



Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

Minutes

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 17, 2017, at 10 am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

Chair Evans led the pledge and gave the invocation.

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

AGENDA

Monday, April 17, 2017

10:00 AM

- 10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for April 17, 2017 Meeting
Motion on minutes from meeting on April 3, 2017.
- A. 10:05 Spotlight Business, Alleghany Wellness Center, Steve Mason
- B. 10:15 Public Agenda Comments
- C. 10:25 Rita Miller, Tax Administrator – (Page 1-12)
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
 9. Motor Vehicle Appeal
 10. Request for Release of Solid Waste
- D. 10:40 Lisa Osborne, Director of DSS – (Page 13-37)
1. Pay grade change to match state pay grade - Action Requested
- E. 11:00 Wendy Williams, E-911/Mapping Coordinator – (Page 38-39)
1. Request to transfer \$155,766 from E-911 fund to the current 16/17 E-911 budget - Action Requested
- F. 11:20 Aaron Ray Tompkins , Extension Agent and Jonathan Houser, Local Foods Coordinator
1. Farmers Market Update
- G. General Business
1. Courthouse Study Architect Estimate – (Page 40) – Action Requested
 2. Contribution Discussion for Earth Day Litter Pick up – Action Requested
- H. Public Comments—30 minutes
- I. County Manager Comments
1. Joint Meeting with Town May 29, 2017

2. Dates for Budget Workshops

J. Commissioners Comments

1. Discussion of potentially marketable properties

K. Adjourn

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the minutes for April 3, 2017. Commissioner John Irwin seconded, Vote 5:0

Steve Mason, Alleghany Wellness Center Director went over some of the recent community involvement at the Wellness Center. He said they have been able to see growth at the center because of the outreach work. He noted they have partnered with Alleghany cares and Farmers Market to involve groups throughout the community. He said they have started a program with Daymark to allow time for their members to work out and grow different skills in the facility. He went on to say they have hosted the Special Olympics program for the past few years and went over some additional classes like gymnastics, and more levels of swimming.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if he had kept any statistic on age groups.

Steve Mason explained yes and they have seen growth in two main areas and will be sharing more of those statistics later on.

Commissioner Tom Smith noted Mr. Mason does a lot of fundraising and asked he explain some that are coming up.

Steve Mason explained the Tour De Mountains Bike ride and some other big fundraisers for the center. He went on to explain with the partnerships made the center was able to participate in other fundraisers this year.

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

Tax Administrator, Rita Miller went over the auto refunds for the month of March.

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

Rita Miller went over the auto release under the old vehicle tax system.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked when the County will be out of the old tax system.

Rita Miller explained it depends on what happens with new software and that would be a discussion for then if new software is purchased.

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

Rita Miller went over real property releases.

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

Rita Miller then went over the real property refunds.

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

Rita Miller went over the tax collection rate, enforced collection report, payment agreements and then explained the motor vehicle appeal. She said she was recommending \$14,500 for the amount.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the recommendation of \$14,500. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Rita Miller explained a request for release of solid waste fee.

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

Lisa Osborne, Director of DSS explained that to be compliant with state regulation there needs to be a grade change for an employee. She stated there would be no salary difference, but there could only be so many at each grade according to State regulations.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the request of grade change for one position at Social Services. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

Commissioner Tom Smith asked her to speak to the influx of foster care children.

Lisa Osborne explained that all of the new children had come from substance abuse homes and that tended to be the trend.

Wendy Williams E-911/Mapping Coordinator explained that there has not been any transfer of money for the backup PSAP and explained what the estimation of the project was.

Chair Evans asked if anything else will need to be updated in the primary PSAP in the near future.

Wendy Williams said not that she knew of any time soon.

Chair Mark Evans asked where the money will be coming from.

Wendy Williams said it would come from the E911 Fund she just needed to get it approved by the 911 Board.

County Manager Mike James explained that this project had not been budgeted for in this year's budget, but he felt confident the majority would be covered by the E911 Fund.

Commissioner John Irwin asked if the project was still good on the timeline.

Chair Evans asked about the term of the lease and the life of the equipment.

County Manager Mike James said the lease is for 60 months and Wendy Williams said the equipment is recommended every five years, but it doesn't have to be and it can be assessed at the end of the lease.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the requested amount for E911 fund budget amendment #2. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Aaron Ray Tompkins, Extension Agent went over some of the numbers for the last year of the Farmers Market.

Commissioner John Irwin noted the current numbers for 2017 show that this year will surpass last year's numbers.

Jonathan Houser, Local Foods Coordinator and Farmers Market Manager, went over some of the new events planned and the expansions of the Farmers Market. He also explained a new online ordering system he has brought to the public. He went on to talk about some promotional days out in the community to help reach more people.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin inquired what types of products are being sold.

Jonathan Houser went over all the different products available now and seasonally.

County Manager Mike James went through the process of the online ordering and Jonathan explained how the pick-up process works.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked about the structure itself and how it works for everyone.

Jonathan said it is a good location and pleased with the building and they are trying to establish the location by marketing since in the past it had been all over town.

County Manager Mike James went over the letter from Hemphill-Randel and the estimate for the plans and drawing for the courthouse.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked if it would be a conceptual drawing.

County Manager Mike James said it would be plans and specs for two options.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve \$5,900 fee for the assessment of the courthouse building. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained the request from Mrs. Nester for the Earth Day clean up contribution.

The Board discussed what the money would be used for.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin stated he felt like it was a rushed request. He noted he was not against cleaning up or the community efforts, just the short notice for the request.

Commissioner John Irwin said he was under the impression the money was primarily for water and snacks for the volunteers.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the \$500 donation request, but asked for a reporting of the expenses when the event is completed. Commissioner Tom Smith seconded. Vote 4 (Chair Evans, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Prince, and Commissioner John Irwin):1 (Commissioner Bobby Irwin)

Chair Mark Evans opened the floor for public comments.

Terry Johnson read his remarks about the ordinance change with the Town of Sparta.

Commissioner John Irwin asked a few related questions.

County Manager Mike James explained the Joint meeting being on Memorial Day and noted the next one would only be in two months so he recommended to cancel the May meeting.

The Board then discussed the dates for June budget meetings.

County Manager Mike James noted the progress of the Sheriff's K9 and handler's training. He told the Board that all department heads would be attending supervisory training through Wilkes Community College over the next couple of months. He also stated that the Employee Wellness Fair was being held at the Emerson Black Building from 10-2 on April 13. He then reminded the Board of the public hearings planned for May 1st. He then thanked the Scouts for cleaning and weeding the flower beds at the Council on Aging building.

Chair Mark Evans reminded the Board of the dates for the Board of Equalization and Review.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would like the Board to revise the way in which they sale property in the future.

Chair Mark Evans said he would agree to publishing and let the citizens know.

Commissioner Tom Smith said this project was new to everyone and that everyone concurred to move forward, but he stated they had learned from the process and agreed maybe to reach out a more to the public throughout the processes would be one change to make in the future.

Commissioner John Irwin stated it was an unsolicited offer. He noted the Board wasn't trying to sale it, someone offered to buy it.

Commissioner Tom Smith thanked everyone for attending the Library Grand Opening.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin agreed that the Library opening was a great day.

Commissioner Larry Prince encouraged people to buy local to help offset the budget numbers.

Commissioner John Irwin said he felt the Board will need to look into an impact fee for down the road.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair