



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 16th, 2018, at 10:00 am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Tom Smith, Commissioner John Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, County Manager, Mike James, County Attorney Donna Shumate.

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Chair Evans led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

10:00 Meeting Called to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for July 16th, 2018 Meeting
Motion on Minutes from 5/21, 5/25 Budget, 6/4 Budget, 6/4,
6/5 Budget, 6/12 Budget, 6/13 Budget, 6/18, 6/19 Budget.

***Amendment to Agenda:** Vote on appointing County Manager, Mike James as interim Clerk

- A. 10:05 **Resolution of Recognition, Kemp Irwin**
- B. 10:10 **Spotlight Business, Solid Rock Food Closet – Larry Myers**
- C. 10:20 **Public Agenda Comments**
- D. 10:50 **Presentations**
 - 10:45 Karen Evans, Finance Officer (Page 2) *
Re: Toshiba Contract
 - 11:10 Kenneth Vaught, Veteran’s Service Officer (Page 3-5)
Re: Annual Report
- E. 11:15 **General Business**
 - 1. Swimming Pool Update
 - 2. Review Garbage Ordinance Feedback
 - 3. Outdoor Recreation Fund Projects (Page 6)
 - 4. Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act (Page 7-16)
 - 5. NWR Library Board Appointment – Brant Banks – 6-year term* (Page 17)
- F. 11:30 **Consent Agenda ***
 - 1. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (Page 18-124)
 - a. Auto Refunds
 - b. Real & Personal Property Refunds
 - c. Real & Personal Property Releases
 - d. Request for Release of Solid Waste Fee
 - e. Insolvents
 - 2. Fuel Oil Bids (Page 125-130)
 - 3. General Fund Budget Amendment # 1 in the amount of \$40,695 (Page 131)
 - 4. General Fund Budget Amendment # 2 in the amount of \$10,000 (Page 132)
 - 5. Capital Loan Financing Resolution (Page 133-139)
 - 6. Partnership for Children Lease Agreement (Page 140-147)
 - 7. Resolution of Recognition - Kemp Irwin (Page 1)
- G. **Public Comments – 30 minutes**
- H. **County Manager Comments**
 - 1. ¼ Cent Sales Tax
- I. **Commissioners Comments**
- J. **Adjourn**

Motion to Modify Agenda

Chair Mark Evans explained and entertained a motion to approve and modify the agenda. Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Chair Mark Evans entertained a motion or questions concerning several sets of minutes from budget and previous meetings. Commissioner Tom Smith motioned to approve all minutes as written. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Chair Mark Evans stated County Manager, Mike James would act as interim Clerk to the Board of Commissioners until the position is filled permanently. Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to appoint County Manager, Mike James as interim Clerk. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Spotlight Business, Solid Rock Food Closet

Larry Myers, in 1984 the Solid Rock Food Closet began in a closet of the Baptist Church. In 2004, the Food Closet moved to Macedonia Church Rd. In 2007, the Closet moved to Womble Street. In 2012, added on a large portion to the existing building. There are 4 part-time employees and volunteers (5-6 per day). 16 churches in the county support the Food Closet. The food the Food Closet supplies will sustain each member of the household, three meals per day for six days. The backpack program is provided to school-age children. In May 2018, supplied 688 backpacks in the county. Summer feeding program began in June (approximately 300 backpacks per week). 9th annual Empty Bowls was held in April sold approximately 300 tickets and raised \$21,000 for the backpack program. Looking into working with the Sparta and Independence farmers markets to have the freshest produce as much as possible. Three volunteers are showing patrons how to put ingredients together and make meals on-site.

Public Agenda Comments

No public comments.

Presentations

Karen Evans, Finance

Toshiba Agreement; We have been in agreement with them for about seven years. Toshiba did get the state contract. Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the Toshiba contract. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Office of Management and Budget have changed the dollar thresholds in the Uniform Guidance Policy on micropurchases. Motion to approve policy changes made by Commissioner John Irwin. Seconded by Commissioner Tom Smith. Vote 5:0.

Kenneth Vaught, Veterans Services Update

Kenneth outlined benefits received by residents in Alleghany County. Resident Veterans are receiving over \$9M in benefits. Veterans Committee has sold 540 bricks for the Veteran's Park walk. Will continue with brick sales but will not be in the phase 1 construction taking place in a few months. Estimate close to 600 bricks sold after Friday and Saturday sales are tallied. The Committee will meet to review bricks and select the contractor. Kenneth thanked the committee who sold bricks and people of the community who bought bricks. Phase one is to build the 10x10 patio and a 123' sidewalk with these bricks leading up to the entrance walk that goes into the park. Phase two is to build an identical patio on the left side and there is discussion about whether to build a sidewalk. The committee has discussed building the second patio with funds available. Phase one will complete everything on the right-hand side.

County Manager, Mike James, Commissioner John Irwin and Commissioner Bobby Irwin all commended Kenneth Vaught on the job he is doing in Alleghany County for the veterans and their families.

General Business

Swimming pool update; County Manager, Mike James said we need to do some updates to the 50+ year old swimming pool. Toward the end of the season, we will get some hard costs about how much we need to spend. County Manager, Mike James and Recreation Director Jim Brown will put some reports together and during the off-season

recommend to the board to either repair or close the pool. At a minimum, we will need some plumbing and would like to switch to salt-filtration.

Per County Manager, Mike James, no feedback regarding the Garbage Ordinance. Will have a public hearing at the evening meeting in August.

Outdoor Recreation Fund Projects; County Manager, Mike James said we agreed through the Budget Ordinance that \$5,000 for the Recreation Master Project was going to be paid from these funds then appropriated \$20,000-25,000 for tar and chip paving of Veteran's Park.

Recreation Director Jim Brown said the timeline for the master plan is to start the public meetings mid-August. HCCOG is going to do all the heavy writing of the master plan. Jim hopes to apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant.

A brief discussion between County Commissioners, Recreation Director Jim Brown and County Manager, Mike James was held regarding the condition of the tennis courts, county pool and baseball field. Chair Mark Evans asked Recreation Director Jim Brown to prioritize the list of potential Outdoor Recreation Fund projects.

Resolution of Recognition, Kemp Irwin

County Manager, Mike James recognized Kemp Irwin for his many types of labor and services for the community for 50 years.

Chair Mark Evans called for a 5-minute recess.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes Lawsuit

County Manager, Mike James presented a class action law suit notice where counties in the country are suing the US Government. Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion to join the lawsuit. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

NWR Library Board Appointment

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to reappoint Mr. Brant Banks to the NWRL Board. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 4:1 (Commissioner Tom Smith Commissioner Bobby Irwin Chair Mark Evans Commissioner Larry Prince aye, Commissioner John Irwin no)

Consent Agenda

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator explained and made recommendation on late application fees and releases. Commissioner John Irwin recommended approval on both areas for the JoAnn Johnson bill. Chair Mark Evans moved to mark this item approved. The board approved the late application for the Hazel Cleary bill and asked that a refund request be included in the next meeting since bill had already been paid. The board approved release of solid waste fees. Rita Miller asked for relief and release of 2007-2010 insolvents.

County Manager, Mike James explained the Sheriff's Department would like to purchase small laptops for 10 vehicles with geocoded software as well as an AVL feature. There would be no general fund dollars going to this project.

Chair Mark Evans made a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Public Comments

David Jones expressed his concern with the tennis courts being in disrepair.

Chair Mark Evans closed the public comments.

County Manager Comments

County Manager, Mike James outlined the possible ¼ cent sales tax resolution.

County Manager, Mike James said our License Plate Agency has turned in their 30-day notice to the state that they are no longer going to continue with the contract. County Manager, Mike James wants the citizens to know there will be some period of time where we have no office in the county. Rita Miller Tax Administrator is researching the county taking over the License Plate Agency. Any feedback from the public is welcome.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner John Irwin said he was receiving calls concerning dogs running loose. He would like to sit down and look at leash laws. Alleghany County Sheriff's Department is receiving, on average, a call per day.

Commissioner Larry Prince would like to look at the current leash law ordinance.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said Kenneth Vaught, VSO is also listing job offers geared towards veterans in NC/VA.

Commissioner Tom Smith thinks the License Plate Agency staying in the county would be a real asset. He also thinks the ¼ cent sales tax should be pursued and does have a chance to pass.

Chair Mark Evans agrees on the ¼ cent sales tax. The tax would help share the cost among those who visit Alleghany County but don't own property here. Chair Mark Evans would like to bring it up at the first August meeting. Chair Mark Evans said the Christmas lights draw down was a great success.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair