



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 18th, 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 Mechelle Luffman made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Mark Evans 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 March 21, 2022  
10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Invocation  
Approval of agenda  
Motion on minutes from 3/7 work session, 3/7 (pages 1-5)
- 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. NC Tech Paths – Dr. Jeff Cox, Wilkes Community College
  - ii. Facilities update – David Spicer, Public Works Director
  - iii. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Officer
- C. 11:00 **General Business**
- a. Transfer Facility line-item transfers – April Hamm (page 6)
  - b. Cell phone tower ordinance discussion – Travis Dalton, County Planner
  - c. Fairgrounds Concessions lease – Cole Edwards, Recreation Director (page 7-14)
  - d. 911 Tower contract – Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Coordinator (pages 15-19)
  - e. SB473; impact on voting on County budget, legal advice concerning the applicability to members appointed by the Commissioners – County Attorney, Heather Klein (pages 20-23)

- f. Bylaws for subcommittees formed by the Commissioners – Commissioner, John Irwin
- g. Lions Club lease – County Manager, Michael Carter (pages 24-30)
- h. AIA agreement B102-2017 – Michael Carter (pages 31-40)
- i. AIA agreement B203-2017 – Michael Carter (pages 41-44)

**D. 12:00 Consent Agenda (Board action requested) (pages 45-53)**

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
  - a. License Plate Agency month end report
  - b. February auto refunds
  - c. February 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 Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

**Public comments**

Jason Long said on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Rescue Squad will have a Community Safety Day from 10-3 and a mock search on the parkway on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Larry Prince thanked the Commissioners for the food drive.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin introduced his granddaughter, Bella Tufo who is here observing for her Civics class.

**Presentations to the Board**

**Financial update**

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave the financial update. She said there will be an RFP for bank services soon.

**Facilities update**

David Spicer, Public Works Director said the sheetrock work is almost complete at the Courthouse. He said the Dispatch renovations are underway. He said the RFP for the temporary tipping floor at the Transfer Facility are due on April 29<sup>th</sup>. He said the RFP for the tipping floor will be finished soon and RFP for scrap tire hauling will be going out soon. He said the studies on 90 S Main are beginning. He said concession stands repairs are in progress at the Fairgrounds and will be done before the first event as well as additional gravel on the driveway. He said later this week or next week, the dry hydrant at the Fire Training Facility should be installed by the town. He gave an update on Animal Control.

**General Business**

**Generator bids**

Daniel Roten recommended awarding the Generator Bid to Warden Enterprise contingent upon documentation of the required bid bond.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the bid contingent upon the requested documents. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### Jail cell on the Courthouse lawn

Commissioner John Irwin said there is a jail cell that used to be on the Courthouse lawn that the Sheriff has refurbished that used to be used for fundraisers. He said the Sheriff has agreed to transfer the jail cell to the County contingent upon its placement on the Courthouse lawn and an ordinance or something saying it is a historic artifact so it cannot be moved in the future. He said the Sheriff has requested funds from the TDA to do a concrete pad a possibly a cover. He suggested the Courthouse Committee get together and discuss this.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the jail cell contingent upon the TDA funding for the pad and selection of location. (withdrawn)

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the Courthouse is a historic landmark and he wants someone to be sure the cell can legally be put there by the State or Federal Historical Registry.

#### Recreation Committee

Commissioner Bobby Irwin went over the minutes from the Recreation Committee meeting from last week.

#### NC National Guard Security Assessment

Chris Miller, IT Administrator went over the NC National Guard Security Assessment and reported the deficiencies he has remediated.

#### Set Budget Public Hearing

County Manager, Michael Carter asked the Board to consider setting the public hearing for the budget at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at 6:30. He said later this week we will provide each department and agency with a copy of their proposed appropriation, have the public hearing, take comments, reconvene the Budget Committee then consider the budget at the mid-month May meeting.

County Attorney, Heather Klein said there are three options to avoid SB 473; recusal from non-profits members sit on, contract with all non-profits members sit on, or approve the budget line-by-line. She said members could not vote on the overall budget.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to set the public hearing for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### Public Works line-item transfer

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Public Works line-item transfer. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### ARPA grant project ordinance

April Hamm explained some information she learned in the ARPA class she attended last Monday.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the ARPA grant project ordinance. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### Grant funding contract with AppHealth

Cole Edwards, Recreation Director explained the proposed grant funding contract with AppHealth.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the AppHealth grant funding contract. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

#### **Consent agenda**

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator gave the LPA report for March.

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

### **Request for Closed Session**

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to enter in to closed session to include David Woodie. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

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

### **County Manager comments**

County Manager, Michael Carter reviewed the meeting notes from our call with RND Architects. He said the survey team was going to be here today but that may be postponed due to weather. He asked that Commissioner Bobby Irwin and Commissioner John Irwin look at their schedules for a Courthouse Committee meeting. He thanked Bobby's granddaughter, Bella for being here. He said our employees are professional during meetings and said he is really proud of this group.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if a flagpole had been considered for 90 S Main.

### **County Commissioner comments**

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said the Recreation Director is very interested in getting lots of recreation going for the young and the old. She thanked everyone for the food drive. She thanked everyone for picking up trash.

Commissioner John Irwin said Michael and his staff have done an amazing job on the budget. He said the Winston Salem Police Department is twice to three times Alleghany County's budget. He said it's an election year and repeated the rumor that if the candidates he recruited for County Commissioner are elected that County Manager, Michael Carter is out the door. He said he wanted to tell County Manager, Michael Carter in his face in front of the public that that is a lie, a damn lie because he asked the people he recruited and they think County Manager, Michael Carter walks on water. He said we had fire hydrants in the ground at the Fairgrounds that were never hooked to the water line. He said when the hydrant is hooked up after three years at the Fire Training Facility, volunteer fire department won't have to drive into town to get water when they are doing training exercises. He said we are on track to exceed 2 million illegal immigrants this year. He said 20% of the population of the US will be here illegally by the end of the current administration. He said last week, they picked up 5 people on the terrorist watch list. He said it's easier for Ukrainians to cross into the US illegally than legally. He said they picked up people from 130 countries crossing the southern border. He said there are 64 million people who don't know our language, culture or governmental process sucking at the teat of the government because they can't make a living. He said there are no American construction workers in Phoenix, AZ and illegals are protected by the state government in California. He said 12 Hispanics walked by him speaking Spanish in the parking lot during the middle of the day with nothing to do. He said it takes a law to become a citizen of Japan.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said every agency in this county came together and formulated, for the last two years, a great budget and thanked the employees because without them, it couldn't be done. He said the Finance Committee is just under 100 hours spent working on the budget. He said the State Treasurer continues to brag on Alleghany County for progress.

Chair Bill Osborne said the budget has been a grueling process and he's very happy about the budget. He said he hopes we all commit to continuing to work on the fund balance. He said it is a huge commitment by the committee. He said in 2020 employees came to the room wanting to help. He said there is no property tax increase in the budget this year or fire tax increase. He said the food drive and trash pick up were both big successes recently and we should all strive to keep litter picked up.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd  
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne  
Chairman