



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 16th, 2022 at 10:00 am 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 Attorney, Heather Klein.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

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 May 16th, 2022
10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 4/22 special meeting, 5/2 work session, 5/2 (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. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Officer
 - ii. Facilities update – David Spicer, Public Works Director
 - iii. Dispatch update
- C. 10:40 **General Business**
- a. Lions Club pavilion plaque – Commissioner John Irwin (tabled from 5/2)
 - b. General Fund budget amendment #9 for insurance reimbursement – April Hamm (page 6)
 - c. Transfer Facility line-item transfer – April Hamm (page 7)
 - d. Courthouse Committee minutes 4/25 – Commissioner Bobby Irwin (pages 8-9)
- D. 11:00 **Consent Agenda (Board action requested)**
- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 10-28)

- a. Request for Release/Refund of Solid Waste Fee - Residential
- b. License Plate Agency month end report
- c. April auto refunds
- d. April real and personal property refunds
- e. Real and personal property releases
- f. Collections monthly totals report
- g. Delinquent taxpayer contracts
- h. Board of Equalization & Review minutes

E. 11:15 **County Manager Comments**

- i. Applied Resource Management Q1 NC DWM-Solid Waste Section Landfill Gas Monitoring Data Form (pages 29-31)
- ii. Daymark Annual report FY2021 (pages 32-39)
- iii. March and April Building Inspection reports (pages 40-41)

F. 11:25 **County Commissioner Comments**

Request for Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-(3) To consult with an attorney, (4) To discuss the location or expansion of industries or other businesses

G. 11:45 **Adjourn**

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:0.

Public comments

Jo Ellen Carson explained the Blue Ridge Road.

David S. Hedrick shared his experience trying to ask the Commissioners about the Lions Club Pavilion.

Presentations to the Board

Financial update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave the financial update.

Facilities update

David Spicer, Public Works Director said RND has been at the Courthouse and did their study last week. He said progress is being made at Dispatch. He said there were no responses to the temporary tipping floor RFP and will be put back out for rebid. He said the RFP for used tire recycling will go out at the first of July. He gave an update on recycling. He said the Fairgrounds concession stand is read. He gave an Animal Control update.

General Business

Lions Club Pavilion Plaque

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the bronze plaque discussed previously.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she thinks the plaque should be done through donations.

Commissioner Mark Evans said he would like to look for donations for the plaque.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin agreed to look for donations but he wanted a firm amount for the plaque. He explained the process by which the Board, County Attorney and members of the Lions Club deliberated a lease the Lions Club asked for.

Commissioner John Irwin brought up problems with raising money about who will hold the money and will it go into an interest-bearing account.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would like to have input from the Lions club so there is no miscommunication.

There was consensus among the Board to proceed with the plaque.

Dispatch update

Daniel Roten gave an update on the 911 Center construction and generator project. He clarified the plan is to use the 40KW generator since the lead time on the permanent generator is extended.

General Fund budget amendment #9

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve GF budget amendment #9. There was a second. Vote 4:0.

Line-item transfer Enterprise Fund

County Manager, Michael Carter explained that waiving of earthquake damage tipping fees has left the Enterprise Fund in a deficit.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve line-item transfer. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:0.

Courthouse Committee minutes

Commissioner Bobby Irwin read the Courthouse Committee minutes.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter said the monitoring wells are doing what they're supposed to. He encouraged the Board to review the Daymark report as well as the March and April building inspection reports.

County Attorney, Heather Klein clarified that each Commissioner is able to vote on the entire budget without resigning from nonprofit boards.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner John Irwin said it is EMS week. He said primary voting is underway. He said you get the government you vote for. He said we are down \$40,000 in sales tax revenue because during COVID, everyone ordered from Prime. He said as a County Commissioner, when the word "lawyer" is used, you shut up and it was used by the Lions Club so they shut up. He said our attorney is in conference with the officials of the Lions Club.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said the Board never seriously considered evicting the Lions Club from the Lions Club pavilion and public comments today were a result of social media. She thanked the Budget Committee for their hard. She encouraged people to vote on the sales tax and in the primary. She said all Recreation programs will continue. She wished Commissioner Bill Osborne a speedy recovery. She congratulated the Alleghany High School class of 2022.

Commissioner Mark Evans said he has never participated in a secret meeting that was spoken about earlier. He said he has never turned down a conversation when approached at an adult level but he will not respond to false, slanderous accusations.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said Monday, May 30th there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Park at 11 am with a rain plan for the VFW. He said the Charters of Freedom are 85% done and the brick work will be done in the next few weeks. He said there was good representation at the High School graduation and that any of those graduates can attend Wilkes Community College for free. He said the Lions Club issue has been around for quite a while and there have been a lot of misconceptions. He said the Lions Club has been nothing but a plus for Alleghany County but he wished more Lions Club members would attend the Commissioners meetings so they can hear first hand what the Commissioners say and what their intentions are. He said he had never heard the word they would be thrown out/evicted. He said their thoughts have always been for the Lions Club to stay where they are as long as they are a functioning unit and it was brought about by cleaning up some legal, liability and insurance issues.

Adjourn

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman