

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 10 am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

Chair Evans called the meeting to order. He asked Commissioner Bobby Irwin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and he then offered the Invocation.

County Manager Mike James asked to add a closed session to the end of the meeting.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the closed session. Commissioner Prince Seconded. Vote 5:0

AGENDA
Monday, December 19, 2016
10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for December 19, 2016, Meeting
Motion to Approve Minutes from the July 18, 2016
- 10:05 A. Spotlight Business, Perrycraft Inc.
- 10:15 B. Public Comments on Agenda Items
- 10:30 C. Donny McCall, Director of Relay
Re: Get Outside Mountain Relay
- 10:45 D. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. November Releases and Refunds - Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. **Actions Requested** – Vote on releases and refunds.
2. November Collections Report - Monthly 2016 collection rates compared to 2015 and 2014 monthly collection rates. No Action Requested.
3. Enforced Collections Report – Summarizes enforced collections for the month of November 2016. No Action Requested.
4. Payment Agreement Report - List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. No Action Requested.
- 11:00 E. Karen Evans, Finance Officer
1. BB&T Signature cards for the new chair. **Action Requested** – Vote to add the chair to the signature cards.
2. Library Project Ordinance Amendment. **Action Requested** – Vote to approve the amendment.
3. Capital Loan Bids discussion.
4. Pre audit discussion.
- 11:25 F. Jennifer Green, Deputy Director of Appalachian District Health Department
Re: Annual Report
- 11:45 G. General Business
1. QZAB Loan Request

2. TDA Chair Appointment. **Action requested** – Vote to appoint Steve Mason as Chair.
3. Water Authority Appointment. **Action Requested** – Vote to appoint Mike James to the Water Authority Board.
4. Public Comments Discussion
5. Nuisance Ordinance Discussion
6. Veterans Service Officer Hours Discussion
7. Budget Retreat Dates and Ideas

- H. Public Comments—30 minutes
- I. County Manager Comments
- J. Commissioners Comments
- K. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from July 18, 2016. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Donny McCall, owner of Perrycraft Inc. was the presenter for the spotlight business. He told the Board how he came to be the owner and explained some of the different brands that the business carries. He explained some of the customizable work the company do and noted that all their materials are from within the United States. He spoke about his distribution around the County and are looking to do some installation here in Sparta in the first or second quarter of this upcoming year.

Commissioner Smith asked how many employees there were.

Donny McCall said there were four including him and his wife along with one fulltime person and one part-time person. He went on to say he had been working closely with Dale Caveny at the Business Development Center and he had put him in contact with some people to help with exporting products outside the United States. He said currently had a couple customers in Denmark.

Commissioner Prince asked how the company markets and sales.

Donny McCall explained they mostly do advertising in big books put together by the distributes, he said the brochures were sent to retail companies across the Country and ha was hoping to revamp their current website to be able to get more social media marketing happening.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if the company was involved with any type of boating industry.

Donny McCall said it was currently all automotive, but he said the next step he is trying to make is into the outdoor market and he continued with doing some of the insulations too it will help expand the company more.

Chair Evans thanked Donnie McCall for coming and letting the Board know what was going on with his business and he wished Perrycraft the best of luck.

Chair Evans opened the public comments sections strictly for agenda items. Seeing none he then closed that section.

Donny McCall creator of Get Outside Mountain Relay GOMER, explained the goal and layout of the relay. He stated it would be 204 miles worth of running throughout the County and the runners would take turns running. He went on to say there would be shuttle services to and from the beginning of the sections, the end of the sections and back to the hub of the whole relay which will be held at Blue Ridge Christian Academy. He stated that he was working very hard to get involvement from outside runners. He said that GOMER was planned to open on Thursday, June 1 and end Sunday, June 4. He explained there would be a 72 hour period that the race was going on even through the night. He had posted it on many running websites and event webpages for runners so he

felt there could be a great turn out. He stated that he was hoping for about 100 teams for the first time, but was hoping this event would be something to do annually and grow to a much bigger event. He went on to say that this entire event is to focus on Alleghany County from people seeing the beautiful landscape or running by a for sale sign, just bring interest so that people want to come back to Alleghany County.

Chair Evans thanked Donny McCall for sharing with them and stated the Board would support the event in any way possible except for a running team.

Rita Miller Tax Administrator, went over the two motor vehicle tax systems and explained the auto refund for the vehicle tax system.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the auto refunds for the vehicle tax system. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained the vehicle tax releases.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the vehicle tax releases. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller went over the real property releases for the month of November.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the real property releases. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller went over the real property refunds for the month of November.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the real property refunds. Chair Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller then went over the tax collection report, enforced collection report, and payment agreements.

Karen Evans Finance Officer, stated the signature cards from BB&T needed to be updated to add the new chair so he would be able to sign the checks if need be.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans went over the Alleghany County Library Project Ordinance Amendment #2.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the project ordinance. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans went over the capital loan that was in the budget for this year. She said she sent out request for proposals from 10 banks and received 2 back from that. One was BB&T at 2.19% the other was Grayson National at 2.50%. She went on to say that it was her recommendation if the Board wanted to go forward with this capital loan that they go with BB&T at 2.19%.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve and go forward with BB&T for the capital loan. Commissioner Smith seconded.

Commissioner Prince asked if the amount was in the budget at that particular interest rate.

Karen Evans said yes it was.

Chair Evans said he understood it was in the budget, but asked about the debt service to handle the loan and how much there was.

Karen Evans stated there was \$57,755 and since it won't be done until January 30 the County will only make one payment instead of two so it would only use about \$20,000 this year and the rest would go back into the fund balance.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin clarified that Karen Evans had only heard back from two banks.

Karen Evans stated yes she had sent it out to ten and had three reply "thanks, but not at this time" and then the two that actually gave proposals.

County Manager Mike James stated this was a pretty low amount for banks to want to loan for their governmental entity division.

Chair Evans stated that there was a motion and a second on the floor and asked if there were any more discussion. Hearing none he asked for a vote. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained what a pre audit certificate was and explained to the Board what the departments would need to do to be in compliance. She explained what the County should do to allow the department heads the authority to sign off on their bills.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve and make the department heads as deputy finance officers in regards to pre audit steps. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Jennifer Green Deputy Director of Appalachian District Health, went over their annual report and all the new progressive things the health department are trying to provide for the County. She went on to say they had applied to become a federal qualified health center status that allows a patient majority board that will help with their clinical services.

Commissioner Prince asked how the health department breaks through to those people who don't see that there are better ways.

Jennifer Green said she felt like it really has to be the decision of the people, but the health department has been work hard to meet the people where they are by going out and being with the people as well as offering meaning services. She went on to say they were very proud of their collaboration with the extension office on the dinning with diabetes events. She stated that was one way they had gotten out into the peoples space.

Commissioner John Irwin asked if the Health Departments has a part in any help with drug abuse rehabilitation.

Jennifer Green said there is a program named Lazareth that helps on the preventative side of drug abuse, but no they don't do any rehabilitation.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if health inspectors were employees or contractors and what is a restaurants' recourse if they disagree with the inspector.

Jennifer Green said they are all employees and certified sanitarians. She went on to say that the health department is open to feedback from the restaurants and the rules are States rules, but if that still doesn't satisfy there are regional employees that can come in and check this out. She offered anyone having issues to reach out to herself or Beth also she encouraged people to fill out a survey on their website about environmental health.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked how many employees there are working in Alleghany County.

Jennifer Green said there is one inspector and one specialist, but they are looking to hire a second specialist.

Chair Evans said he was glad to hear the dental services coming to the County. He said that is a great thing to be able to offer.

County Manager Mike James, explained the Veterans advisory board was asking for the Veterans Service Officer's position to be extended to 40 hours starting January 3, 2017 for a trial period. He stated the budget amendment was for \$3,247 for the remainder of the year.

Chair Evans explained that the job description was changed prior to hiring him and the previous Board had added two hours making the job from 30 hours to 32 hours a week to allow for some of the changes made to the job description. He went on to say now the Board is being asked to change it to 40 hours for the rest of the year and at some of the budget discussions it will be discussed more.

County Manager Mike James stated that the Veterans Service Officer will be tracking the amount of people he helps throughout the next 6 months so there will be some data to look at during budget time.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the budget amendment #5 in the amount \$3,247 move the VSO position to 40 hours. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained what all he had learned concerning the QZAB loan for the school system. He informed the Board how the loan would work and what would need to be done by the County and by the School system. He explained what they were looking for was the approval to go ahead and complete the application and get it sent in to get started and then there would be other actions requested by the Board later on, but for now this is just to complete the application.

Chair Evans explained that the expanded sales tax can be of use with this project because this project would be both economic development and k-12.

Commissioner Prince stated the cost of the elevator scares him and asked what the capacity was.

Chad Beasley said it's not very big about the size of the one at the high school.

Commissioner Prince said he had been working on an elevator at the church and they were not looking at those kind of prices.

Chad Beasley stated he was not sure of the cost and stated those numbers come from the architect.

Commissioner Smith clarified that the Board had already approved \$25,000 for the community college and there was no guarantee this tax money will be around forever so he then asked how long the County would have to pay the \$137,000.

Chad Beasley stated it would be for 10 years.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin stated this total phase one of this project is \$1,370,000. He then asked if there had been any thought about combining phase one and phase two to see if there would be any savings.

Chad Beasley stated those number are very rough right now, but the architect thinks the whole thing could be accomplished for \$3,000,000.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would be interested in the savings if the projects we combined.

Chad Beasley said that would change the type of loan available to the school system.

Commissioner John Irwin went over the time line of things that need to happen.

Chair Evans said he wanted to reiterate what Commissioner Smith had brought up about this being a new tax and new revenue for the County from this tax, with it being legislated in this year it could be legislated out next year or in a couple or never, but once the commitment happens to go forward with this project the County will have to pay no matter what happens with the sales tax at the State.

Commissioner Smith stated that these updates are needed and not outrageous because the kids are in an environment not very conducive to learn.

Chad Beasley agreed he explained that wind and snow blow throw the windows and the bathrooms are from the 1970's. He said the engineers said the building is sound, but need to have some updates.

Chair Evans asked before a decision was made they wanted to make sure there was not a conflict of interest with Commissioner Bobby Irwin and Mrs. Susanne being on the school Board.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said she didn't feel like there was a problem at all according to the voting statutes 153A-44 which requires a member to vote unless there is a financial interest involved and there is no direct financial interest to Commissioner Bobby Irwin or his wife with a construction project at the school.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the application for the QZAB Loan. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans explained the Tourism Development Authority TDA was asking to appoint a new chair which would be Steve Mason. The previous chair was filling in where the chair's term was vacated early.

Chair Smith made a motion to appoint Steve Mason as chair to the TDA. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained what the Board was and that the previous County Manager had been a part of the Board. He ask for the Board to appoint him to the Virginia/North Carolina Water Authority.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to appoint County Manager Mike James to the VA/NC Water Authority. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained the guidelines for the two sets of public comments section within the Commissioner meeting. He stated he would like them to be printed and posted in the conference room.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to accept the guidelines for public comments as written. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained what the discussion was previously by the Board concerning a nuisance ordinance. He went on to explain what the Town of Sparta does concerning the ordinance. He suggested if the Board wanted to move forward that it mirror what the Town of Sparta is already doing.

Commissioner Prince said he really wants something like this to be put in place he said some things in the current one is unnecessary, but would like to work to get this done correctly and put into place. He went on to say for events like GOMER having people visit our County there are some things around the County they would see and could cause people not to come back.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said his original concern was with the trash and burnt building still standing and things that could be danger. He said the look definitely has an

economic impact. He went on to say he was unsure if noise should still be a part of this ordinance.

County Manager Mike James stated that noise would be even more difficult to control.

Commissioner John Irwin said if noise was a part of it the correct equipment would need to be purchased to be able to measure the noise too.

Commissioner Smith asked what part the Planning Board had in this when it was first discussed by the Commissioners.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said she thought there was not enough general consensus among the Commissioners for the Planning Board to act on anything.

Chair Evans said he was hesitant to send it to the Planning Board because they don't know that the Commissioners thoughts and concerns are. He then suggested maybe creating a committee for the ones most interested to work on this ordinance before they bring it back to the Board or present it to the Planning Board.

Commissioner Prince and Commissioner Bobby Irwin agreed to be on a committee to work with the County Manager on a Nuisance Ordinance.

Chair Evans went over the budget retreat ideas and dates he had. January 26 and 27 at an offsite location to be able to really start having good conversations about the budget and hear from some County departments and groups as well.

Commissioner Evans opened the floor for public comments. Seeing no one he closed that section.

County Manager Mike James said the conference room was already booked at 10 am on January 17, 2017 when the MLK meeting had been rescheduled to he asked the Board what they would like to do with the conflict of time.

The Board decided to move the meeting to 1 PM on January 17, 2017 to accommodate the Soil and Water speech competition.

County Manager Mike James stated he had a consultant come in to look at the audio and visual in the conference room. He said that would be on a later agenda, but he just wanted them to be aware. He then updated the Board about the PSAP project and what he had done to moving forward.

Commissioner John Irwin stated if the County does not make substantial progress then the State can deny the County E-911 funds that is to help pay for this project.

County Manager Mike James updated the Board on custodial work at the Library. He then reviewed a request from the judges for new courtroom facility and explained what the current issues were regarding the courthouse and space. He proposed to the Board allow about \$10,000 expenditure to help get the ball rolling in looking at options for the building.

Commissioner Evans talked about different options to address the courthouse issues and noted that the County is statutorily responsible for the facility.

Commissioner John Irwin said the Judge Doughton said right now they are requesting, but if need be they could require the County to do something.

Commissioner Smith asked if this could not be fixed by scheduling since superior court is only held 4 times a year and maybe a few more if there was a special case assigned to Alleghany County.

County Manager Mike James said he thought scheduling would help some.

Commissioner Prince asked if night court was an option.

County Attorney Donna Shumate stated she felt like looking at the scheduling would definitely help it has to do when the judges are available.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve County Manager Mike James the authority to look into other options for the courthouse. Commissioner John Irwin seconded.

Commissioner Smith wanted to clarify what exactly he would be studying.

Commissioners Prince said it was a planning process to see what the options are.

Chair Evans said there is still a lot to talk about, but essentially what need to happen is for the Board to address the judge's request on the issues at the courthouse and then come back and discuss. He went on to remind the Board there was a motion and a second on the floor to allow the County Manager to look into different options for the courthouse. He then stated for the County Manager to pursue without funds to begin with and if the need arises then the County Manager can come back and ask for money. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner John Irwin just wanted everyone to know that he is John U Irwin Jr for all correspondence. He went on to say the budget time for the Commissioners will be agonizing.

Commissioner Prince said the sheriff's department will be one of the places to that some money will be spent this budget season. He went on to say he was thrilled the County was going forward with the nuisance ordinance. He said he felt like it would help the County and the economy of the County.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin went over some of the things that were discussed at his recent courthouse safety committee meeting. He the updated the Board about the agriculture advisory board and that they had picked for some of the awards. He mentioned how nice the Alleghany Inn is decorated and encouraged people to go by and check it out. He also mentioned the new Library and encouraged everyone to go by and check it out. He suggested for the old Library building to be used for County departments that are cramped and mentioned possibly transportation.

Commissioner Smith wished everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

Chair Evans wanted to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to move into closed session. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Evans stated the Board was back from closed session and no decisions were made.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair