

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 6, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina. Present: Chair Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Tom Smith, Commissioner John Irwin, and Commissioner Larry Prince, County Attorney Donna Shumate, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

Chair Evans called the meeting to order led the pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

AGENDA
Monday, February 6, 2017
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for February 6, 2017 Meeting
Motion on minutes from meeting on November 7, 2016 and January 3, 2017
- A. 6:35 Spotlight Business, Alleghany Memorial Hospital
B. 6:50 Public Agenda Comments
- C. 7:05 Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
Re: Report of Unpaid Taxes
- D. 7:15 Karen Evans, Finance Officer
1. Credit Card Contract
2. Software Presentation
- E. General Business
1. Project Old Spice – Public Hearing
a. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss possible economic incentives to be provided for Project Old Spice.
2. Sparta School Renovations
3. Backup PSAP Update
4. Communication Tower
5. Fairgrounds Policy Update
6. Sparta-Alleghany VFD Ladder Truck
7. Fire Tax Discussion
- F. Public Comments—30 minutes
F. County Manager Comments
F. Commissioners Comments
F. Adjourn

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the minutes from November 7, 2016 and January 3, 2017. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Alleghany Memorial Hospital director Craig James spoke about the awards and recognitions the hospital received in the year of 2016. He went over the leadership group at the hospital and noted they were all local residents. He then updated the Board of the services the Hospital provides to the community and the growth the hospital has had. Craig James went on to talk about the hospital's community support and working relationships.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin praised the work of the employees at the hospital.

Chair Evans opened the floor for public agenda comments. Seeing none he closed that section.

Tax Administrator, Rita Miller explained that every first Monday in February she must appear before the Board to go over the 2016 unpaid taxes and to request the Board to set a date for advertisement for the unpaid taxes.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept April 19 as the date to run the advertisement for the unpaid taxes and to order Rita Miller the Tax Administrator to collect taxes in the current year. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Finance Officer, Karen Evans stated she was present to ask the Board to allow the County departments to begin accepting credit cards and online. She explained there will be a 3% charge to the customer will cover the service fees. She stated that the company was Business Information Systems and the contract would be a one year contract.

Chair Evans asked if the customers will know that they will be charged the 3%.

Tax Administrator, Rita Miller said yes that they will have to approve the amount before the transaction goes through.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the contract with Business Information Systems. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans next spoke to the Board about the software in the finance office and their current issues with the dated software and about the tape data backup currently being used. She went on to talk about the different software programs the Finance Office had looked at and the one that she was recommending. She stated the cost was about \$60,000 for the first year for the software and support. She asked the Board for a letter of intent so that they could start with the information coding, but the money request would be in her budget request beginning in July 1st.

Commissioner Prince asked how much time it would save in the office and if they would be able to have time for more things with the efficiency of the software.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve a letter of intent for the software in the finance office. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James went over the purpose of the Old Spice public hearing.

Chair Evans opened the public hearing. Seeing none he closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve the resolution for project Old Spice. Commissioner John Irwin seconded.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked how the company would get the money and if there was any way to protect the taxpayers' money in this situation because of a past experience in the County where the taxpayers had to end up paying the money back.

County Manager Mike James said the money is given to the County and the County gives the company the money. He went on to say that the County to purchase a performance bond on the money for the protection of the County money.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he felt like the County needed performance bond need to protect the taxpayers money.

Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James went over the Sparta school renovation options and stated that the school is wanting to get the asbestos abatement done over spring break and the money has already been budgeted for the school system. He recommended that the Board commit \$46,000 out of the \$137,500 set aside for the year for the beginning on the asbestos abatement while the Board decides what else they want to do with the renovations.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to move forward with \$46,000 of the budget for the asbestos removal. Commissioner John Irwin seconded.

Commissioner Smith asked if using the money would interfere with the Wilkes Community College projects.

County Manager Mike James said no the money had already been budgeted thinking the County would be further along with the project.

Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James gave an update on the PSAP project and noted he was waiting to hear back from the director at the State level. He went on to explain that while they have been looking at the PSAP they had looked at updating the tower sites as well.

County Manager Mike James then presented two different tower upgrade options. Michael and Mike from Mobile Communications explained the proposals a little more in depth for the Board.

Chair Evans said this proposal is much better than what had previously been talked about.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked since technology changes so quickly how long till something else will have to be done.

Michael said if the P25 is put in that is currently the top of the line and he doesn't see anything else coming to replace it anytime soon.

Commissioner Prince said he felt like the Board needed to look into these options for the safety of the citizens.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the first estimate of 0943. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James gave the Board an update about the Fairgrounds Policy and the meetings that will be occurring soon.

Commissioner John Irwin said he had met with the health department and had learned a lot about the organization and paperwork that need to be in place for people to use the Fairgrounds concession stand.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he felt like there needed to be a coordinator for County events.

County Manager Mike James explained a ladder truck and the ownership of it with the Alleghany-Sparta Volunteer Fire Department. He stated there were repairs that needed to be made and the fire department was willing to take them on for themselves and was asking for sole ownership of the ladder truck.

Commissioner John Irwin stated the truck was so old it was really useless to the County and worth a minimal amount if any.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to transfer ownership of the ladder truck. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained the thoughts behind a fire allocations and noted that it was not an increase in property tax it would just be taking a part of the already tax collected

Chair Evans asked what the benefits would be.

Commissioner John Irwin explained the fire departments would be sure to have an amount of money allocated for them

The Board discussed the fire allocation.

Chair Evans opened the floor for public comments.

Harry Jones spoke about the fire departments needing funding.

County Manager Mike James thanked the county department heads for all their hard work and ideas.

Chair Evans went over some upcoming dates for State meetings.

Commissioner Prince promoted buying local and stated the Board needed to find a way for the County employees to save money.

Commissioner John Irwin spoke about the dispatch issues and the departments involved.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked about the County inventory timeline. He went on to suggest the Board should create a policy before the budget year concerning special appropriation group's financials. He then informed the Board of the agriculture advisory board dinner on February 20, 2017.

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