



Alleghany County Board of Commissioners Budget Meeting 6-12-18 Minutes

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in a continued meeting on Tuesday, June 12th, 2018, at 6:30 PM in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina to present the proposed budget to the Commissioners.

Present: Chair Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Tom Smith, Commissioner John Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, County Manager, Mike James, Finance Officer, Karen Evans and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

Chair Mark Evans reconvened the meeting from the June 5th, 2018 budget meeting.

Kay Luffman and Scott Stoker presented for the juvenile crime prevention council explained their budget and their request for new programs to help prevent youth in the judicial system. The leaders of the Why Try program, Robin and Chris, gave a summary of how the program works.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked about possible state funding in the new budget.

Robin said it is possible, but it would not be until budget year 2019, 2020.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked how the school participated.

Scott Stoker said it is school facility and they provide meals during the program.

County Manager Mike James clarified it would be an additional \$24,000 to the budget.

Linda Hash, Soil and Water Director explained her request of a full time technical support position for the county Soil and Water office. She explained her roles as the soil and water director and partnerships through the county as well as the district. She went over all the different funding opportunities for the county.

Chair Evans asked about possible funding from Blue Ridge RC&D for the position.

Linda Hash said she has never heard of that for an administrative job.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin noted his experience with the programs. He said he had been a part of some projects and he felt this was a good program for farmers to participate.

Commissioner Tom Smith said he noticed the recommendation was a grade 66 and wanted to know in round numbers what the position would cost.

County Manager Mike James said \$45,000.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked how this position would benefit the county?

Linda Hash said by helping farmers stay in agriculture and this would help farmers pay for needed projects she went on to say it would help improve the look of the county for visitors and tourists.

Alvin Dixon said not everything can be fixed, but every little bit helps and is one step closer to making things better for us all. He thanked the board for their continued support.

Jeff and Claire Halsey of the historical society gave a brief overview of the historical society. Then they went over visitation numbers and all the current projects they are currently working on. Next, they went over all the awards they have won to date and the growth they've seen over the past years.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if there is anyone else in the county that stores and recreates the history of the county.

Michael Dubose only county group to receive North Carolina grassroots arts grant funds of \$8,000. He then went over all the programs their council provides to the county as well as their partnered projects. He explained the funding decision would affect many organizations throughout the county. Next, he explained the vision for the Alleghany County Arts Council. He then gave examples of surrounding Arts Council and the support from all their local governments.

Chair Mark Evans asked about the state matching funds.

Michael Dubose explained that the state expects for there to be a match of local funds however it can be matched. He said if the match of local funding doesn't match the commitment of the state they will reduce the funding of the next year.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin clarified if you don't receive local funding you will lose state funding. He asked how that amount from the state is determined.

Michael Dubose explained yes and that it is mostly reliant on county population.

Ginger Collins explained the Alleghany Writers program that is funded by the Alleghany Arts Council.

Chair Mark Evans clarified that Alleghany Writers is like a sub group to would receive money from the Arts Council.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked what their association with the studio tour.

Michael Dubose said there is no connection currently, but that would be a goal for the future to bring all those events together.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he was not comfortable cutting their funding after supporting it all these years and there should be some notice moving forward if funding is going to be cut for any organization.

Fred Earl explained he became involved in Alleghany County tennis about 8 years ago giving individual lessons for free. He noted there was a confusion of responsibility concerning the tennis courts. He asked who would be responsible for the courts, for trash, weeds, and windscreens.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked where the property line runs.

Commissioner Tom Smith explained the location of the property line. He then asked if there was enough night time play to warrant leaving the lights on.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the ownership needed to be settled so the responsibility could be determined.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked what the first step should be to improve the courts.

Fred Earl said getting the lines redone to be able to see them clearly.

The Board concluded to have the property line issue investigated.

Deb Clemmons, director of Fiber Best Event, spoke about the awesome turn out at their event at the fairgrounds last weekend and said it was such a good event they had already planned their event for next year. She explained they were looking to have the event on Friday and Saturday hoping to reach more people. She then explained that they didn't have an entrance fee since it was all vendors, so the county received no benefit from their event and they wanted to thank the county for all their work and hospitality, so they were donating \$1,000 to the county recreation department.

Chair Mark Evans asked if there were any updates to the budget.

County Manager Mike James explained the FSA insurance line decreased from \$11,700 to \$3,300 and the adjustment for a portion of the paving at veteran's park to the outdoor recreation fund and the master plan moving it to the outdoor recreation fund. He then informed the board there was a reduction in Medicare line in social services from \$54,000 to \$15,000.

Chair Mark Evans asked about the election machines and said he felt they only needed five machines instead of six.

County Manager Mike James noted the TDA would be an individual fund next year, so it won't technically affect the budget.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked about the additional funding for JCPC this year. County Manager, Mike James explained it was a difference of about \$25,000. Chair Mark Evans explained they were looking to help be proactive on this local issue.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin spoke about supporting programs that bring money to the county.

Chair Mark Evans said the public assistance line in the social services budget may be reduced too.

Karen Evans explained that line is tracking at spending between \$760,000 and \$770,000 and it is currently budgeted at \$900,000.

County Manager Mike James said it would affect the budget by about half; if its reduced by \$200,000 then it would affect the budget by about \$100 because of the reimbursement ratios.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to recess until the next scheduled budget meeting which is Wednesday June 13th, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Chair Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Mark Evans
Chair of the Board