



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 1 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

Chair Evans called the meeting to order and asked Commissioner Tom Smith to lead the pledge of allegiance and Commissioner Larry Prince to provide the invocation.

Chair Evans asked to add a closed session for economic development.

With that change being made Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

AGENDA
Monday, March 20, 2017
6:30 PM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for March 20, 2017 Meeting
Motion on minutes from meetings on February 20, 2017.
- A. 10:05 Spotlight Business, Bottomley Evergreens, Tracy Bottomley
- B. 10:15 Public Agenda Comments – (Page 1)
- C. 10:25 Rita Miller, Tax Administrator – (Page 2-8)
1. Auto Refunds-VTS System (Action Requested)
 2. Auto Releases- Old System (Action Requested)
 3. Auto Refunds- Old System (Action Requested)
 4. Real Releases (Action Requested)
 5. Real Refunds (Action Requested)
 6. Tax Collection Report
 7. Enforced Collection Report
 8. Payment Agreement Report
- D. 10:40 Karen Evans, Finance Officer
1. Audit Contract (Page 9-33) and Annual Financial Information Report(AFIR) (Action Requested) (Page 34-35)
 2. Health Insurance Renewal (Action Requested) (Page36)
 3. General Fund Budget Amendment #10 (Page 37-38) – To budget for additional monies to correct salary missed by the MAPs group. (Action Requested)
- E. 10:45 Miranda Roupe, Register of Deeds
1. General Fund Budget Amendment #11(Page 39) – To budget for the Thank a Vet program. (Action Requested)
- F. 11:00 Sandra Wooten,
1. General Fund Budget Amendment #12 (Page 40) – To budget for the K-9 donations. (Action Requested)
 2. General Fund Budget Amendment #13 (Page 41) – To budget for additional canteen monies (Action Requested)
- G. 11:15 Wendy Williams, E-911/Mapping Coordinator
1. General Fund Budget Amendment #14 (Page 42-43) – To budget for additional road sign addressing needs. (Action Requested)
- H. 11:20 Randy Miles, VFW

- 1. Request for Funding (Action Requested)
- I. 11:30 Ned Fowler - Northwest Regional Housing Authority
 - 1. Program update
- J. General Business
- K. Public Comments—30 minutes – (Page 44)
- L. County Manager Comments
 - a. Nuisance ordinance update (Page 45-46)
 - b. First Responder Program (Page 47-56) (Action Requested)
 - c. Backup PSAP Update
 - d. Movement of Primary PSAP from Sheriff's Department to Emergency Management or County Manger
 - e. Purchase of Simulcast System for Dispatch
 - f. Audio/Visual Update (Page 57-59)
 - g. Fairgrounds Update
 - h. Health Department Update
 - i. Roundabout Resolution (Page 60)
 - j. Spring Litter Sweep (Page 61)
- M. Commissioners Comments
 - a. Commissioner John Irwin – Establishment of Fire Districts Discussion
- N. Adjourn

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the minute's from February 20, 2017 Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Tracey Bottomley from Bottomley Evergreens, Farms and Enterprises, informed the Board of the different tasks that take place at the different facilities. He also explained all the different products moved through their facilities. He noted that many citizens from the County are employed by Bottomley's in some way.

Chair Mark Evans opened public agenda comments. Seeing none he closed that section.

Tax Administrator, Rita Miller presented the auto refunds.

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

Rita Miller went over the auto releases.

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

Rita Miller went over the real property release and refunds.

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

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

Finance Officer, Karen Evans went over the audit contract and Annual Financial Information Report contract. She stated she was requesting the Board to approve the contract with Martin Starnes and Associates for both contracts.

Chair Mark Evans asked how it compares to the past year.

Karen Evans stated it was an increase of about \$6,500, but all the other bids were very close to the same price.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked if Karen Evans would be looking to go back out for bid again next year.

Karen Evans said not from what she had experienced from a recent meeting with other Finance Officers and the experience from her own RFP (request for proposal) from this year.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the contracts with Martin Starnes and Associates. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained the increase for health insurance, but she noted it was a single digit percentage increase and that was the best first rate that had ever been received in her years.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve entering FY 17/18 with health insurance from the NC League of Municipalities. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Karen Evans explained General Fund budget amendment #10 to budget for additional monies to correct salary missed by the MAPs group.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin stated a couple months ago there was a salary issue now this one. He then asked if there was anyone else.

Karen Evans said there were two in DSS, but wasn't sure if that was going to be dealt with, in this year.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if with these issues if MAP's group had offered to compensate the County for these issues.

Karen Evans said no, but they were aware of this issues.

Commissioner Tom Smith made a motion to approve the General Fund budget amendment #10. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Miranda Roupe, Register of Deeds stated she was present to ask for the money to budget for the Thank a Vet program she would be implementing through her office.

Commissioner John Irwin explained a veteran situation and asked how the register of deeds office would protect the office from "false warriors."

Miranda Roupe explained displaying the GS 43-100 about filing documents under false pretense, but she felt legally there was nothing else she could do other than ask for forms of identification.

County Attorney Donna Shumate noted they would keep looking to see if there are any other safeguards in place, but on Mrs. Roupe's side there isn't much else for her to do.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #11 in the amount of \$5,000 to fund the Thank a Veteran program.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if the Veterans Service Officer would be able to look people up in the VA system.

County Manager Mike James said he would once he got through all of his coursework.

Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James noted the roll out date for the program will be May 24th from 10 am – 3 pm.

Sheriff Bryan Maines explained the General Fund budget amendment #12 that is to budget for K-9 donations. He explained a little about the dog, the dogs training and the versatile uses from the dog.

Commissioner Prince asked about how long they thought the dog would be of use to the county.

Bryan Maines stated around 5 to 6 years.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve general fund budget amendment #12. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Sandra Wooten explained general fund budget amendment # 13 to budget for additional canteen monies.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve budget amendment # 13. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Wendy Williams, E-911/Mapping Coordinator, explained general fund budget amendment # 14 to budget for additional road sign addressing needs. She noted the line is used to pay the fire departments to put up the signs after they are made and the equipment to make the new signs.

Chair Evans asked if the money was needed because of the theft of the signs.

Wendy Williams said yes.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked about the time it takes the office to create a new sign.

Wendy Williams said it takes about an hour a sign.

The Board discussed solutions for the road sign theft.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve general fund budget amendment #14. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to have the County Attorney go to the magistrate and file a warrant for the vandal of the signs.

County Attorney Donna Shumate asked that the Board give her time to check into the situation with the Sheriff before going to the magistrate.

Commissioner John Irwin stated he retracted his motion.

Chair Evans stated the motion died on the floor with no second.

Randy Miles came to thank the Board for their support on the flags program for the VFW. Joe Cornet

Ned Fowler Director of NW Regional Housing Authority and David Choate the Alleghany County representative went over some of the things the Authority does for the County. He went on to talk about a new development happening in Ashe County through the Authority. It will be a new elderly care facility with it opening around August of 2018. He talked about some opportunities for Alleghany County.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked about the waiting list and how long people normally stay on the waiting list for housing.

Ned Fowler stated said it is probably 12 months to 18 months.

County Manager Mike James thanked Mr. Fowler for his reviewing and support of the Sparta town ordinance.

Chair Evans opened the floor for public comments.

County Manager Mike James went over the updates to the nuisance ordinance.

Commissioner Prince asked to add the covering under transport of trash.

County Manager Mike James said it can be explored further to see what can be done.

Commissioner Smith asked about the people of enforcement.

County Manager Mike James said the County would look to use the same company that the Town of Sparta has been using for the past couple years.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked about the 10 day time line.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said that was discussed at length by the planning board and decided that to give them a short term initially so that it won't slow the progress.

Chair Evans asked what kind of cost the County would be looking at with the ordinance and how it could fit the budget the County has.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the property was a learning experience for the Town and the property wasn't worth the cost to get rid of it, but it was needed.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to schedule a public hearing on May 1st at 6:00 pm to discuss the proposed Nuisance ordinance. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded.

Commissioner Smith stated he would like to see some information from the Benchmark Company that provides the Town of Sparta with their enforcement.

The Board discussed the Benchmark costs.

Chair Mark Evans noted there was a consensus to have the public hearing for the nuisance ordinance on May 1, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

County Manager Mike James explained the First Responder Program and the usefulness for the County and Citizens.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the request of \$1,050 to allow 15 firefighters to go through the training at the community college. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James updated the Board of the progress with the backup PSAP system. Next he went over the movement of the primary PSAP from the Sheriff's Department to County Manager, but he noted he had learned that everything has to be approved by the State and his recommendation was to wait until the backup was completed and then look further at the situation.

Commissioner Prince asked if there had been an estimated budget impact yet.

County Manager Mike James said no there hasn't yet.

Chair Mark Evans asked if there is a current need to upgrade the primary dispatch system.

County Manager Mike James said yes and the phone system will be replaced with the new backup system.

Chair Mark Evans asked County Manager to clarify what part of the cost will be covered.

County Manager Mike James went over the final quote for the audio and visual upgrades for the Commissioners meeting room.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the presenter at the first of the meeting everyone moved to one side of the room to be able to see.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked where the money would come from.

County Manager Mike James said it would come from the general fund.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to proceed with the purchase. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James gave an update from the Fairgrounds meeting and helping get a use policy in place.

Commissioner John Irwin stated they learned that the Fairgrounds Committee and Allegheny Fairgrounds Inc. is the same group of people.

County Manager Mike James updated the Board of a meeting that he and Commissioner Bobby Irwin had with the regional health department about the new dental clinic in Ashe, but wanted to be sure Allegheny citizens knew they could go to this clinic as well. He then went on to explain a resolution the NCDOT had offered the consideration of a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 18 and Sparta Parkway.

Commissioner John Irwin asked how it would affect the tractor trailers.

Chair Mark Evans explained.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked about the options of warning stripes.

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

County Manager Mike James informed the Board and public of a litter sweep that will begin this month. He went on to explain the job fair coming up next week at the Business Development Center and then on the 25th noted there would be a popup market in the same building. He went over the pricing for the voting machines and explained the process of purchasing.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if County Attorney Donna Shumate had moved forward with the paperwork for the Veterans Advisory Committee. He asked that the red mailbox be moved from the Old Library down to the County Administration Building. He noted there had been talk about a flag pole at the administration building as well and wanted some action as soon as possible on that and the signage at the Old Library needs to be taken down.

Chair Mark Evans thanked some students for their letter and stated he would like to provoke some involvement from them and answer their questions.

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

Chair Mark Evans stated the Board was back from closed session and there were no actions taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Mark Evans
Chair