeting with NCDOT to discuss possibilities and solutions.

There was consensus among the board to have a joint meeting with the Sparta Town Council at our October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### BDC contract

Commissioner John Irwin explained his issues with the BDC contract. He said the BDC purchased 2 pieces of property in the past and has given them both to the Town of Sparta for \$0. He said the BDC is in breach of the contract on several instances and the county needs to take over the BDC and the BDC board needs to go on its merry way.

There was discussion about the makeup of the BDC board.

Commissioner John Irwin asked that if the board is going to rewrite the contract, the BDC should give reports throughout the year.

Commissioner Mark Evans suggested a board member attending the BDC board meetings and said he would be willing to be that member.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin suggested that the BDC and the Alleghany Chamber for Economic Development are traveling on parallel paths and could, possibly work together.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to rewrite the contract with the BDC to include “removing the Economic Development and the sharing of the BDC van because it don’t exist, supporting promotion of economic development, business activity within Alleghany County be removed and operator/manager be responsible for economic development activities serving as director of Alleghany County economic development coordination in Alleghany county be removed also.” Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 2:3 (aye: Commissioner John Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince nay: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Chair Bill Osborne)

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to table the BDC contract discussion for 6 months or sooner if they are ready. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

#### Recess

#### Materials accepted at Transfer Station

Public Works Director, David Spicer explained the cost to dispose of 15-20 tons of cardboard each week since recycling is suspended. He said as pumpkin season ramps up, we will see larger quantities of cardboard coming to the transfer station. He clarified that household cardboard that a resident brings in with their household trash will be no charge. He clarified he is talking about commercial cardboard, not residential.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin recommended reaching out to NAPCO or Food Lion to see if they would be interested in taking the cardboard our transfer station receives.

There was discussion about whether non-profits would be exempt from paying to dispose of their cardboard.

Commissioner Mark Evans asked what the cost would be to go back to recycling only cardboard.

David Spicer said the equipment that had been being used to bail the cardboard is pretty much in disrepair so it would be quite a cost to the county to go back to recycling cardboard.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the commercial cardboard situation until the mid-month October meeting. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager, Michael Carter recommended the board come up with an acceptable waste list for the Transfer Station.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained part-time residents who are paying \$5 to dispose of all their waste and identified that this is one area that needs to be analyzed. Interim Finance Officer, April Hamm gave a financial report.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained some processes that will be improved upon next year such as not allowing vendors to send bills at the end of the fiscal year so as to do a better job about getting invoices closed out before the end of the year.

County Manager, Michael Carter said Sidney Moxley, Assistant Finance Officer created the local spending report.

#### BDC server room quotes

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the 2 quotes to cool the BDC server room.

Commissioner John Irwin said the server room has to have a separate system to cool it.

County Manager, Michael Carter said the \$940 could come out of Contingency to alleviate the server room problem.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to table the BDC server room quotes. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### Telephone/Internet RFP

Assistant County Manager, Drew Temple explained the telephone/internet RFP.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the Internet/Telephone Equipment and Services RFP. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### **Consent agenda**

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### **County Manager comments**

County Manager, Michael Carter said the engineer will be at the old COA this week to continue design work. He said the HVAC roof unit was replaced last week. He said the earthquake study is continuing at 90 S Main. He said we are still waiting to hear about the amount of damage at Duncan Rec. He said we are waiting on E Luke Green to schedule abatement at the Courthouse; he said a lot of this work is able to be done at night so as to not upset court.

#### **County Commissioner comments**

Commissioner John Irwin commended county employees on the earthquake process.

Commissioner Larry Prince said the town looks great and he's happy with the Streetscape results. He said he is concerned that political signs keep disappearing which is a misdemeanor and asked for citizens to discontinue this process.

Chair Bill Osborne said we need to get on the ball with the Census.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin urged people to consider the ¼ cent sales tax.

Commissioner Mark Evans said the lanes seem narrow because there haven't been any lanes for so long. He said it looks great and good to see the activity back on Main Street. He said Worship at the Fairgrounds was pretty well-attended and raised over \$2,000 for earthquake relief.

**Closed session**

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to go in to closed session.  
Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to combine Finance and HR and elevate that position to grade 78 \$54,895 effective 9/22/20. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to allow County Manager to pursue the top candidate for County Attorney. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple  
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne  
Chairman