

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 5, 2016, at 6:30 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner John Irwin, and Commissioner Prince, County Attorney Donna Shumate, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

County Manager Mike James opened the meeting with the pledge allegiance

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bobby Irwin Seconded. Vote 5:0

AGENDA
Monday, December 5, 2016
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for December 5, 2016 Meeting
Motion on Minutes for November 21, 2016 Meeting
- 6:35 Spotlight Business, Alleghany Office Supplies
- 6:45 A. Elect Chair & Vice-Chair
B. Register of Deeds' Bond
C. Appoint Clerk to the Board
D. Appoint County Attorney
E. Board Appointments – Action Requested – Appoint Commissioners to Boards.
F. Rules of Procedures – Action Requested – Vote on procedures.
- 7:30 G. Wendy Williams, E-911 Coordinator/Mapper
1. Present information regarding a proposed new road names; Ski Mountain Trail
2. Public Hearing – Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed road names. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
3. Action Requested – Vote on the proposed road names.
- H. Community Block Grant Forgiveness
- 7:45 I. Public Comments—30 minutes
J. County Manager Comments
K. Commissioners Comments
L. Adjourn

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 21, 2016. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James introduced the spotlight business for the meeting Alleghany Office Supply.

Cody Hamm, owner of Alleghany Office Supply, spoke about how his business came to be. He then told of a new program they were beginning for businesses to help meet their needs and being able to beat other ecommerce business process. He said the business had grown so much that they were able to move to a new location out on their own and hire two new employees in the last couple of months. He went on to say how much he appreciated all the support from the community and this community is what caused him to want to give back and help the people and businesses in this community.

County Manager Mike James asked the Board for a nomination for Board chair.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to nominate Commissioner Evans at the chair to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans asked for nominations of vice chair.

Commissioner Prince nominated Commissioner Bobby Irwin. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans explained the bond that needed to be approved for the recently elected Register of Deeds in the amount of \$25,000.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the bond for the newly elected Register of Deeds. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans stated the next item would be to appoint a Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin to appoint Lauren Linker as the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Prince made a motion to appoint Donna Shumate as the County Attorney. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans went down the list of Boards and Committees as the Commissioners choose who wants to serve on each one.

Alleghany County Agricultural Advisory Board – Commissioner Irwin

Alleghany Group Homes – Commissioner Prince

Blue Ridge RC&D – Commissioner Evans

Council on Aging – Commissioner John Irwin

Court Security Committee – Commissioner Bobby Irwin

Extension Advisory Leadership Council – Commissioners Prince

Fairgrounds – Commissioner John Irwin

Fire Commission – Commissioner John Irwin

High Country Council of Government – Chair Evans

High Country RPO Advisory Committee – Commissioner Prince

High Country Workforce Development Consortium - Chair Evans

Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Board – Chair Evans

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) – Chair Evans

Library (local) – Commissioner Smith

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - Chair Evans & Commissioner John Irwin

Smokey Mountain Center Advisory Board Mental Health LME – Commissioner Bobby Irwin

New River Service Authority Board – Larry Cox

Northwestern Regional Housing Authority – David Choate

Northwestern Regional Library – Commissioner Smith

Partnership for Children – Chair Evans

Social Services – Commissioner Prince

Sparta Revitalization Committee – Commissioner Smith

Grayson/Alleghany Joint Water Authority – Commissioner Smith

Joint Committee with Board of Education – Commissioner Smith & Commissioner Bobby Irwin

Veterans Advisory – Commissioner Bobby Irwin & Chair Evans

Commissioners Prince made a motion to approve the list of Boards and Committees. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans asked if anyone had any changes to the rules of procedure for the Commissioners meetings.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin it needs to be changed for the 3rd Monday meeting time from 9 am to 10 am.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to have a discussion about the public comments. He felt there should be a section at the beginning of the meeting for public comments about agenda topics and keep the second public comments at the end. He went on to say he was open to any suggestions as far as time limits.

Commissioner John Irwin said he agreed he was thinking of splitting the public comments having 15 minutes at the beginning and 15 minutes at the end for general comments.

Commissioner Smith said he would feel weird about limiting the general comments section, but he agreed there needed to be a limit on the agenda comments.

Chair Evans said he like the idea of allowing the public to speak about agenda topics up front and allowing general comments at the end to give everyone an opportunity to speak.

County Manager Mike James suggested that he could put together a proposal for the public comments and put that on the agenda for next meeting.

Chair Evans said he thought that would be a good idea.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve the rules of procedures for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Wendy Williams E-911 Director went over a new road name. She stated it would be Ski Mountain Trail with two structures on the road on is his and one will be his son.

Chair Evans opened the floor for public hearing for comments regarding the proposed road name. Seeing no one he then closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve the road name change. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James went over the community development block grant forgiveness. He explained that Region D has asked the County to submit a letter asking forgiveness on the loan since the homeowner has since passed away with no local family and the house has actually been sold.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to request the forgiveness. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans opened the floor for general public comments.

Susan Miles suggested when the Board is talking about some of the committees and Boards they serve on maybe they could explain what the abbreviations of hem mean. She pointed out that most people at home would not understand what they were talking about.

County Manager Mike James stated that EMS had an ambulance inspection and had passed with flying colors. He went on to congratulate EMS employees Brandon Jones and Chris Mathis for their recent cardiac save. Next he updated the Board on the Library project. He stated the carpet had been installed last week and the furniture should be finalized this next week. He made the Board aware of a Facebook page that was now up and running for the County. He then wanted to let everyone know that there are some offices available at the Business Development Center reasonably priced and great location with the library moving in and good public exposure. He then explained that the January Commissioners meetings were both on federal Holidays he would propose that the dates be changed to January 9th and 23rd.

It was decided by the Board that Tuesday January the 3rd and 17th would work best.

County Manager Mike James informed the Board of a group out of Boone, NC called Mountain Biz Works which have the ability to help with small business loans.

Chair Evans asked if the County needs some kind of policy concerning the Facebook page.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to welcome the new Commissioners.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin also welcomed both the new Commissioners. He stated that he would like to see a budget workshop to get the new Commissioners on track and to refresh the whole Board. He then stated he would like to see that none of the County employees come to the night time meetings unless they absolutely need to. Next he thanked Judge Doughton for a great swearing in ceremony. He read an article written by Bob Bamberg that was in the new paper a few months ago concerning the Veterans Service Officers job and job description. He stated that he wanted to thank Bob for addressing this issue in the newspaper and that he was looking forward to the proposal at the next meeting.

Commissioner Prince thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as a County Commissioner.

Commissioner John Irwin stated he would like see some meetings to familiarize himself with the budget. He encouraged people to buy locally like from the gentleman that had presented earlier. He went on to say that he wanted to get into discussion concerning the fair grounds and the insurance needed to reserve it.

Chair Evans welcomed Lauren Linker as clerk to the Board for another year and asked if she had anything she would like to say.

Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board, thanked the Board for the opportunity that she had learned a lot and knew there was more to learn. She went on to say that she was excited to get to work with the new Commissioners.

Chair Evans thanked her for her work and noted that she was growing in her area of service. He then extended the floor to County Attorney Donna Shumate.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated she too appreciated the opportunity to serve the Board. She went on to say if anyone had any questions especially the new Commissioners, just let her know.

Chair Evans said he was honored to serve as the Board chair and he understood there would be some passionate strong conversations about different topics, but he felt like that was good to help collectively come up with some good ideas and solutions. He said he wanted to be able to converse and be passionate about topics while working together as a Board, be functional and respectful. He went on to say after hearing all the interest in the budget meetings he stated he would like to see a budget retreat happen in the month of January. He said with a new County Manager it would be a good idea to go over some things with the budget and start some conversations because there are some things that the previous started and committed to that the current Board will need to go over. Chair Evans brought up the overtime rule that was to be put into action, but stated there was a court case that was holding it up. He then thanked Mr. Hamm for being there to present and wished him all the luck on his future endeavors and thanked the audience for being there.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair