



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 4th, 2022 at 4:00 pm 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 Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klein, Clerk to the Board, Drew Todd.

AGENDA
Monday April 4th, 2022
4:00 pm

4:00 Meeting called to order

A. 4:05 General Business:

- i. ARPA funds considerations – County Manager, Michael Carter
- ii. Use of Occupancy Tax proceeds for functions in direct competition of long established businesses i.e. Pizzeria, Alleghany jubilee – Commissioner John Irwin
- iii. Jen Greene, AppHealth – better understanding their challenges with delays in well and septic permitting – Commissioner Mark Evans

B. Adjourn

ARPA funds considerations

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the requests he is going over today are remaining “first round” funding considerations. He said to please keep in mind that another round of funding will be coming.

April Hamm, Finance Officer reviewed the County department requests that could qualify for ARPA funds. She confirmed that the reimbursement DSS receives can go back to the General Fund.

There was consensus among the Board in favor of the proposed “Possible ARPA Funding – From Budget Requests FY23” information.

April Hamm explained there is an opportunity for small municipalities to adopt a standard allowance because we received below \$10M in ARPA funding.

There was consensus to amend the regular meeting agenda to accommodate the inclusion of the standard allowance language.

Use of Occupancy Tax proceeds for functions in direct competition of long established businesses i.e. Pizzeria, Alleghany Jubilee

Commissioner John Irwin suggested the Board of Commissioners either require the TDA to bring their bylaws to the Board for approval or create a policy and procedure dictating how TDA funds are spent. He specifically spoke about the Arts Council’s request to the budget committee to help fund Music on Main which will now close Main Street on Saturday nights. He said no one has advised the Jubilee that TDA funds can support for-profit businesses. He said the Chamber should have told Jack Joines the Jubilee was eligible TDA funds and ARPA funds.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman asked if the Arts Council had spoken to the Jubilee to work this scheduling conflict out as friends and neighbors?

Jack Joines said they haven't been approached about closing the streets on Saturday night at all. He said he would like to continue their thing on Saturday night because that's their biggest night of the week. He said last year, the Jubilee hosted every band that played at Music on Main.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the TDA board makes their own decisions about funding.

Commissioner Mark Evans said if the Board of Commissioners is going to tell the TDA how to run their Board, the Commissioners might as well run it.

Commissioner John Irwin suggested telling the TDA they should take into consideration how grants affect businesses before awarding money. He said we formed them and can tell them how to operate.

Jen Greene, AppHealth – better understanding their challenges with delays in well and septic permitting

Jen Greene, Director of AppHealth explained the process for hiring well and septic permitting employees. She explained the reasons for the shortage of employees in this department. She said part of their effort is working with health departments within the region and using ARPA grant dollars to fund an Environmental Health Technician in each of AppHealth's three counties. She said the private permitting firms are experiencing more of a load than they can handle right now as well.

Andy Blethen said he can provide a list of the private permitting providers. He said their days are not an assembly line because they never know what's going to walk in the door. He also said the weather is a big hinderance on their ability to complete inspections. He said a failing septic system is an imminent threat so they prioritize repairs as much as they can because it is a direct threat to public health.

There was discussion about specifics of the well and septic department at AppHealth.

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