



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 21st, 2022 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 Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Attorney, Heather Klein and Clerk to the Board Drew Todd.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

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County Commissioners
Bill Osborne
Bobby Irwin
Mark Evans
Mechelle Luffman
John U. Irwin, Jr.

County Manager
Michael L. Carter

Clerk to the Board
Drew Todd

County Attorney
Heather R. Klein

AGENDA

Monday February 21, 2022
10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 2/7 work session, 2/7 (pages 1-6)
- A. 10:05 **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; please use the sign-up sheet provided.
- B. 10:20 **Presentations to the Board**
- i. Veterans Park update – Derek Goddard, Eric Hamilton
 - ii. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Officer
 - iii. Facilities update – David Spicer, Public Works Director
- C. 11:00 **General Business**
- a. LSVFD contingency – Morgan Reed
 - b. Rescue Squad contract – County Manager, Michael Carter (pages 7-8)
 - c. Fairgrounds concessions bid – Cole Edwards, Rec Director (pages 9-10)
 - d. AIM – Full Trip Driver request – Tiffany Boyer, AIM (page 11)
 - e. Transportation Fund budget amendment #2 – Tiffany Boyer (page 12)
 - f. Town of Sparta budget amendment #4 – April Hamm (page 13)

- g. Law Enforcement line-item transfers – April Hamm (page 14)

**Request for Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-(3)
To consult with an attorney**

- h. Jail meals contract – County Attorney, Heather Klein
- i. 911 Center Renovation bids – Daniel Roten, EM Coordinator (pages 15-24)
- j. Commissioners Food Drive – Commissioner Bill Osborne
- k. Courthouse Committee update – Commissioner Bobby Irwin (page 25)
- l. Courthouse Committee recommendation of RND Architects for Courthouse Facility Study and 90 S Main design and contract administration – County Manager, Michael Carter

D. 12:00 Consent Agenda (Board action requested) (pages 26-35)

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
 - a. License Plate Agency month end report
 - b. January auto refunds
 - c. January real and personal property refunds
 - d. Real and personal property releases
 - e. Collections monthly totals report
 - f. Delinquent taxpayer contracts

E. 12:45 County Manager Comments

F. 1:00 County Commissioner Comments

G. 1:15 Adjourn

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Public comments

No comment

Presentations to the Board

Veterans Park update

Derek Goddard with Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants said his firm along with the Soil and Water District have been able to secure \$375,000 for the creek restoration project at Veterans Park. He said they are working in conjunction with the Town of Sparta to avoid their sewer line project already in process. He said he hopes this project will begin this summer and be completed this calendar year. He said even with inflation, this is adequate funding.

Finance update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave the financial update. She then gave a sales tax update.

Facilities update

David Spicer, Public Works Director said the Courthouse water damage is being repaired. He said most of the plaster is completed and the sheetrock work has begun. He said there is a plan to purchase enough flooring to repair the expansion joint in the Administration building and floor Dispatch. He said his group has been working in the future Dispatch center to prepare for the renovation. He said windblown garbage has been an issue at the Transfer Station but the staff is working hard to keep the facility

presentable. He said they have hauled 8.65 tons of comingled recycling and cardboard as well as 15.89 tons of scrap totaling \$3,360.49 in revenue for the County. He said the COA has had more damage from settling and there is minor sheetrock work to be done. He said Animal Control has slowed down a bit. He said since the weather has gotten cold, he has not heard from the group doing the Charters of Freedom project at Veterans Park.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he wanted the Town of Sparta to be informed of the work at 90 S Main when the demolition and construction begin near the Town's sidewalks and bump-outs.

General Business

LSVFD contingency

Morgan Reed explained LSVFD's request for contingency funds. Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to authorize the expenditure in the total balance of the contingency fund. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rescue Squad contract

County Manager, Michael Carter explained there are proposed changes that were shared with the Board last week included in today's Board packet but as of this morning, there were more changes from the Rescue Squad.

Chief, Jason Long explained the changes that came from an emergency meeting from the Rescue Squad last night.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to table the Rescue Squad contract until the next meeting with the incorporation of the new changes into the agreement. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Fairgrounds Concessions bid

Cole Edwards, Recreation Director explained the bid received for the Fairgrounds concessions. He said this bid is in line with the revenues received in previous years.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the Fairgrounds Concessions bid. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

AIM full-time driver position request

Tiffany Boyer, AIM Director explained her request for a new full-time driver.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the request for a new full-time driver. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

TF budget amendment #2

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve TF budget amendment #2. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

TOS budget amendment #1

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve TOS budget amendment #1. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve LE line item transfers. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

911 renovation bid

Daniel Roten explained the committee recommendation to award the 911 renovation bid to Blue Star Home Repair, the lowest bidder.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the bid from Ring as amended and to include the stipulations of the County Manager. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioners Food Drive

The Board decided to have their Food Drive on April 8th from 3p-7p.

Request for Closed Session

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to go into closed session to include Chief Deputy, Nick Hawks. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Jail meals

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to allow the County Attorney to present a contract to the jail meals successful bidder with a 2-day response. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Courthouse Committee update

Commissioner Bobby Irwin read the Courthouse Committee minutes from 2/8.

County Manager, Michael Carter reported costs of \$81,700 for the administration of 90 S Main and \$31,800 for the facility study on the Courthouse.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin explained what the C-COOP is and read that the state law requires the County to provide an adequate facility for the operation of the courts. He read that the alternatives for court are the Alleghany Community Building and the Black building. He said they need to decide what improvements need to be done at the Black building.

Courthouse committee recommendation of RND Architects

County Manager, Michael Carter reviewed how RND was selected and interviewed for facility study and design/contract administration for the current county projects. He said it is appropriate for the recommendation by the Courthouse Committee to be brought on for the courthouse facility study and contract administration on 90 S Main.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to allow RND Architects to perform the Courthouse facility study and 90 S Main design and contract administration. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator said her collection rate was 97.31 this time last year and this past year.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter thanked the group assisting in jail meal delivery. He said there is a meeting with DEQ tomorrow at 10:30 at the Fairgrounds. He said there will be updates on the findings and what generated their interest. He said budget committee meetings will begin next week. It was decided that Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 am starting next week will be the budget committee meetings. He said he received an e-mail from the Town Manager about partnering with Atlas Community Studios asking the County to provide a letter of support by this Wednesday.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner John Irwin said the Town needs to save \$26,000 and request the files from Authentically Alleghany from the County Manager.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she has sat in on Atlas Communications meetings and she said child care and housing are two of their interests and she supports their work. She said she would be in agreement for a letter of support. Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Bobby Irwin and Commissioner Mark Evans said they agree with the letter of support.

There was discussion about how to proceed with the letter of support without taking action since it is not on today's agenda.

County Manager, Michael Carter said he has signed the SCIF award for the \$2M for Alleghany County. He said the State has approved everything submitted. He said the \$200,000 award is still out there but he expects it anytime.

Commissioner John Irwin said Music on Main is going to be in competition with the Alleghany Jubilee on Saturday nights. He said drive-ins will be running up and down the street at the same time and it's all going to be supported by the TDA. He said he went on several websites to see if we are advertising events going on right now. He said Friends of the NRA is not advertised anywhere except on the NRA website. He said there were a lot of empty seats at the Ag Banquet. He said there is a request to work on the kitchen at the Fairgrounds but we need to get events at the Fairgrounds before we can sell them hotdogs and hamburgers. He said filing will open up again on the 24th.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman thanked the Board for the birthday wishes. She thanked the folks going to get the meals. She said it seems like COVID cases are going down and she is hopeful we will get back to life.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said there will be a letter sent to our representatives asking for additional help on the speed limits. He said the coyote hunt was this weekend and the biggest was 43 pounds. He said he looks forward to another one that will help the farmers. He said the NRA is having a dinner 2/26 at 6pm at the Winterhaven.

Commissioner Mark Evans said he's a little concerned about what's causing the downward trend in sales tax. He said the Lions Club pavilion was discovered to be in the name of the Alleghany Recreation Commission and there was question about liability and history of that property. He said it was decided to put on paper a lease agreement for the Lions Club and he encouraged the members of the Lions Club to understand that the Board did this to help and so they could have a "home" for as long as they need it. He said we all want to be on the same page. He encouraged people to look at the redrawn maps which means our House seat would change.

Chair Bill Osborne thanked the folks contributing to the jail meal situation. He said if anyone has an event coming up, call the TDA and the Chamber so they can advertise.

Adjourn

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman