



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 1 pm 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, and Commissioner Larry Prince, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

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

Chair Mark Evans noted there were some changes to the agenda. There should be both personnel and economic development for the closed session.

County Manager Mike James explained that K. Brandon Kenner from the Forestry Service would need to be removed because he had been called out of the County first this this morning.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes made for February 20, 2017. Commissioner Larry Prince Seconded. Vote 5:0

#### AGENDA

Monday February 20, 2017

10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Motion on Agenda for February 20, 2017 Meeting  
Motion on minutes from meeting on January 17 and January 30, 2017
- A. 10:05 Spotlight Business, Alleghany Inn
- B. 10:15 Public Agenda Comments
- C. 10:20 Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
- D. 10:35 Karen Evans, Finance Officer  
1. Audit RFP  
2. Register of Deeds Enhancement Budget Amendment #1  
**(Action Requested)**
- E. 10:50 Tiffany Boyer, Transportation Director – Drug and Alcohol Policy (Action Requested)
- F. 11:05 Miranda Roupe, Register of Deeds – Thank a Veteran Program
- G. 11:20 Jim Brown, Recreation Director (Presented by Karen Evans)  
1. General Fund Budget Amendment #7 – To budget for a donation by Ben Cornett from his Eagle Scout Project. **(Action Requested)**
- H. 11:25 Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board/Chair of the Wellness Committee  
(Presented by April Hamm)  
1. General Fund Budget Amendment #8 – To budget for a grant received for the Wellness Committee to provide educational meeting for employees. **(Action Requested)**
- I. 11:30 Lis Osborne, DSS Director

1. General Fund Budget Amendment #9 – To Budget for additional Monies received for child development. **(Action Requested)**

J. 11:40 Josh Green, Public Works Director

1. Transfer Facility Fund Budget Amendment #1 – To Budget for purchase of a truck. **(Action Requested)**

K. 11:50 Brandon Keener, Forestry Service Annual Report (Removed)

L. 12:05 Dale Caveny, Blue Ridge Business Development Center Report (Removed)

M. 12:25 General Business

1. Tar heel Legislature Representatives Re-Appointments  
-- Pat Polly and Tom Smith **(Action Requested)**
2. Fairgrounds Use Policy/Application
3. Update on PSAP/911 Communications

N. Public Comments—30 minutes

O. County Manager Comments

P. Commissioners Comments

Q. Closed session –NC GS 143-318.11 (a) 4 Economic Development and NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)-Personnel (Addition)

R. Adjourn

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve the minutes from January 17 and 30, 2017. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

John Kilmartin with Alleghany Inn was the spotlight business the week. He went over the founders of the hotel. He spoke about some updates that they are looking into as well as what the hotel currently has to offer.

Chair Mark Evans opened the public agenda comments seeing none he then closed that sections.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator went over the auto refunds.

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

Rita Miller went over the auto releases from the old system.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the auto releases. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller went over real property releases.

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

Rita Miller went over the real property refunds.

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

Rita Miller then went over the tax collection report, the enforced collections report, and the payment agreement report. She went on to explain one of the requests for release of residential solid waste fee at 231 Osborne road.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the solid waste release request. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller finally went over the second property at 90A Teds Trailer Park.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the solid waste release request. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans, Finance Officer gave an update on the request for proposals (RFP) for the audit. She explained what they had received back from the RFP and discussed what the options are.

Chair Evans clarified that looking at all the RFP's the money was about the same for all of them.

Commissioner John Irwin asked what Karen Evans recommendation was.

Karen Evans said if she goes with the current RFP's and doesn't go back out since the Local Government Commission (LGC) has reservations about the firm from Virginia she said there was no other choice but to go back with Martin Starnes.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked if Karen Evans knew of anyone that currently uses them.

Karen Evans said yes and explained that because they do so many counties it was hard to find other firms to send RFP's to.

Chair Evans said he felt like the biggest issue was that the County thought the audit was completed and the company kept calling asking for information. He recapped the options, going with Martin Starnes, use someone the LGC doesn't approve of, or go back out for RFP.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to move forward with Martin Starnes. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained the Register of Deeds Enhancement fee budget amendment #1.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Register of Deeds. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Tiffany Boyer Transportation Director went over the updated transportation drug and alcohol policy for the State and Federal grant compliance.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked about random drug testing for all employees.

County Manager Mike James explained there is pre-employment, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion is the only drug testing for non-safety sensitive employees. He went on to explain that drug testing is only random for safety sensitive employees.

April Hamm, Human Resource Officer explained under the general statute only safety sensitive employees can be in the random pool.

Commissioner John Irwin asked about training for supervisors for reasonable suspicion.

April Hamm explained that all, but two current department heads had the training through the County insurance company in mid-November.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he wanted to have a future discussion about random drug tests for all employees including the Board.

The discussion was that it was a general statute and the decision would have to be to change it from the State.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the updated drug and alcohol policy. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Miranda Roupe, Register of Deeds went over a new program she is looking to begin within her office called the Thank a Veteran Discount Program. She went on to explain how the program would work and the business involved. She went on to explain the system for this program will also be able to be used for employee ID's.

Commissioner John Irwin asked what other discharge papers are going to be accepted.

Miranda Roupe said that other counties are accepting certifications of honorable discharge.

Commissioner John Irwin gave her some recommendations on the paperwork.

Chair Mark Evans asked where the \$4,429.35 would come from.

County Manager Mike James said it would have to come out of the fund balance.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the photo ID equipment for the Thank a Veteran Program. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans, Finance Officer went over the General Fund budget amendment #7 from Ben Cornett from his Eagle Scout project at Veterans Park.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the General Fund budget amendment #7. Commissioner John Irwin. Vote 5:0

April Hamm presented General Fund budget amendment # 8 for the Wellness Committee. She explained it was money from a grant that was written by the committee to help provide some of the educational meeting for the wellness portion of the insurance that began in January.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #8. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James added what a wonderful job the wellness committee is doing working with local business and county employees. He said they are working very hard to help employees be healthy.

Lisa Osborne Department of Social Services Director explained General Fund budget amendment #9 for child development.

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

Josh Green, Public Works Director explained Transfer Facility budget amendment #1. He noted they had found a truck to replace to one with the broken frame it was approved at a previous meeting so now he just needed to have the money put into his budget.

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

County Manager Mike James explained the Tar Heel Legislative representative for Alleghany County. He noted it was a reappointment of the two and recommended they both be reappointed.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to reappoint Pat Polly and Tom Smith as Tar Heel Legislative representatives. Chair Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained two reappointment for the Farmland Preservation Board, Bobby Evans and Millie Richardson.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to reappoint Bobby Evans and Millie Richardson to the Farmland Preservation Board. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained the reappointments of Bill Caudill and Wayne Miles to the Planning Board.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to reappoint Bill Caudill and Wayne Miles to the Planning Board. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James went over the updates for the Fairgrounds Committee and use policy. He then went over the PSAP/911 update.

Chair Evans opened the floor to public comments.

Terry Johnson said he was present to talk about H2A temporary agricultural workers ordinance coming in front of the Town Council on Wednesday. He went over some of the issues he felt that would cause to the Town and expressed the need for our area to be attractive to people passing through.

Chair Evans closed public comments

County Manager Mike James stated there would be a job fair held at Wilkes Community College and BDC on March 23 from 1 – 4 pm. He talked about a joint meeting date to meet with the School Board.

Commissioner John Irwin asked about the status of the audio visual for the Board room.

County Manager Mike James said all the estimated numbers are in and is trying to get a demo set up.

Commissioner John Irwin asked about how the County animal control operates.

County Manager Mike James explained that was a department under the County Public Works Director and his staff, but there is no one fully certified for the position the maintenance men rotate responsibility for the duties even throughout the weakened.

Commissioner Prince asked about the sign vandals and for the status of the nuisance ordinance.

County Manager Mike James explained the person they thought was the vandal said they had gotten the signs from the dump and there was really no way to disprove them so the signs were taken, but that is all. He then went in to say that the nuisance ordinance was going before the Planning Board in March and then it would come back to the Board.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin congratulated the wrestlers for their fourth place win as a team and four placing wrestlers with one State Champion at the State tournament this past weekend. He went on to talk about the basketball tournament outcome for both the men and women's teams. He noted the Veterans Affairs Committee was asking for the flag collection box to be moved down to the County Administration Building. He also commended the staff for buying local.

Commissioner Tom Smith said the Grand Opening for the new Library will be April 8<sup>th</sup>. He reiterated some of the missing signs were back up and had been up for a

couple of weeks. He said he was taking that as a success. He then wished everyone a happy Presidents Day.

Chair Evans encouraged everyone to look at the booklet they received for the legislative goals.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to enter into closed session. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Mark Evans called the Board back into regular session and report that no actions were taken during closed session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker  
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans  
Chair