



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 19, 2018, at 10 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 and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

Chair Mark Evans called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. He then led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

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

AGENDA

Monday, February 19, 2018

10:00 A.M.

- 10:00 Meeting Called to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for February 19, 2018 Meeting
Motion on Minutes from 1/8, 1/22, 1/29, and 2/5.
- A. 10:05 Spotlight Business, Sparta Granite and Marble – Ann Foster
- B. 10:15 Public Agenda Comments
- C. 10:30 Margret Williams, Social Services
1. Day Care
- D. 10:45 Nick Hawks, Chief Deputy
1. Sheriff's Department Annual Report
- E. 11:00 Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
1. Board of Equalization and Review Dates
- F. 11:10 **Consent Agenda**
1. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (Page 1-8)
a. Auto Refunds - VTS System - Action Requested
b. Auto Refunds - Old & Gap System Action Requested
c. Real Releases - Action Requested
d. Real Refunds - Action Requested
e. Request for Release of Solid Waste Fee – Action Requested
2. JCPC Board Approval (Page 9)
3. FY 18-19 Budget Schedule (Page 10)
4. Inmate Work Resolution (Page 11-16)
5. Retired Service Weapon (Page 17)
- G. General Business
1. Courthouse Comments and Discussion (Page 18-21)
2. Property Offer (Page 22)
3. DSS Scanning Proposal
4. Courthouse Wall/ Streetscape
- H. Public Comments – 30 minutes
- I. County Manager Comments
1. Sparta School Construction Update (Page 23-32)
2. Transfer Station Update
3. Vaya Health – NC Substance Use Alliance (Page 33-52)

J. Commissioners Comments

K. Adjourn

Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8th, January 22nd, January 29th and February 5th. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Ann Foster of Sparta Granite and Marble explained how she and her husband brought their business to Sparta. She went over the uses for the different materials and what services they provide.

Chair Mark Evans opened the floor for public comments.

Chris Durgin said he would like for the town to look at what Independence did to preserve the historic heritage.

Chair Mark Evans explained there would be a discussion about the courthouse further down the agenda and then there would be a public comments sections after for citizens to respond afterward.

Forrest Hamm, whitehead community asked where the money would come from. He then stated that four million dollars could go a long way on other things in the county.

JB Boyer said the county should wait until the judges force the county to do something. He explained he felt the money needed to be spent wisely and maybe look further down the road instead of just a short-term fix. He spoke about keeping as much main street reality for businesses. He also gave ideas for what the historic courthouse could be utilized for.

Brett Jarett said he didn't want to put a Band-Aid on the issue and then have to fix it again in 10 or 15 years.

Linda Checkanow gave some feedback she had collected. "Will a new and bigger courthouse help expedite services." She went on to speak about taxation and said she felt like a sales tax may work better to help distribute the cost more fairly. Lastly, she asked why is the courthouse the top priority of spending money?

Jeff Smith wanted the Board to look far enough ahead of the issue, so it won't be an issue again any time soon.

Chair Mark Evans thanked everyone for their comments. He noted it was important for him to make the correct decision not a fast one. Seeing no one else he closed that section.

Margret Williams from social services explained what the subsidized child care assistance program was, how the services help people and helped the local economy. She then went over the criteria for approval of the of the services.

Nick Hawks, Chief Deputy gave the annual report of the Sheriff's Office. He then went over a resolution that was for the o use inmates for the

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator introduced the new real property appraiser. She then explained the need to plan dates for the board of Equalization and review. The board discussed dates and decided on April 10 and 12 at 6:30 pm.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to exclude item e from consent agenda. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Mark Evans called a recess at 11:45 a.m. He then called the board back 11:52 a.m.

Chair Mark Evans went over some of the ideas that have come from the comments and what the options are for the courthouse currently. Commissioner John Irwin read the North Carolina General Statute about what is required of the County.

Commissioner Tom Smith said he still not sold that there isn't a better solution than building on and felt the Board needed to look at all the options and would be in favor of a committee to look at all these options.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if do nothing was an actual option for the courthouse. The Board discussed the reality of not doing anything.

Commissioner Larry Prince suggested there were two pieces to the situation: long range solution and a current fix for the lower courtroom.

Commissioner John Irwin went over some of his thoughts. He then suggested putting it to a referendum for the citizens.

Chair Mark Evans went over what he felt the makeup of the advisory board should be.

County Manager Mike James gave the guidelines for how the applicants can ask to be on the committee and bring those names in front of the Board to decide who would like to be a part of the committee.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to form a citizens committee. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:1 (Commissioner John Irwin)

County Manager Mike James explained an unsolicited offer on a piece of property that the county owns. He stated the tax value and the use of the property for the purchaser. The Board discussed the need for upset bid on the property.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the offer pursuant to the upset bid process. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager, Mike James explained that the DSS Scanning discussion needed to be postponed due to new information that he and Lisa Osborne needed to go over.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the DSS scanning project. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

The Board discussed the options for the wall in front of the courthouse. They decided to get some feedback from the public and allow them more time.

Chair Mark Evans opened the floor for public comments.

Donnie McCall said he felt like using the advisory committee will help the community stay together through the process. He too felt sales tax was the best way to help pay for any type of improvements.

Linda Checkanow liked the idea of a sales tax to help spread the money out. She was very pleased with the creation of the advisory board.

Chair Mark Evans thanked the citizens for their input and seeing no others he closed that section.

County Manager Mike James went over the Sparta School construction update. He then spoke about some transfer station upgrades. March 8th 11 a.m. March 9th at 9:30 a.m. orientation He then went over the live streaming the Board meetings. He then went

over the buying local incentive and went over the online spreadsheet for the public to see where money is being spent.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin reminded everyone of the agriculture dinner tomorrow night at 6 p.m. Again, noted the veterans brick sale was going well.

Chair Mark Evans thanked everyone for their comments and participating in the discussion.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked that everyone keep the Ed Adams' family in their thoughts and prayers.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair of the Board