



Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

3-19-18 Minutes

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 6:30 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, Commissioner Larry Prince, County Manager, Mike James, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

Chair Mark Evans opened the meeting, led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of spring soccer as number 4 under general business. Commissioner John Irwin seconded Vote 5:0

AGENDA

Monday, March 19, 2018
10:00 A.M.

- 10:00 Meeting Called to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for March 19, 2018 Meeting
Motion on Minutes from 2/19
- A. 10:05 Spotlight Business, JB Boyer
- B. 10:15 20th Anniversary Recognition Resolution
Re: JB's Pizza and Subs
- C. 10:20 Public Agenda Comments
- D. 10:35 Nick Hawks, Chief Deputy
1. Sheriff's Update
2. Officer Recognition
- E. 10:45 Chad Beasley, Alleghany County Schools Superintendent
1. School Resource Officer (Page 1-2)
- F. 11:00 Deb Oliver, Social Services
Re: Medicaid Transportation
- G. 11:10 Maria Julian, App Health
Re: Community Health Review
- H. 11:30 Michael DuBose, Arts Council President
- I. 11:45 Karen Evans, Finance Officer
1. Server Discussion
- J. Consent Agenda
1. JB'S 20th Anniversary Resolution (Page 3)
 2. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (Page 4-10)
 - a. Auto Refunds - VTS System - Action Requested
 - b. Real Releases - Action Requested
 - c. Real Refunds - Action Requested
 3. Planning Board Appointment (Page 11-13)
 4. State Records Retention and Disposition Schedule (Page 14-34)
 5. Transfer Facility Fund Budget Amendment # 1 in the amount of \$17,600 (Page 35)

K. General Business

1. Courthouse Committee Applicants
2. Courthouse Wall Feedback (Page 36-41)
3. High County Workforce Development Board – Appointment Dale Caveny
(Page 42)

L. Public Comments – 30 minutes

M. County Manager Comments

N. Commissioners Comments

O. Adjourn

Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James honored JB and Becky Boyer for their 20th year anniversary of JB's Pizza and Subs.

JB Boyer thanked the Board for the recognition. He then explained the number of employees and how long JBK (Joseph Boyer Kuztoms) has been in business and the progression from restoration work to automotive essentials. He then noted he had been in the grading business for about three years now and the number of employees fluctuated depending on the amount of work. Again, he thanked the board for the recognition and the community for the continued support.

Chair Mark Evans opened the floor for public agenda comments. Seeing no one he then closed that section.

(Begin Verbatim Section as Requested by the Commissioners)

Chair Mark Evans said “I’m going to actually reverse these next two and am going to invite Chad to speak from the school board and the reason for that is he is going to be talking about the SRO officer and I thought maybe there would be some things there that once Nick when you come up it might trigger some thoughts on sharing about the SRO officer so get chambered up you’re next.” He then said, “Welcome, Chad.”

Superintendent, Chad Beasley said, “Thank you for having me. I really appreciate the invitation and I uh. It’s been a process we’ve been going through for a couple of months now. I was notified by the Department of Public Instruction a few months ago about a, they are actually funding a grant resource for SRO officers again and thought it was a great opportunity for Alleghany County Schools to look at getting another SRO officer in our school system maybe even two if that is possible, but I just want to talk to you today a little bit about what an SRO officer means for us and for our kids and for our community and for our students and the support that has grown between our local law enforcement and Alleghany County Schools so. I may read a little to you. I just typed some things up, some notes here. But, you know with the continuation of high profile school shootings in the United States and growing concern about school violence in countries across the world, the issue of whether and how to engage law enforcement in schools has been raised to a new level of discussion. That’s what were here today to talk about, is this discussion. Communities must decide whether they want to employ police in school in the capacity of school resource officers and if so we’ve got to figure out how we go about the most effective way by developing positive relationships with students, collaboration with educators and mental health professionals to proactively address school safety issues and divert at risk student from juvenile the juvenile justice system and implementing an effective SRO program that supports the positive development of youth is an essential part of our youth justice reform system. You know if students and educators are achieved their full potential schools must be safe, feel safe. Students who report feeling safe in school are more engaged in class, they have higher academic achievements and they have lower rates of absenteeism, truism and behavior issues. Educators also benefit from safe schools. Those educators that report feeling safe in school are better able to focus on academics and more likely to remain in their positions uh they’re better equipped to teach students and simply put, feeling safe in school is connected to achieving educational outcomes for students. SRO programs that are

implemented and sustained through well and conceived organized comprehensive progress can help prevent school-based violence, can connect at risk students to need to need a comprehensive, excuse me let me back up there, SRO programs that are implemented and sustained through well-conceived, organized and comprehensive process can help prevent school-based violence. They can connect at risk students to needed services, divert youth from juvenile court, create a safe, secure, peaceful school environments. Uh the SRO programs are built on a careful selection on the right officer, and while I say that uh we selected the right officer at the high school. Officer Carrier is doing an excellent job. I just want to put my two cents on that while I'm, while I'm talking about that. And these things that I'm talking about is what I see happening at our high school and I think we'll see the same thing if we are allotted the opportunity for this SRO officer at at our other schools. Umm SRO's can fill a variety of roles: preventing and responding to school-based crime, foster positive relationships among law enforcement, educators and youth and helping to promote a positive school climate. Uh some of the duties that they can perform, there's lots they can do. You know they're not, they're not, they're not on our campuses to arrest people, they're not on our campuses to enforce the rules and guidelines that go on in the school. Uh, they're there as a support person. They're there to build relationships. Uh, but SRO's they can serve as guest lecturers in the classroom, uh they can implement evidence based curricular such as bullying prevention programs. Uh second step, gang resistance education and training, they can teach students about criminal investigation, uh laws constitutional rights, law enforcement as a career, substance abuse, conflict resolution and restorative justice and youth relevant crimes such as dating violence. Spending time in the classroom also serves to build those positive relationships between law enforcement and youth. Uh for our staff SRO's can lead in-service training for school personnel. They can educate staff about crime and justice issues and they can provide training on crime prevention. Uh another thing the SRO's is help the school to handle a crisis by informing crisis planning and management systems, develop and coordinate emergency response plans, crating protocol for handling specific emergencies, leading exercises. You know ideally these will be according to the federal emergency management agencies, uh the nation incident system. Uh you know they are always always teaching when they're in the schools. They can provide training, present information at community meetings on relevant crime and legal issues such as a sign of substance abuse, uh gang involvement those type of things. Uh I think on of the biggest things that we rely on with out SRO officer is in uh an informal counselor you know they've built these positive relationships and when those positive relationships are built SRO and students are constantly, consistently identified as a key success for SRO programs. Youth often view and turn to officers in the same way they might turn to parents or other adults in their lives. Seeking out SRO's to discuss issues. SRO's can build trust, foster relationships with youth through formal and informal interactions,

(phone rings)

Chair Mark Evans said, "we're being invaded here." Commissioner Tom Smith said, "time is up." Chad Beasley said, "times up. I'm sorry Tom." Everyone laughs then Chad Beasley said, "I was just getting going." Commissioner John Irwin said, "it got you attention though." Chad Beasley said, "yeah, uh I guess it did. You know when youth are guided about a variety of challenging issues such as underage drinking, stressful life situations or even the illegality of school pranks. Students can come to trust SRO's to answer questions, address problems, which in turn enables the officers to identify at risk students that we have. Uh these relationships also allows SRO's to intervein before issues escalate, student to appropriate resources our mental health, behavior services within and withoutside and divert them from the juvenile justice system. Uh you know I with an SRO officer there protecting students and staff from threats and violence uh is a primary component of their job. Uh having a sworn law enforcement officer available at the school diminish critical response time um which is key in saving lives. Uh when a violent incident or other emergency occurs likewise an SRO's familiarity, excuse me I'm getting tongue tied, familiarity with a schools layout and design as well as knowledge of the individuals involved in the problem can further improve the efficiency of response to an incident. Um, you know there's been a lot of surveys done across the United States um, which is well documented and and it goes to show those studies show the same thing. Uh, educators parents community members uh the same thing they they think of an SRO

officer is they feel safe uh its an increase feeling of safety uh among students, teachers, administrators. Um they feel like they deter aggressive behavior with an SRO officer in our school. Uh they diminish class time classroom time spent on discipline and behavior disruptions, uh when a good SRO program is in place. It improves relationships between law enforcement and youth and uh, you know you've heard that word from me a lot is relationships and and that's that's key to a successful SRO program in your schools. Um, one last thing where I've jotted down here, and I'll talk a little bit more. I want to tell you about some good things that have happened for us in our schools, but you know they can be a valued member of a multidisciplinary cross agency school safety team. Uh, they help to promote a safe, supportive and peaceful school environment create an infective SRO SRO programs begins with a strong relationship between school, law enforcement agency that defines the multifaceted role of an SRO as an educator, an informal counselor, law enforcement problem solver, a clearly articulated description of SRO responsibilities recognizes that school discipline resides with school administrators. I'll say that again, school SRO responsibility recognizes school discipline resides with school administers, not the SRO. Through positive relationships with students and collaboration with educators and mental health professionals, SRO's can proactively address school safety issues and divert at risk students from the juvenile justice system again properly selected trained and governed SRO's can achieve positive outcomes for students and the community by providing youth with the supports they need to succeed in school and in life. Um, you know I'll I'll say this about an SRO officer. Um, we have one in our school system. He does an excellent job at the high school. He's assigned to the high school. He does travel to the other schools uh on a on a regular basis, but uh you know the need is therefor another SRO officer and uh what I'd like to see is if if we get accepted this grant and and we're able to fund this position I'd love to see one at uh at Sparta fulltime. I will say this; most SRO's do not serve in an elementary capacity okay uh they serve in in a middle school capacity. We don't have middle schools here in Alleghany, but we do have sixth, seventh and eighth grade middle aged students uh that need that support need that service uh for that law enforcement person there, that SRO officer.

Chair Mark Evans asked, "when you say elementary, not normally elementary you mean?"

Chad Beasley said, "not normally, I'm talking about a K-5, yes a K-5 that."

Chair Mark Evans said, "okay."

Chad Beasley said, "most elementary schools are K-5's, but uh you know we've got K-8 schools, Sparta with 600 students an and there's a, there's a, there's a big difference between uh uh uh five year old kindergartener and uh thirteen fourteen year old eighth grader, but within that building uh they do cross paths a lot okay uh we don't have a lot of, we don't have a lot of discipline issues in our school systems. Um I I I do want to report while I'm talking about that though. At the high school, uh the last report to come out from the general assembly uh it's the consolidated data report for school crime and violence. Uh if you got that report uh you'll know that uh in 2016-2017 there was zero reportable crimes in four counties; Alleghany County, Graham County, Hyde County and Jones County. Okay also in 2016-2017 LEA's reported the largest three year decreases uh reduction compared to 2013-2014 rates uh in grades nine through thirteen again Alleghany County along with four other counties are mentioned.

Chair Mark Evans asked, "can I interrupt you just a second?"

Chad Beasley said, "You sure can, yeah."

Chair Mark Evans said, "I serve on the JCPC board and there's another person about three rows back that does, and we are seeing a greater need in this middle school age whereas over the years you know it's been you know upper ages. Umm and that's where we're seeing some numbers that are increasing there in the last couple of years that, what the information you just gave doesn't, we don't, we're seeing something differently local with the JCPC group of folks and the challenges that we're dealing with there umm keeping it maybe from getting to a crime level, but there's a lot of at risk or challenges there."

Chad Beasley said, “there and that’s why I wanted to.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “there is a higher number than is has been.”

Chad Beasley said, “It is a higher number that it has been and and again I think with the programs of Officer Carrier being put up at the high school and with new leadership that’s up there uh and some other programs and alternative program we’ve put in place and a code of conduct system wide has made a large reduction in our high school you know, but in the middle school, um I looked back last year we had fifty-seven students suspended out of school for um an extended amount of days. Uh and and those, and those reasons for that um and most of them deal with middle middle middle aged students uh is communicating threats, just to through some examples out to you. Uh property damage, uh inappropriate item on campus, fighting, aggressive behavior, uh and inappropriate language or disrespect you know and so those are the tendencies we’re starting to see in our middle grade levels. Uh, you know, uh fifty-seven is not high, but it’s high when you look at our school system. Um, you know, we’re we’re we’re about mid well a little over midway through the year and we’re about on schedule to meet these same things again so.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “the teachers in the classrooms trying to teach while all of those distractions and things are having to be dealt with. What’s that doing for the rest of the kids who are behaving and their level of education. I mean that to me that’s what I that’s what I see. We have a and I think all adults in the room here today understand it and we see it um so many of these children don’t have a lot of the right structure at home. Which is not the schools fault, but yet the school has to deal with so many of these a lot of this stuff these kids are just acting out trying to get attention in some way.

Chad Beasley said, “Yes.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “and that’s where I see, I mean take all what you just said and boil it all down. You’ve got an opportunity for for someone with the right experience, the right heart to be able to come in here and build some positive relations and impact some of these kids who are trying to act out in ways that are unhealthy and they could help channel it to a way and then they could become you know uh uh better students and you know not disrupt all these others that are having challenges. You know and just be a positive role model and an example that somebody some of these kids that have these needs to be able to migrate to someone to say you know there’s a positive example and there’s somebody who cares and there’s somebody who I can maybe emulate my life after and they care and they’re going help me do that. You know that’s that’s what I to me that’s what I think I see is the biggest primary is you know safety threats they’re there for that, but I think the bigger purpose that I would be in favor of of trying to help out if we can is all of the secondary reasons and that’s these kids need some structure, they need some positive role models and and I know the teachers are all that, but yet they’re the teachers. They’ve got a different approach. They need somebody operate independent who could sort of be off to the side and could identify and see some of these challenges some of these people acting out and they could talk to them one on one so they’re not professional counselors, but I’m sure there’s probably some training in those areas they could get and then maybe they could help identify and get them to some counseling before they end up impacting negatively our our uh social services and our court system.

Chad Beasley said, “I agreed with you Mark an and you’re right those relationships that they can build uh will have a humongous, tremendous amount of deterrence towards those those same things that we’re seeing an uh and you’re right. The teachers you know when you’re, when you’re teaching you’re you’re focused on twenty, twenty-five, thirty kids and uh.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “the rest of them still need to get an education.

Chad Beasley said, “They still got to get an education.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “you still have a requirement to educate all the rest of them that you can educate.”

Chad Beasley said, “That is correct.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “but whenever some of your resources are having to go to some of this stuff it makes it a little bit more challenging.”

Chad Beasley said, “Ideally, I’d love to see and SRO officer at Sparta. I’d love to see an SRO officer split between Piney and Glade. I’d love to have a social worker in every school that we have. I think that benefits.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “on that note, how would you, if you had one more obviously the one we have currently would the majority of his time which is at the high school now would stay there maybe on an as needed bases could help out with some of the other schools, but how would the additional one be, you know, how we going to treat, we have three schools. So how we going to treat those fairly?”

Chad Beasley Said, “I I think fairly if you look at the number of students at Sparta and the number of students at Glade and Piney uh I think fifty percent of the time probably for this SRO officer would be spent at Sparta and then twenty-five percent at Piney and twenty-five percent at Glade so just kind of a fifty-twenty-five-twenty-five split um and then again Officer Carrier now continually he he travels to the other schools too and I I will say that uh uh the sheriff has done a great job we we have deputies in our schools all the time now um uh visiting, uh doing work there, uh working on programs, building those relationships, but their not there all the time, you know and that’s a really key piece a key piece to it to being there all the time.

Chair Mark Evans asked, “do you have anything, I kindly interrupted you there. Did you have some more to add?”

Chad Beasley said, “no I just wanted to, I just want to brag on what was going on with our high school and that program up there.

Chair Mark Evans said, “share share a little bit about and then we’ll open it up to the Board here with questions.”

Chad Beasley said, “okay uh, I just you know our our, if um, with those things being said, you know we have a total of 104 incidents at the high school last year. Which is which is extremely extremely low. Uh, I won’t go into those incidents, but uh you know as far as short-term suspensions for Alleghany County uh at uh at a rate of per 100 students ours was at 7.76; single digits, uh extremely phenomenal, extremely phenomenal and one last thing I do want to talk about is uh uh I think with everything we’ve put in place uh dealing with these at-risk students and those types of things. Our our um our drop out rate has has seen a significant change. Uh we are a uh almost a 48% improvement on our dropout rate so.

Chair Mark Evans asked, “over what time period?”

Chad Beasley said, “over a one-year period.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “wow.”

Chad Beasley said, “Yeah, yeah so. Uh uh again 1 again I uh it all goes back to relationships uh it all goes back to working together. Uh but, I I think SRO officers is a key piece to what is going in within our schools and you know our our kids and our parents they need to feel that our schools are safe, and an SRO officer gives them that feeling of safety. We have that feeling of safety they can come to school and learn, you know that’s.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “One other element I would add to that is is with the structure of these homes or or lack there of and then the relationships and uh marriages and the uh

parents and the guardians and some of the fighting that's going on between them and then a lot of that probably ends up at schools with who's the right person to, whos allowed to pick up the child and who isn't and you know there's some potential circumstances there waiting to happen, potentially some bad things could happen from that and you know if you have and SRO officer who who the uh maye social services or whoever is the uh um providing the structure for this um this child or helping and intervening in some way then they could have some designated person at the school who they could communicate with to know for sure whose what's going on and if they needed to update them you've got someone there who could intervene.”

Chad Beasley said, “I mean we’re not, we’re not trained in criminal law and we do have some, we do take some law classes as administrators, but you know with an SRO officer there uh to interpreted a 50B or custody battle or custody issue uh I I it makes me feel a whole lot more comfortable when I know I’ve got a law enforcement person looking at those papers besides me and the principal and some teachers I mean we’re just not qualified to do that you know and sometimes there’s missing signatures. I’ve seen that happen, I’ve seen children get picked up by a parent they haven’t seen in 5 to 7 years in another school system I was with and I had no nothing I could do about it and then their taken off and I’ve seen I’ve seen a lot of battles on school grounds with both parents on there you know in that in that dispute trying to pick those students up so you know its uh that’s really key that’s uh that’s another big key to an SRO officer there so.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “I’m going to open it up to the Board here.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “I’m just uh a few things that I’m I’m curious about the response time from the sheriff’s department from Sparta to Piney Creek, form Sparta to Glade Creek, assuming that the deputy is in Sparta. Does it take 15 minutes to get to Piney Creek, does it take 10 or 12 minutes to get to Glade Creek.”

Chad Beasley said, “It depends if there’s any tractors on the road or any tree trucks or uh you know 18-wheelers. I mean it that’s a variety, that’s a tough question to ask. That might be a better question to ask for the uh for the uh the Sheriff’s Department, but you know a lot of times deputies are on patrol, but if now we were sending an SRO officer out there on a call uh normal response time is 15 20 minutes you know, but uh.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked, “it would be how many?”

Chad Beasley said, “I would say 15 20 minutes. Nick, could you? Nick is agreeing with me over there, but at least 15 to 20 minutes, yeah.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “Then I I think all the the public schools and the colleges are gun free zones. Well a coward is going to go to a place where it’s gun free. They’re not going to go to try to break in to the Sheriff’s Office, they’re not going to go, you know where they know that there’s guns. They go to places where they know nobody’s there to protect them.”

Chad Beasley said, “Right.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “I would like to see after and hopefully this second SRO is approved. I would like to see another application put in for an SRO at Piney Creek and Glade Creek. As you said there’s many other things that they do besides just protecting. You know they’re building character. They’re building relationships. There’s a lot of things that they do, and I would like for us or for you (Chad Beasley) or for the Sheriff’s Department to study what it would take to get an additional 2 more SRO officers and what the cost would be up to the county. I know the grants pay for probably a 60/40 or you know something along that range.”

Chad Beasley said, “It’s a 2:1 match.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “But, but I would encourage you and the Sheriff’s Department to to look at that. Um the, you were talking about there hasn’t been any incidents and I think you went back to 2014 and I can’t remember the year, but at Piney

Creek a few years ago we had a very disgruntled parent that would come and harass one of the teachers at that school and that's the perfect example of having an SRO officer there because it would have taken several strong men to restrain that person, several and if he had of chosen to brought a gun to school it could have been a disaster like we're seeing now days. You know we're never going to see a problem in Alleghany County. No one's ever going to come and shoot up our schools until the day that it happens and that's too late. We need to do something before that happens and if it cost a few dollars more, then there's plenty of places that I see we can cut in the budget to put that SRO officer at all 4 schools and I just would like for you all to study that. Um I think every child's life and every employee's life is important and I think we have plenty of school employees that could be trained to carry a sidearm. Not all of them can be, not all of them would be. It's it's not just carrying a sidearm. It's having the resolve to use the sidearm and I think that's something that I would like for you all to study. It may not happen, but it's something worth looking at. Um that's all I've got."

Commissioner Tom Smith said, "I was curious about um if we have even heard from this grant yet. Maybe that might be a question for Deputy Hawks, but uh I like last time you were in here Nick, we had uh we had given the go ahead for you to to submit the grant. Have you heard anything from them yet? That might be a question for later."

Chad Beasley said, "it has been submitted and it's still under review right now. I mean I got an email the other day from DPI (Department of Public Instruction) and they're under review right now so we, I would say we would know something before the end of the school year."

Commissioner Tom Smith said, "I personally do see a need for a an SRO having been at the high school for several years uh there's not doubt and I like the idea of being a little bit more proactive than reactive and um I think, I think we're on to a good program here and uh it may just come down to a question of funding, we'll see how how that unfolds, but uh, but I think their efforts and knowing Mr. Carrier and some of the folks we've had at the high school they've been a real asset. So, thank you for coming in."

Commissioner Larry Prince said, "A couple things, I think a lot of the stuff you're talking about as far as the bullying, I think there is social and physical, and I think that's where this person could make a big difference. I think also it could create a career path with kids to see a positive influence that these people have in school and give them maybe a different career path than what they've been thinking about. But yeah, I'm kind of with Bobby. I would like to see all the schools have the ability to have that because it's more than just having Barney at the door with a bullet you know."

Chad Beasley said, "you know it's the the social bullying is um is uh is uh is uh it's a huge issue I'll say that. Not just in Alleghany County, but all across all the school systems and uh you know we have we have uh we have software in place that lets us monitor those things when they're using our email. The problem is, they go home on the weekends and they're not on our email or our internet and so we, it's tough to monitor and then they bring it back in the school on Monday and usually the SRO officer and the principal and assistant principal are are dealing with it for a few days so it it's a, it is a huge issue right now you know huge issue, but I will say this uh when there's things pictures on there that are disturbing to other kids and and different things like that uh they they do report that to Officer Carrier very quickly and and to Mr. Carter up there so yeah.

Commissioner John Irwin said, "I find it interesting that we don't have a concern until there is money available. I also look and please remember my background is uh Minnie Lou Irwin whenever I was six years old went into the school system. We sat there until mom got ready to go home at night, so I knew a lot of teachers. I knew a lot of them with warts their and their foils and what I look at right now whenever you're starting to talking about uh an SRO he's you're trying to fulfill part of the responsibility of the teachers. That teacher has more contact with these students on a daily basis than an SRO would. These teachers should know who's being bullied, these teachers should know what's going on inside and outside that classroom whenever their walking the hall. An SRO is one individual how many teachers do you have at Sparta Elementary School?"

That is, let's say there's 20. That is 20 pairs of eyes that are there, that are going to be watching the interaction of these students. You say that you have had civil disputes, what actions have you taken against those parents? Have you filed charges and asked for restraining orders on those parents, that have caused problems on the school grounds?

Chad Beasley said, "You asking about."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "I'm asking the school system, you representing the Board of Education."

At the same time Commissioner John Irwin said, "have you." Chad Beasley said, "well when we have those types of issues that occur." Commissioner John Irwin said, "yes." Chad Beasley said, "there's not always a need to file charges, but there is a need to put in restraints to keep them from attending our school system, our school grounds, coming on school grounds and when those things are put in place and they do do do break that uh that barrier then we do turn it over to law enforcement so."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "that's good, but first there must be a restraining order preventing them from coming on to school grounds before that officer can take that action. Is that not correct?"

Chad Beasley said, "no it's not correct because, you're talking about a restraining order against parents against each other." Commissioner John Irwin said, "if it" Chad Beasley said, "it's the parents responsibility. If you've got 2 adults who are in a in a marriage battle, in a fight those restraining orders go against each other. That that doesn't, that doesn't come across my office."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "well Commissioner Bobby Irwin said that there was a teacher that was being harassed in Piney Creek uh by a parent. I take it that there was uh numerous incidences whenever he came on school property and threatened the teacher, I can only assume that at that time that the school would've taken action to get a restraining order to prevent that individual from coming on to school property. At that time the Sheriff's Department could've arrested him and we could've adjudicated if possibly put him in jail for 30 days. Did that happen?"

Chad Beasley said, "it did not happen at that time. That young man had never come on school grounds. The teacher filed the restraining order. The Sheriff's Department looked for him for 3months trying to arrest him and he was hiding in Virginia so no that that."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "but action was taken?"

Chad Beasley said, "action is always taken." Commissioner John Irwin said, "I commend you on that." Chad Beasley continued, "action is always taken when action is called for."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "now the last drug or the last time that the Sheriff's Department allowed commissioners to ride with them as they served warrants, one of the warrants that was being served was on a student that had a warrant for selling drugs. He was not arrested because he wasn't at school yet whenever that school resource officer appeared before the county commissioners and we asked him what the outcome was, that student was still in school. You say that your, the responsibility for enforcement resides with the administration. Is this a good enforcement? Now, in my day and accusation like that would have had you suspended and please don't tell me that this that you are innocent until proven guilty especially after the recent events at Howard County or Byron County in Florida. We found out this morning that that school resource officer had referred that student for mental counseling and nothing had happened. What about our drug dealer that's in school? Is he still in school?"

Chad Beasley said, "I have no idea what you're talking about, so I couldn't answer that question."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "I suggest you contact uh Sheriff Maines and find out the name of that student and uh that really surprises me. That tells me that there's no communication between the SRO and the administration because I was standing there whenever a radio call was made to see if a student was on school property so that they could enforce that warrant so do we have a break down in communications there? Now the schools please people do not do not think that I am against school security or safety, but there are limits. That school resource officer in Florida did not enter the building and advised the responding officers not to enter the building. We can build walls we can pass laws, we can have the best intentions, but we cannot guarantee complete safety anywhere on the face of the earth and I see a deputy standing you're probably to dispute my that so please."

School Resource Officer Steve Carrier said, "I just want to confirm."

Chair Mark Evans said, "if you don't mind, I'm going to ask you to come on up to the microphone and this this go ahead and introduce yourself."

Steve Carrier said, "I'm Sargent Steve Carrier with the Alleghany County Sheriff's Office. I'm the Alleghany County School Resource Officer uh just to confirm the warrant. When I was last here Mr. Irwin I they was an outstanding warrant and I did arrest him."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "you did arrest him?"

Steve Carrier said, "I did arrest him, and I did take him to jail personally and he made bond and he's back."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "in school?"

Steve Carrier said, "yes."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "you see him every day?"

Steve Carrier said, "yes."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "he's walking the hallways."

Steve Carrier said, "yes he is."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "and he's got a little bit of reputation strutting through that hallway right now because he's a big bad guy because he's been sheriff and he's back out."

Steve Carrier said, "well I don't know if he's big and bad, but they know the kids knew that I arrested him, and they knew I took him to jail and they knew why he was there for."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "thank you for that and I salute you for doing your job that's what should be done, but my question again is why do we have this individual, but that is not in the purview of a commissioner or a county commissioner in this county. That is the school boards purview, but you know it it I call to question, we can throw money. We can throw bodies at problems, but until we delineate who who's responsibility it is to take care of that problem and actually implement them we're not going to go anywhere. We cannot guarantee completely. Now I will support another school resource officer in that school, but at the same time please public remember that they are not a panacea they are not going to solve all the problems in the world. We also have responsibility of administrations that uh they should be fulfilling their duty. Thank you very much. I know that I blindsided you uh perhaps, but uh this uh whenever we have someone charged with selling drugs and their still in the school system that that just it it just gets under my crawl. Thank you very much sir."

Chair Mark Evans said, “I want to say that you know there are laws far beyond what we can control and what you all can control. I mean when you go through the court systems and you follow all the steps and procedures that you have you know things get to the point to where you know you have to follow the laws of the land whether we like them or not. We are an extension of the state government and there’s a lot of laws that we have to be confined to or work within and we we we uh choke over them sometimes um, but we still have to at the end of the day these kids are there for an education and all the adults in the room are there to do what they can to impact these kids lives in the most positive possible way possible and I’m thankful that we have the people that we have in our local school system doing their best. Things are going to happen we can’t yeah, we can’t control what what may come up tomorrow, but by being proactive and as uh Ben Franklin coined years ago, “an ounce of preventions worth a pound of cure.” It’s uncertain what may have been prevented already by having what we already have and I feel certain we can prevent a lot of things we’ll never know about in the public and that’s okay, but I bet there’s some folks sitting in this room who would be scary if they could share things with the public and that’s not necessary that’s not you know we’d end up with a panic in public out here, but let me say yes to a lot of folks it’s they’re clueless to what, I mean you live in a home you got a great job, you got a good family unit, you better count your blessings because not everybody has that in this county and those of us who do it is our place to love on those who don’t.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “I would just like to say that I know we can’t prevent every crime that’s going to happen, but we should give you, the schools we should give the Sheriff’s Department every resource that we possibly can. President Regan probably had the best security force in the world and he was still shot. President Kennedy was still shot, but we need to at least give you the tools that you need. You know when you go in the operating room in the hospital they’ve got every tool they need to save your life. We should give you every tool, the Sheriff’s Department every tool they need that they could possibly use. You go to the courthouse up here. We protect the people in the courthouse that you can’t get in there with a pocket knife. We should be offering the safe protection to the hundreds and hundreds of school kids at all our different schools and I just, I just again urge you to start working and bring something to us that we can look at and maybe we can help maybe we can’t, but we can at least talk about it.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “we’ve had a very interesting discussion enlightening discussion. Thank you for coming um I did hear a unanimous consent for moving forward hopefully we can get a good positive on this uh grant that’s been requested and uh good luck to putting it to the ground and putting it to use. There was a question about course this we’ll wait don’t actually there’s no need in going there because this is actually going to be a budget discussion and um and and to massage the numbers a little bit so we’ll need to do a little bit of work with the Sheriff’s Department on what our actual cost would be, but thanks for coming thanks to the school system for your for your heart and your compassion and doing all that you can and our current SRO officer um I’m sure you feel like you’d like to be cloned at times, but uh just you know just just I just can’t encourage you enough to show up and be there and for these kids it’s going to save somebodies life. Maybe not not physically, but I mean as Larry eluded to, I guarantee you because you show up and you’re the person you are, and you have the uh a uh you’re a shinning light to some of these kids who live in some dark places and it will change the course of their life. You don’t know how many, but if all we did and all we’ve spent changed one kids life its worth it. That’s my position and I think that’s all of our hearts here today. Thanks again.”

Chad Beasley said, “thank ya’ll for letting me come share with you and I appreciate your concerns and I appreciate your comments and uh you know its um your right Mark we live in a different world than we did 50 60 years ago, our schools are different, times have changed, our cultures have changed. Uh the advanced use of technology has a tremendous, I don’t want to call it a negative impact, but at times it does have a negative impact at times it does have a negative impact.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “it brings all kinds of impacts.”

Chad Beasley said, “it brings all kind of impacts upon us you know, but uh you know again I appreciate the support of this program and uh I’d like to see it expanded if we can and I want to say one more thing about the mental health services that that I’m going to tell you that is really key about possibly looking at getting some social workers within our school systems too okay that’s uh that’s a big key big key so. Thank ya’ll.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “one thing before you go, as I have had an idea and I wat to share it publicly for the first time. I have uh I just Chad doesn’t have didn’t have much warning on this, but I did share it with him. Something I’ve had on my heart is. Look at this Board. We’re member on the silver hair club or or no hair club and look at them.” Chad Beasley said, “we can’t all help that.” Chair Mark Evans continued, “, well we’ll leave you out of it. You look at the age, what’s the what’s the age of a high school student? I use to be there, but its been so long I forgot. Several generations compared to this Board. I have been thinking about a junior council made up from our high school student council possibly, form a board they would officially be the representatives for the youth there at the high school. They would interact. They would find out the challenges, the concerns, the needs. Then this board would meet with that board and we would get an introduction early on to them what government looks like. We would then be able because so many of these kids, I’ve gotten letters its been some school projects and things that they do and their asking for us to do things that are way outside the purview of what we’re statutorily allowed to do. We can’t go out here and build them a playground with money um or a an amusement park so to speak or a just a you know places and thing to do, a theater. We couldn’t go build a theater um per say. I mean there’s different things we could possibly do, but for to to bridge that gap and for them to have a voice I know they have a good voice in the school system, but I would like to have a good that voice to meet with this board when we sit down and maybe we go to their house instead of inviting them to this big intimidating room. We would go sit down in a room that they would want us to sit down in and we would sit there and they would have an agenda and present it to us and we would basically be there to hear their concerns and their challenges and their needs because it’s scary to think about how things were when I was in school verses what some of the stuff that I hear and its all second hand, but I trust and a lot of the folks that are there I know them and their sharing them like you know it’s just mind boggling and I think this might, this could be a very good tool and of course they could meet with your board umm and give them a voice and basically to bridge that gap and then there could be lots of things that can uh be developed off of this that could have some positive impact and maybe they some of them might like a little bit about what they see here and become potentially a member of this board before there is a big age gap if we could get some younger members on here, but that’s just a thought that I’ve had it’s it’s very early um maybe something that if it suits the school administration at the high school and it can be developed you know maybe it can be started into next year, but I it’s something a conversation that we’ve just started that we’d really like to pursue and maybe see what how it develops.”

Chad Beasley said, “I like the idea and I’m going to share it with uh Mr. Carter and Mrs. Vestal up there. I I I would like to see that and uh I’d like to see more of these kids get involved with government and those types of things and even even down in our middle grades we might want to look at doing something there too. Maybe a youth leadership development program, I’ve thought about that and some of those things.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “well I know Lauren has started and outreach to try to maybe invite the some of the lower classes just to come and visit you know local government, law enforcement center, through the courts just to get them out a little bit into some of what we’re involved with and you know the courts, some of them, some of them know the courthouse better than I do, but the ones that don’t you know they need to be aware that its there and what its purpose is and how it functions and why they need to strive and do all they can to not come here you know that’s some of the things so I think Lauren has kind of started to just develop some contacts and resources there to so. Thanks again look forward to.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “I really like what Mark said about the silver hair. What it reminds me of is looking around at this room and seeing students that I knew in high school and grade school, school board members that played volleyball, football

players they've grown up and become part of the community. I don't mind the silver hair."

Chair Mark Evans said, "we earned it."

Commissioner Tom Smith said, "feel free to come back anytime."

Chair Mark Evans said, "okay we'll move alone to Mr. Hawks. Oh, I didn't see the sheriff back there. He slid in. Good Morning and welcome. When I walked in earlier and I seen all those uniforms sitting there, I was getting a little nervous."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "you thought it was another raid."

Chair Mark Evans said, "the other part of me was getting happy I was hoping maybe you was coming to get John."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "how many warrants did the bring with them."

Chair Mark Evans said, "welcome Bryan."

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, "thank you for having us here also this is a raid so uh John from your outburst earlier, I think we're going to have to take you in so just just a forewarning."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "if the warrant is for speeding, I will plead guilty and accept my punishment because you haven't caught me enough."

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, "your punishment will be when the cameras go off sir. Uh, let see uh I would like to just briefly tell you just a couple of things. Uh a couple weeks ago I was out of town and Nick came down and did a year end or a three-year summary, but being I have some deputies here I want to just touch some of those topics again just, so you can look at the guys that are actually working. Uh they had 21,885 calls in the last 3 years. They've arrested 1,370, 457 drug arrests. These guys have been working hard. They've served 2,974 civil process papers, checked 65,387 or done conducted 65,000 business checks over the last 3 years. So, I'm going to tell you these guys don't sit around the Sheriff's Office with their feet propped up on the desk. They work hard. I'm very proud of these guys. I will fight for these guys and I have fought for them and I will continue to fight for these guys. These guys are workers. They're true loyal servants of their community and I just want to point that out. Um last year, January through December, they answered 7,824 calls, 573 arrests last year, 200 drug arrests last year, 200 drug arrests last year, they conducted 21,660 business checks. Just for January alone, just for January alone of this year deputies answered 729 calls in January. They arrested 120 individuals, 15 drug charges for the month, served 101 papers, 5 involuntary commitments, conducted 2,025 business checks, 8 funeral escorts, uh 25 transports, uh and uh 14,000 miles driving. So, I want to let you guys know the reason I wanted to point this out, I know that you know there's comments made about well how long does it take for them to get there from town. That's assuming a lot of things. You're the assumption there is that their sitting at the office with their feet propped up on the desk. That's not what they're doing. Most of the time what they're doing is they now have computers in their car. We've put computers in their cars, so they can actually do their work while their out being seen while they're out doing their job. They can actually take their laptops into the school systems and actually work in there too and that's what they're starting to do. They're trying to have more of a presence in the school system, so they can actually take their laptops in, do some work in the school systems too during the days an and in the evenings and at night time they're staying in their cars, patrolling the highways and whenever they're doing reports, they're doing them straight from their car. So, I just wanted to point out uh before Mr. James starts what he's wanting to do uh that it's not going to be just the three officers that you're going to see in front of you here in just a minute. These officers every single day, they go out and risk their lives. You know in some folks minds they're thinking well little Alleghany County, well do you know how many guns I've had pulled on me over the last 25 years? Its been a bunch. Do you know how many knives I've had, you know how many times people spit on me over the last 25

years? Yes, this is little Alleghany County, but I'm going to tell you what, these guys go through a lot and they deserve respect. They deserve respect in this building, in this room, in this community so I just wanted to point that out, so God bless you and uh Mr. James I think you have something to point out.”

County Manager, Mike James said, “I invited a some of our officers here today to just give them some recognition on some on a good on some good work they've ben doing. So, this was in the paper last week, but uh February 28th uh Deputy Darrell Rector, if you would stand up Darrell was watching traffic down at the Laurel Springs Fire Department, by which I drive all the time on my way to Mountain City and Boone. Uh noticed a suspicious vehicle with 3 occupants and uh did his job and followed it uh pulled the guy over and Sargent Craig Williams and Deputy Cody Chamberlin if you guys would stand up. They came in and backed him up. They conducted a search and confiscated enough drug paraphernalia and drugs to result in 49 different charges. Found heroin in the car, I know we like to stick our head in the sand and think we don't have heroin out here in the boonies, but we do have heroin. Uh we're going to have more and more of it over the time. Shotguns, pistols, uh brass knucks, pills all kinds of stuff so we appreciate those guys. I know they've all been in court now. Uh 25 and \$30,000 bond for the defendants. We appreciate you guys very much out there keeping us safe. Uh you know thank you very much for that. Uh I also have a second one here that Steve if you would stand up too. Uh this one they confiscated, this is actually about a year and a half ago, but the confiscated so much that it turned out to be a federal case and the feds had it and we've just been able now to talk about it. Uh but that was Sargent Craig Williams and Sargent Steve Carrier out when he was on patrol. They confiscated 111 grams of methamphetamine. Now I'm not good with the metric system, but 111 of anything is a lot. I don't know how much that is exactly. Uh, but that resulted in significant federal time for the defendant. He's in federal prison now and got multiple multiple years so we appreciate that. I know these guys, these narcotic stops feels like you're trying to drain a bathtub with a teaspoon sometime, but uh we appreciate your work out there very much and I just wanted the public to know and uh you know on behalf of the commissioners we appreciate the work you guys are out there doing so.”

The Board applauded the officers.

Commissioner John Irwin said, “Mr. Chairman I do have a couple of questions for the Sheriff if he would answer questions and if I'm given the opportunity sir.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “Regarding?”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “The march against weapons the second amendment Saturday. Will your office be involved with that? I understand there's going to be a parade through Sparta against the second amendment. Has the Town contacted you for additional deputies?”

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, “I've not been uh notified from the Town of Sparta.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “From the look of surprise on your deputies, you were not aware that we had a student walkout last Monday against the second amendment and that uh there is an organized march that is supposed to be going through the town on Saturday.”

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, “I did hear about that march, but I've not heard from any uh any representatives from the Town of Sparta to ask us for us to provide additional man power.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “that would be interesting. I would hope that there would be some cross talk there. I don't believe it's going to be to large.”

Sheriff Maines said, “that would be my assumption.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “I have been threatened with divorce if I show up with AR-15 so don't worry about it.”

The Board thanked the Sheriff.

Commissioner John Irwin said, “gentlemen in this day of black lives matter I appreciate you. Every time you walk up to a car after dark you don’t know if you’re going to be greeted with a hello or a or with a flash of fire. I realize that. Um I thank you. I appreciate you. I wish to God you were paid more. If you were paid what you should be paid, we couldn’t afford it. We would probably have two of you and all of the salary would go there, but thank you for doing what you do. You don’t back off, you go into the doggone building, you’ve been there. God love you.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “and with a good budget season this year you will be paid more.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “just a comment, I you all have done your job now I hope the judges do their jobs and the lawyers don’t do their jobs quite as well.”

Commissioner Tom Smith said, “just briefly.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “the judges are going to say that’s dependent on giving them a proper courthouse.”

Commissioner Tom Smith said, “you had mentioned just uh about the officers now that are now doing most of their business in the cars with computers and if this grant were to pass uh and and if we had and I think Mr. Beasley said 50% of the time at Sparta and then 25 25 I think is how you mentioned it. Would it be possible to to work with the schools and have another presence at schools when they when the offer may be at the different school? Could they could they possibly work from that school? You pretty much said they could uh just a few minutes ago.”

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, “absolutely, I think probably that the better way to do it as for us internally to know what the left hand knows what the right hand is doing because that way once we get to that point we’re not going to have like two officers here at the same time whenever we could’ve used one over here. Yep.”

Commissioner Tom Smith said, “so if this were to pass that might be a possibility of having some of you folks at one of the schools that our SRO would not be at is that would that an idea that you could study.”

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, “that’s the idea. That’s the idea”

Commissioner Tom Smith said, “okay. Thank you”

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, “Great question. Thank you.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “thank you all. Thanks for what you do.”

Sheriff Bryan Maines said, “also someone made a budget uh comment uh you know we all do uh all county employees pretty much live paycheck to paycheck, but I’m going to tell you, my parents lived paycheck to paycheck too. They didn’t work for the county most everybody that I know lives paycheck to paycheck. So, having said that I want to let you know these guys are not here for the money. These guys are not here for the money. These guys are here because they have kids in our schools. They they have parents at home they have friends in the community they want to protect all of these folks. They’re civic minded individuals that really wants to do a good job. I believe that they’re led by the lord to try to do the right thing and uh yeah budget are important, but these guys are not here for the money. They’re not here for the money, but they would appreciate it of course, but they’re not here for that.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “so you’re saying they cash their checks, but they show up because that’s their calling. Thank you for answering your calling.”

Bryan Maines said, "I believe that's the case and I think they deserve another round of applause. God Bless you."

The Board applauded.

Superintendent Chad Beasley said, "may I clarify, we didn't have school last Monday, so I don't know what student walkout."

Chair Mark Evans said, "That was actually Wednesday. That was a national kind of a thing. Our schools were closed."

Chad Beasley said, "we didn't have any kids walk out so."

Chair Mark Evans said, "Larry and I were in Washington D.C. and we actually got to go around a mob of those that had walked out, but we also went by a group of uh female students from a catholic school, who had no signs, they went to pray for the victims and to show up you know they weren't there for political purposes or anything like that so in these demonstrations, though it may be organized and maybe somebody has got some ideas but there are people doing it differently. Not everybody is doing it the same way."

County Manager, Mike James said, "Mr. Chairman if I may throw a political comment in. You may want to throw a brick at me, but United States of America was built on nonviolence civil protest even if you don't agree with what someone is protesting if they do it in a calm civil manner, that's what America is all about, that's why this is the greatest county in the world because 90 % of the countries in the world, you can't do that you know."

Chair Mark Evans said, "and live."

County Manager, Mike James said, "and live yeah you can do it and go to jail yeah."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "those patriots that died on Boston Commons they may dispute that a little."

Chair Mark Evans said, "um we need to probably take a quick five-minute recess."

Commissioner John Irwin said, "can we make that ten. I've got an emergency phone call I need to answer."

Chair Mark Evans said, "alright be back as soon as you can. We'll reconvene shortly."

Chair Mark Evans said, "alright, we will go ahead and reconvene at this time. It's about 20 after 11 and uh we are to item F on the agenda which is social services. Welcome Lisa. I know you and Deb okay. Welcome and come and teach us."

Deb Oliver of social services said, "okay, we're here to talk about um nonemergency Medicaid transportation. The state of North Carolina requires the each counties department of social services provides eligible Medicaid beneficiaries with nonemergency medical transportation assistance when they don't have another way to get to their medical services. Each beneficiary is given notification of this right along with uh their responsibilities. In making requests with adequate advanced notice. Assistance is given to the individuals needs in the form of gas vouchers for out of town trips which are redeemed at a contracted vendor in Sparta or with public transportation Alleghany In Motion. The requests are received by me. I work in the Alleghany In Motion office on Main Street in Sparta and um they can either call or come by and they know that their requests must be made to the nearest appropriate medical provider and that an advanced notice of three business days for in county trips or five business days for out of county trips is preferred and it's my responsibility to um provide oversight in regards to compliance with these policies of North Carolina. I also pre-verify a minimum of 10 % of the trips. Verifying that the recipients will be receiving Medicaid covered services and the we post-verify every Medicaid trip. Every effort is made to accommodate um any request that perhaps come in with less than the advanced notice that's required. Um we are trying

to make sure that we can coordinate these services with Alleghany In Motion's already scheduled trips if that's the case and we are also sensitive to the inevitable um urgent situation that might come up with a sudden sickness or something. I maintain a log with the date of the request the date of the trip the recipient's name, their ID, where they're going, whether or not the trip is approved and so on and the cost and billing code and then this is then reconciled on a bimonthly basis with Alleghany in Motions billing records and is submitted bimonthly to the state for direct payment to Alleghany in Motion and also the gas voucher bills are submitted monthly to the state for payment. The number of individuals that receive Medicaid transportation assistance varies year by year, but they range from 150 to 225 individuals that have sought assistance. Appointment coordination is vital to minimizing the cost of each trip and so the cost is shared between the state funds that are used by the number of passengers that are on each trip. So, for instance if there were 3 Medicaid beneficiaries that were being transported to Elkin on a given day and 1 person who was going on the Ed Tap funds then $\frac{3}{4}$ would be shared by Medicaid cost and $\frac{1}{4}$ to the Ed Tap funds, so we do try to kind of piggyback off each other to minimize the cost. The number of roundtrips, I have this as round trips. Um that Alleghany in Motion that we have used, this is for the 2017 year was about 133 a month and then gas vouchers were given to about 13 on average for the month so you can see that um 146 beneficiaries were assisted on average each month. So, uh in the break down percentage of assistance given through Alleghany in Motion was 91% and 9% with the gas vouchers and the cost was shared uh 93% going to Alleghany in Motion and 7% going to Sparta Exxon is our where I send them for their gas vouchers. That's our contracted vendor. So, it was \$42,719.49 for the year 2017 as an example. So, that's how Medicaid transportation works here in our county and I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chair Mark Evans said, "I have a couple. Is there any, those that qualify for this, is it does it pay 100%?"

Deb Oliver said, "their transportation cost, yes."

Chair Mark Evans said, "okay."

Commissioner Larry Prince said, "how are the gas vouchers calculated? Based on so much per mile."

Deb Oliver said, "yeah, I calculate the mileage from their home to the facility and make a round trip calculation and then we pay 20 cents per mile for that. So for instance as an example a trip to uh Winston Salem to a specialist for instance I would give assistance of approximately \$25. It's just to you know cover the expense of the gas to get to these. People that call don't really have any other way to get to their doctor appointments and so that's what we do."

Chair Mark Evans said, "thank you for sharing that information. Anybody else have any questions or comments? Thanks a bunch. Item G. Appalachian Health a community health review. Welcome."

Maria Julian said, "thank you for letting me come speak with you today. Bobby I'm sorry you have to hear this again. I'll switch it up a little bit."

Commissioner Tom Smith said, "he probably didn't hear it the first time."

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, "don't pay attention."

Maria Julian said, "I am here representing Appalachian district health department or App Health care to present with you um the community health assessment report that was released this month. This is a report that we assemble every 3 to 4 years in partnership with the hospital and with other community partners and that small copy that you have includes just the table of contents so that you know what is included in the report as well as an executive summary with key findings and the full report can be found on our website. So today I just want to walk you through the purpose of the report and a few high-level key findings. Um and then I welcome any questions that you have. So, the

community health assessment is a comprehensive review of our community's health. We use both primary and secondary data to compile the report. The primary data is a community health opinion survey that was conducted this summer. I'm sure some of ya'll filled out that opinion survey in July or August and then the secondary data includes um it comes from sources such as the US census bureau. So, the community health assessment serves really as a roadmap for the health department and for other community agencies across Alleghany County to plan and implement and then evaluate interventions to promote community health. We know that we need to be able to track what we're doing to see what's working and what's not working, and this is really a community wide effort. It definitely was a community effort for this opinion survey. We asked for opinions from 283 residents which is a 15% increase since the last time we conducted this survey. And based on those opinions and the data we found in this report. We have focused on three key health priorities that we're going to be working on for the next three years and you'll be hearing more about these health priorities in probably any presentation we give for the next three years. So those three health priorities include; substance use/misuse prevention, mental/behavioral health, and then health equity for a vibrant economy and those health priorities were chosen based on the data we found, community opinions, and also input from an economic development for health committee in this county.

Chair Mark Evans said, "can you visit those three one more time."

Maria Julian said, "sure, I don't know if I'll say them in the same order, but substance use/misuse prevention, mental/behavioral health, and then health equity for a vibrant economy. We kind of smushed two priorities into that one, but they're both very important."

Chair Mark Evans said, "do all you can on the economy side too."

Maria Julian said, "yeah, it's very much linked to health that's for sure. So I'll share a few quick highlights from the opinions survey data. I think this tells us what our community members are really focused on, what's important to them, but also what are they not concerned about. Where do we maybe need to do more health education. So alcohol and drug use was by far and large the top health concerns for all respondents. 7 out of 10 people who filled out the survey said that alcohol drug use was the number 1 problem, health problem in the county. Other issues that people identified were cancer, diabetes, being overweight, poor eating habits and aging issues. Access to health care services was also a major concern for respondents almost half of respondents said that they were concerned about access to health care and when respondents were asked if they could change one thing about our community, one of the most common responses was affordable health insurance. So, it's important to take these community opinions and then also compare them to the prevalence of chronic disease data that we're able to get from the state. So, I'm going to give you a couple statistics now on morbidity and mortality and chronic diseases. So, the leading causes of death in the county continue to be largely preventable chronic diseases. Um in 2016 2 out of 5 people in the county who died, died from cancer or heart disease. Those are our two top leading causes of death in the county. The average person in Alleghany lives to be 77 years old. This is just slightly lower than the state average um and women in the county are living more than 4 years longer than men. That's a trend that we've seen ever since we've been collecting data and it hasn't changed much. Um a lot of mortality rates have gone down for cancer especially for men has declined heart disease and COPD and CLPD have all declined. Um we are seeing an increase in lung disease and lung disease mortality um and we know that 1 in 5 individuals in our counties smoke and among babies born to residents in Alleghany County 1 out of 5 babies were born to a mother who smoked. So that has been a very important health priority for us and will continue to be moving forward. We've seen a lot of great social indicators of health really improve over the last 3 years and we're excited about this. The median household income in the county has increased 9% since the last report and that over double the growth that we've seen for North Carolina overall so that's a wonderful increase. We've seen unemployment decline to the point that it's now equivalent with the state unemployment rate and the poverty rate in the county has remained stable over the past 5 years. So, this report is really one step in a larger process that we're working on. This summer we'll conduct a community listening session continue to gain input from community members about specific actions that they think

we should be taking to improve health and that will form our action plans that we create. We call them community health improvement plans. Those will be published in September of 2018 and again like I said those will become a road map for the next three years on what we'll work on. I know our health director Jennifer Green is excited to come soon and give you an update about health department services, but I welcome any questions that you have in general about the health department or about this report."

Chair Mark Evans said, "the report and the information I can't keep up with you as fast as you were giving it, but thanks for the document and of course I know it is online for the public can access as well. Um anybody comments, questions."

Commissioner Tom Smith said, "Maria the recent, there was apparently a ranking I don't know, I can't remember if it was in the Winston Salem Journal or the internet so you know its true um but, I had noticed that Alleghany County and I'm just going by memory, had we fallen to 59th overall in that uh survey when two or three years ago we were 20th."

Maria Julian said, "yes the county health rankings and roadmaps, I've love to speak to that for a minute. This comes out every year and I swear every year they change the way that they organize the county health rankings and roadmaps. So, we should take it with a grain of salt when that ranking changes wildly each year. The number we've used in this report is when Alleghany was ranked 33rd out of 100 counties in the state of North Carolina, but I'll show you in the report for those of you that want to look on the website at the report. There are two pages that are really colorful, and we break down here every single ranking from the county health rankings. It's in the larger report on the table there, but this tells you whether we're fairing on an equal playing field with the State or better or worse and this is, we feel the best way to tell how Alleghany County is fairing compared to the state sometimes that ranking among all 100 counties overall, the health data gets lost in that overall number. So, yes we moved from 66th three years ago to 33rd in 2016 o 59th in 2017 so it's hard for us to track that number to know the meaning of it."

Chair Mark Evans said, "can you hold that up towards where we can see the colors? So, you see the green, the yellow, the red. The green is good numbers. The yellow are flat numbers and the red are indicators that we might be a little bit high or a little bit off from the state average. Whether that's good, bad or indifferent. Just that way folks can kind of get an idea. I mean we have several greens. Um and then the fewest number is the red ones."

Maria Julian said, "I just want to point out that the graph you're going to see in this report are from the 2016 county health rankings. They always release these rankings 2 weeks after our due date for this report. So right now, in the news they're reporting 2017 rankings."

Chair Mark Evans said, "we are better than average in premature deaths. Course this is calculated out of over 100,000 so they have to do some math to get out to where they can actually determine where we're ranked which is a little tricky cause that skews the numbers a little bit."

Maria Julian said, "it definitely skews the numbers."

Chair Mark Evans said, "if you look at a population of Charlotte or Mecklenburg versus Alleghany."

Maria Julian said, "we have to be a lot more careful in this county when we look at data trends. We like to take 5-year chunks of time so even the county health rankings we interpret these data with a lot of caution."

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, "I know that we're working on the smoking issue for the county and where do we rank compared to other counties?"

Maria Julian said, “in terms of tobacco use, Alleghany County has a smoking rate or tobacco use rate of 19% so near 1 in 5 residents smoke. That is comparable with western North Carolina and its slightly higher than the state average for tobacco use.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “adult smoking is 19 and the state average is 19 %.”

Maria Julian said, “when they average we look about the same. If I were to get technical we’re slightly higher than that state average.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “I need to point out to Tom the physical inactiveness is 30 %.”

Commissioner Tom Smith said, “thank you Bob.”

County Manager, Mike James said, “some of this dovetails with Deb’s presentation on Medicaid transportation. You know besides smoking and drug use one of the biggest things you can do for your health is regular checkups having a regular physician and we encourage everybody if you may qualify for Medicaid see our social services department. We will get you to your appointment. Uh we’d much rather you go for a checkup through Alleghany in Motion then wait to long and have to take you in the ambulance because we have 8 vans on Alleghany in Motion available we only have 2 ambulances. They cost significantly more both physical cost and opportunity cost to take you by ambulance both for you personally because you’re a lot sicker then and for the county tax payers as well. So, we encourage everyone uh to take that one proactive step.”

Commissioner Tom Smith said, “but now this, just briefly, this physical inactivity in access to exercise the opportunities. You got these numbers from a survey?”

Maria Julian said, “this is a nationally conducted survey so we had nothing to do with the data collection or analysis, but it comes from something called the BRFSS Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and a university in different state puts together this data, but the measure for physical activity is um I don’t know it exactly off the top of my head, but I think more than, oh it tells you right there, percentage of adults who are at least 20 years old who report no leisure time physical activity. So that’s saying adults who say they are never getting any physical activity outside of just maybe walking to their car or other daily activities.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “so they wouldn’t have counted the farmer that was out picking up bales of hay because that is, it’s not a leisure activity that’s a workplace activity.”

Maria Julian said, “you are correct.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “I find it amazing we are complaining that uh we’re not getting enough physical activity therefore uh because and therefore we are not living as long as we could potentially, yet at the same time social security is going broke because we’re living longer.”

Chair Mark Evans said, “what you started out with is access and affordable care and access to get the care and stuff I mean that that’s a barrier to folks that having better health and that’s where you know we’re trying to, we’re doing what we can and hopefully we can find areas where we can improve upon.”

Commissioner Larry Prince said, “there’s a big gap in dental between Alleghany and the state. I guess that’s a matter of attracting dentists to this area.”

Maria Julian said, “yes and it’s difficult when we look at a ratio to the population because we could have 3 dentists and that’s a really good ratio, but we know geographically the way the county is set up we may never get you know more dentist to the area, but we need to make sure people have the means to access to the care even if it’s there.”

Commissioner Larry Prince said, “a lot of people go to Elkin and that’s closer than driving one side of Charlotte to the other, so those things go into play.”

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said, “in your key findings on the hand out you give good numbers on the veterans in the county uh 56% decrease veterans living in poverty in the last three years. I’m glad we’re doing so well, how can we do better? What caused these numbers to go up the 56%?”

Maria Julian said, “so I think we’ve all, this has definitely been a community effort. I know the health department in particular cannot take credit for that, but I know that the council on ageing has worked really hard to provide better care and transportation to our veterans and this a trend that we’ve seen you know nationwide better outcomes for our veterans. It’s surprising to see that the number of veterans in the county has also increased. So that has also probably drawn us to pay more attention to that population.”

Chair Mark Evans asked, “anything else? Thank you.”

Maria Julian said, “I should have also added that the percent of veterans living in poverty is lower than the average for you know a typical person in Alleghany County. So, we’re doing great on that end. Thank you for your time.”

(End verbatim as requested by the commissioners)

Michael DuBose, Arts Council President thanked the board for their support over the past year. He then went over some of the projects the council has put on over the past year and then future goals and activities of the council.

Finance Officer, Karen Evans \$14,900 total budget amendment for the server is, but the board had already approved \$2,800 at a previous meeting so she was only asking for \$12,100 in total for today.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the amount of \$14,900. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 5:0.

Karen Evans noted she had been asked to investigate the number of employees there are in the county compared the county population and in comparison, to other counties. She reported that she had collected data and compared the Alleghany County with other counties of similar populations. She said the population compared to employee rate is .99 %. She noted the average for the population group of counties was 1.16% and explained that Alleghany County is well under the percentage of the compared counties.

The Board discussed the planning board applications. Commissioner Tom Smith recommended placing Mr. Jones on the board since he had been an alternate and then placing Ms. Greenfield as an alternate. Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would second that motion. There was more discussion regarding the criteria for appointment. Commissioner John Irwin called the motion.

Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion to appoint Mr. Jones to the Planning Board to fill the vacant seat and to place Ms. Greenfield as an alternate to the board. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:1 (Commissioner John Irwin)

Chair Mark Evans clarified the board pulled the planning board appointment out of the consent agenda.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the consent agenda as. Chair Mark Evans seconded.

Commissioner John Irwin said he wanted additional information about the transfer station budget amendment. County Manager, Mike James explained that a local business was going to grind the brush/wood waste to offset some of their dumping cost, but they got busy last summer and never got it done. Then the county sent them a bill and

they paid so now we still in need of the grinding. Commissioner John Irwin seconded Commissioner Larry Prince's motion.

Chair Mark Evans explained since the planning board appointment was taking out of the original consent agenda there needed to be a clarification motion to say, "to approve the consent agenda as modified."

Commissioner Larry Prince rescinded his motion.

Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion to approve the modified consent agenda with Mr. Jones as the planning board appointment. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the modified consent agenda. Chair Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Mark Evans explained the rules and regulations that County Manager, Mike James had suggested for the courthouse advisory board.

The Board discussed the applicants for the courthouse advisory board.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if the County has received any written request from the judges because he didn't want to start this process and then the judges decide they want to wait a few years.

The Board discussed how to create the courthouse advisory committee. They went over all the applicants and tried to find the best way to select the members.

Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion for County Manager, Mike James, Commissioner Larry Prince, himself (Commissioner Tom Smith), Sheriff Maines, Clerk of Courts, Susie Gambill, Social Services Director, Lisa Osborne be placed on the courthouse advisory committee. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 3 (Commissioner Smith, Chair Mark Evans, Commissioner Larry Prince):2 (Commissioner John Irwin and Commissioner Bobby Irwin)

Chair Evans went over the courthouse wall streetscape addition. County Manager Mike James suggested getting a consensus and then looking at the numbers to know what would work in the budget.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to reappoint Dale Caveny to the Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Recreation Director, Jim Brown explained that went over the want from citizens to start a spring soccer league. He explained that

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the \$175 to cover the insurance cost with the money to be reimbursed by the money from the Beamer property. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Chair Mark Evans opened the public comments section.

George Peebles said he did not agree with the reason of his exclusion from the courthouse advisory committee. He then gave some opportunities for the county to look into federal money for school resources opportunity he also suggested having the Town be involved monetarily since two of the school are within the town district.

Michael DuBose stated his concerns with some comments made by the board at todays meeting.

Seeing no one else Chair Evans closed the public agenda comments.

County Manager Mike James went over all the county landing zones and noted they have been checked by the county Emergency Management director. Next, he went over the trout stocking schedule.

Chair Mark Evans gave a brief update on the meeting he and Commissioner Larry Prince were involved in Washington D.C. He then reminded the Board of the District meeting April 8th in Yadkinville. He noted he would like to bring the road signs back up on a later agenda and that he would like to revisit the opioid lawsuit.

Commissioner Larry Prince said the Washington trip was wonderful they learned a lot from other state commissioners and felt encouraged from others going through the same issues.

Commissioner John Irwin said, “when I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May the 7th 1971 on active duty I wore an oath to do to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic. That did not have an expiration date. Correct Mr. Peoples? Now, I have been accused by Milly Richardson of being an idealist and I guess I am because I have this little saying that I always go, it’s attributed to Voltari, but it wasn’t his. ‘Sir I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend with my life the right to say it.’ And my service in Vietnam and Persian Gulf proves it. The march Saturday I would support because they are showing what they feel is a problem in this nation and it is gun violence. What do they want to do? Now we hear we want to raise the age so that a young man cannot buy an AR-15 until he’s 21 years of age. Looking back, whenever I was in Vietnam in April 1975 there were quite a few of my fellow Marines that were not 21, but they were carrying a M-16 and M-60 machine gun. Being in artillery, we sent death and destruction down range all the time. In the Persian Gulf I made the decision to send young men in danger’s way and it was to support the Constitution on the United States of America. I would be hypocritical to say that I am denying anyone to march on Saturday in support of whatever they want as far as gun control, but let’s start using a little bit of common sense. I carry a pistol in my car. There have been more people killed in Ted Kennedy’s car than that, by that pistol. It is not the weapon, it is the individual that pulls the trigger. We look, and we see a person with metal health problems, Kathy Griffith, same problem, but we cannot deny the rights of those that do not have the mental capacity instead we want we want to take the rights of those that have no problems that are exercising their law-abiding rights under the constitution of the United States of America. Yes, I made the statement, jokingly and I believe my statement was ‘I have been threatened with divorce if I show up with my AR-15.’ I got news for you sir, we are an open carry state. Am I not correct madam Shumate? That means that I can carry a shotgun down the streets of North Carolina at any time that I want as long as I am not going through the threat and terror of the general public. Am I not correct ma’am?”

County Attorney, Donna Shumate said, “with a few exceptions.”

Commissioner John Irwin said, “with a few exception. I cannot bring it in here. I cannot bring it into the courthouse. I cannot take it onto school property and I know, and I respect, and I teach a number of ladies how to use weapons and I teach them respect for the law. Now, those that want to march they can march as a matter of fact I encourage them to because I had much rather know the person that would deny me my rights under the constitution of the United States of America than wonder who they are. There’s a business that’s supporting it. She’s seen the last red penny of my money. That is my right. So, sir I’m sorry if I upset you and I will defend with my life your right to say what you would like to say. Have a good day sir.”

Commissioner Tom 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 of the Board