The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 7th, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klein and Clerk to the Board Drew Todd.

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

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

AGENDA
Monday, February 7, 2022
6:00 pm

6:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 1/6 work session, 1/6, 1/18 (pages 1-10)

6:05 **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.

A. 6:20 **Presentations to the Board:**
- i. Agricultural Fair update – Johnny Wishon, Travis Dalton
- ii. Glade Creek VFD fundraiser – David Higgins
- iii. Application to TDA for funding – Sheriff Bryan Maines

B. 6:40 **General Business:**
- i. Fairgrounds Steering Committee update – Cole Edwards (page 11)
- ii. Disc Golf course ribbon-cutting – Cole Edwards (page 12)
- iii. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 13-66)
  - a. Report of Unpaid Taxes that are Liens on Real Property
  - b. Set advertising date for 2021 unpaid taxes (4/13/22)
  - c. Set hearing dates for 2021 Board of Equalization and Review hearings
- iv. Courthouse Committee update – Commissioner Bobby Irwin (page 67)
- v. Jail meals RFP responses
- vi. FY ending 6/30/22 Audit contract – April Hamm (pages 68-83)

vii. General Fund budget amendment #7 – April Hamm (page 84)
viii. Transfer Facility line-item transfer – April Hamm (page 85)

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

ix. Lion's Club lease (pages 86-92)

D. 7:20 **County Manager Comments**
i. Certificate of Entry in the National Register of Historic Places (pages 93-95)
ii. January Building Inspections report (page 96)

E. 7:20 **County Commissioner Comments**

F. **Adjourn**

Public comments
No comment

Presentations to the Board
Ag Fair update
Johnny Wishon gave an update on the 2021 Pumpkin Festival and Agricultural Fair update.

GCVFD fundraiser
David Higgins said by not being able to utilize the tractor at the Fairgrounds and being charged for water by the Town of Sparta, the GCVFD will not be doing a mud sling or lawnmower race. He said they want to do two Gospel on Main Street events with no beer garden or drinking in the streets. He asked for the Commissioners to consider helping with $1,000 for each event.

Commissioner John Irwin suggested David Higgins ask the TDA for money.

Application to TDA for funding – Sheriff's office
Nick Hawks, Chief Deputy read some bullet points about the Sheriff application to the TDA to bring life back to the old jail cell that was at the Courthouse then at the Transfer Station. He said the Sheriff's thoughts are to have a fundraiser "Jail-a-thon" this summer.

General Business
Fairgrounds steering committee update
Cole Edwards, Recreation Director explained the Fairgrounds Advertising the steering committee developed. He said the revenues would be split 50/50 between the Fairgrounds Committee and the County with the County money earmarked for Fairgrounds maintenance/renovations.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the Advertising fee schedule as presented. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Disc Golf Course Ribbon-cutting
Cole Edwards explained the Disc Golf ribbon-cutting scheduled for this weekend. He said the money raised will go back into the disc golf course. He thanked NAPCO for their donation of scorecards for the tournament this weekend.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator presented the Unpaid 2021 County Tax as of 2/1/22 and the County collection rate for 2021.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the proposed advertising date. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller recommended two different nights for the Board of E&R.

The Board proposed April 11th and 25th for the Board of E&R hearings.

Courthouse Committee update

Commissioner Bobby Irwin read the minutes from the 1/31 Courthouse Committee meeting and explained the extra work that goes into repairing a building that is designated historic.

County Manager, Michael Carter said we paid for a specific roof and that's the roof we expect to be on the Courthouse.

Jail meals RFP responses

County Manager, Michael Carter reviewed the jail meals response received Friday. He said this is still well within the approved thoughts of the Board and there is money in the current and proposed budget to account for this moving forward. He recommended the award go to GB Wagoner Group LLC.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to award the bid to GB Wagoner Group LLC. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Audit Contract

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the audit contract. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

GF budget amendment #7

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve GF budget amendment #7. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Line item transfer

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the transfer facility line item transfer. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Request for Closed Session

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Chair Bill Osborne said there was no action taken during closed session.

Lions Club lease

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the Lions Club lease until the March work session. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter encouraged the Board to look over the letter from the State Historic Preservation Office and January building inspection report.

Commissioner John Irwin asked County Manager, Michael Carter to send the Historic letter to the Town Manager as he was not cc'd on it.

County Manager, Michael Carter said there had been recent meetings with the Rescue Squad, Laurel Springs VFD and EMS trying to bring everyone together on the same page. He said Alleghany County Rescue has identified some suggestions for change in their current agreement with the County. He said during the break between work session and meeting, he got a response from his contact with the OSBM that the 2 awards from

the State of NC are not in the same funding cycle as the ARPA funds and are not subject to those requirements.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked Johnny Wishon for his report and looks forward to that developing. He said some proceeds are coming to realize for the County.

Commissioner John Irwin thanked John Wishon for his report. He said hopefully COVID is behind us and it can be larger. He said there has been no discussion about the ¼ cent sales tax. He said it would be nice if this summer, we have a get-together for our first responders and their families to show our appreciation. He thanked the County Manager for his efforts.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said during the work session, the Board discussed the speed limit on 93 and 221 and recommended they send a letter to their legislators. He said the Ag Banquet is February 15th at Winterwood and he said tickets are free if you need them, Soil and Water has them. He said Friends of the NRA are having a dinner on February 26th at Winterwood. He said it was 54 years ago today that he was involved in the Ted Offensive in Vietnam and he recollected those weeks and the places he was stationed. He thanked the veterans in the Ted Offensive.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman shared statistics from the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting about real estate standings in the County. She said there are only 2 homes for sale in the County under $125,000 and only 29 on the market. She said our surrounding counties are experiencing the same. She thanked Cole Edwards and Noah Triplett for their hard work on the disc golf course.

Chair Bill Osborne said disc golf has been a few years in the making and thanked Cole Edwards for all of his hard work with tennis, basketball and all the programs. He said he's glad the Board has always supported the Ag Banquet. He said if you want tickets, Soil and Water and Extension Service has tickets.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd	Bill Osborne
Clerk to the Board	Chairman