The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 10:00am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Tom Smith, Vice-Chair Karen Leys, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker. Commissioner Larry Davis was absent.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and offered the Invocation.

Chair Smith said there was an addition to the agenda to talk about the Labor Day meeting under F. General Business number three.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the addition of Labor Day meeting discussion to the agenda. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

### AGENDA Monday, August 15, 2016 10:00 AM

10:00 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation Motion on Agenda for August 15, 2016, Meeting Motion to Approve Minutes from April 4, 2016 meeting

#### 10:05 A. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator

- 1. <u>July Releases and Refunds</u> Standard release and refund of both automobile and real property taxes due to reasons listed on the report. <u>Actions Requested</u> Vote on releases and refunds.
- 2. <u>July Collections Report</u> Monthly 2016 collection rates compared to 2015 and 2014 monthly collection rates. **No Action Requested**.
- 3. <u>Enforced Collections Report</u> Summarizes enforced collections for the month of June 2016. **No Action Requested**.
- 4. <u>Payment Agreement Report</u> List of people with payment agreements who did not make payments. **No Action Requested**.
- 5. Motor Vehicle Appeal Action Requested Vote on the appeal.

## 10:10 B. <u>Linda Hash and Aaron Ray Tompkins, Agriculture Advisory Board</u>

- 1. Presentation requesting additional funding for the Board. No Action Requested
- **2.** Appointment of Jay Coman to fill an open position. <u>Action Requested</u> Vote on appointment of Jay Coman

# 10:25 C. <u>Lillis Ward and BJ Edwards, Special Olympics Coordinators</u>

Re: Discuss adding Special Olympics to the Recreation Director's job description from now on. **No Action Required** 

#### 10:35 D. Fred Pfaender and Barbara Halsey

Re: Presentation of Music on Main as well as a request of money. No Action Required

### 10:50 E. <u>Joseph McGrady</u>, Sparta-Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department

Re: Asking the Board to approve the appointment of David Edwards as a member of the Relief Fund to fill an open position. **Action Requested** – Vote on the appointment.

# 10:55 F. <u>General Business</u>

- 1. <u>Daymark Lease Agreement –</u> The Lease agreement with Daymark simply needs to be updated for the current year, it ran out in July 1, 2016. <u>Action Requested</u> Vote on the Lease to be signed by Daymark.
- 2. <u>Labor Day Meeting (addition)</u>

#### G. Public Comments—30 minutes

#### H. <u>Commissioners Comments</u>

1. Bobby Irwin, Veterans Affairs Committee

Re: Discussion about the committee.

- I. Closed Session NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (6)-Personnel
- J. Adjourn

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, went over the vehicle tax refund report.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to approve the vehicle tax refunds. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the auto releases under old tax system.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the auto releases. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the real property releases

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the real property releases. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the real property refunds

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the real property refunds. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Rita Miller went over the collection reports and payment agreements. She continued with a motor vehicle appeal. She stated the current tax value is \$14,667 after collecting recommendations Rita said she would recommend the value be changed to \$11,800.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the motor vehicle appeal to the amount of \$11,800. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

John Wishon, Chair of Ag Advisory Board, asked the Board for a budget request for \$6,500 for two different activities to help promote Alleghany agriculture. One is for a young producer trip to Louisville, Kentucky to help get young farmers involved. The second activity is an Alleghany County Farmer Producer recognition dinner with different awards including an Alleghany County Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Irwin stated that the \$6,500 will be a reoccurring amount each year so the activities will be annual events.

Chair Smith asked if it was realistic to have 12-14 youth attending.

John Wishon stated that seven had gone last year and they all felt they could bring someone that would benefit from the trip.

Commissioner Irwin being on the Agriculture Advisory Board was able to talk about the how the awards and hall of fame would work.

John Wishon noted that North Carolina has an agricultural hall of fame, but there has never been anyone from Alleghany County in it. He went on to say he felt if there can be a County hall of fame it would be the first step towards being able to nominate someone for the State hall of fame.

Commissioner Leys asked what the definition of a young producer was.

John Wishon explained a young producer would be a young farmer between the ages of 18 and 40 who is actively engaged either part-time of fulltime in agriculture.

Commissioner Irwin made a motion to accept the proposal from the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Linda Hash, Soil and Water District Director, asked the Board to appoint Jay Coman to the agricultural advisory board.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to appoint Jay Coman to the Agricultural Advisory committee. Commissioner Leys seconded. Vote 4:0

Lillis Ward and BJ Edwards, Directors of Special Olympics, explained their proposal for the request that Alleghany County Special Olympics Director position be added to the County Parks and Recreation job duties. They went on to explain that 26 counties throughout the State run their Special Olympics program in that way. They went on to say they had spoken with Jim Brown the Parks and Recreations Director and he responded very enthusiastically about the addition. Then they spoke about the program and how it was currently being ran along with the volunteer base and athlete base.

Chair Smith stated that he had a couple concerns. The first being the amount of time Mr. Brown would need to devote to the program on top of what he already does

BJ Edwards explained they had estimated 5 to 6 hours a weeks and stated normally it wouldn't even take that long. She went on to explain the volunteer committees set up so all the work would not be on Jim Brown. He would mostly be the go to person for the State and then to disseminate the information out to all the committees.

Jim Brown explained to the Board that he had reached out to other counties whose parks and recreation department had already taken part of the Special Olympics program and he explained some of his findings.

Chair Smith stated his second concern would be if any fundraising would come through the County.

Lillis Ward said no. She went on to explain the volunteers always set up the one time a year polar plunge which funds the entire year and the 501c3 being used is through the State Special Olympics.

Commissioner Irwin clarified that there would be no fundraising requested Alleghany County.

County Attorney Donna Shumate suggested having an agreement or understanding between Alleghany and the State Special Olympics 501c3 to clarify so there is no mishandling of the money.

Chair Smith stated he felt like with all the discussion he would feel more comfortable if County Attorney Donna Shumate could have some time to look into it.

Fred Pfaender, explained a little of the background and how Music on Main came to be. He went on to talk about the successes of the events so far. He stated that he had spoken with the Town Council and they had agreed to provide half of the requested amount to help support the next two Music on Main events and was requesting the County match what the Town had giving to fulfill their needed amount.

Commissioner Irwin stated from the economic impact side he felt all the businesses and restaurants have been successful during these events because the places have been packed.

Barber Halsey noted that most of the musicians come and perform for little or no cost. She went on to say that she mostly is able to get bands to come because she offers them to stay in her bed and breakfast for free.

Commissioner Leys stated that Town Manager, Bryan Edwards had requested that the Sparta Revitalization Committee (SRC) be the holder of the funds coming from the Town for the Music on Main project.

Commissioner Irwin said he felt like if this project was good for Sparta it is good for the whole County.

Chair Smith asked what exactly the Town will be providing.

Fred Pfaender said that the budget to cover the rest of the events was about \$3,200 and the Town would be providing half of it so \$1,600 and stated they would like to request the County match that at \$1,600 as well.

Commissioner Evans said he liked the event and it was a great thing going on in the County, but his concern would be the organizational piece of it. Where will the money be going to and what will it be used for.

Fred Pfaender stated that the money would be going to the Arts Guild and it was currently their 501c3 that they are working under.

Commissioner Leys said that the Towns money would be going to the SRC according to the Town manager.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve \$1,600 from the economic development fund to the Sparta Revitalization Committee for funding the Music on Main events for September and October. Commissioner Irwin seconded.

Commissioner Evans asked Commissioner Leys if she was confident the SRC will want to take on the Music on Main events.

Commissioner Leys answered yes, absolutely.

Chair Smith noted there had been a motion and a seconded and asked for a vote. Vote 4:0

Joseph McGrady, Chief Sparta-Alleghany Volunteer Fire Department, explained the Relief Fund Board appointments and explained that the County appointment seat had become vacant and asked the Board to appoint David "Bush" Edwards.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to appoint David "Bush" Edwards to the Relief Fund Board. Commissioner Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith explained the Daymark Lease agreement had no changes from last year, it just needed to be updated.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the lease with Daymark. Commissioner Evans seconded. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith stated the first Monday of September falls on Labor Day and it is traditionally moved to Tuesday September 6 at 6:30 pm. Everyone agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Smith open the floor to public comments. Seeing none he then closed that section of the meeting.

Chair Smith then reminded everyone of the joint meeting on August 29, 2016 at 7 PM at the Sparta Town Hall.

Commissioner Irwin congratulated Susan Nilo for becoming the new Director of the Sparta Campus of Wilkes Community College.

Commissioner Evans explained they were working to form the Veterans Advisory Committee to work on the paver fundraiser down at Veterans Park and setting up their own 501c3. He went on to explain what the County Finance Director, Karen Evans had found out from the auditors and said they were still trying to get the process started and all the paperwork in place.

Commissioner Irwin explained that so many people are wanting to purchase these pavers already and how wonderful it was, but they've run into this problem where the County can't accept the money and the VFW had some concerns with their auditors. He went on to explain what the committee is looking at now is a new 501c3 to be able to collect the money on the bricks.

Chair Smith said he was definitely on board, but agreed that they would need to have all the paperwork in place before they begin.

Commissioner Leys stated that she Chair Smith and Commissioner Evans attended the NCACC annual meeting and got to see Amy Lucas, the County Extension Agent and Bryan Cassel, 4-H member, while at the meeting. She talked about the social media class that was fascinating in all they learned about and reminded to be thinking about their legislative goals.

Commissioner Evans talked about a vendor he interacted with while at the NCACC conference. He explained the group would come in for free and put a memorial of the Declaration of Independence. He went on to speak about some of the sessions he had been to and some of the things he had learned. He then talked about the legislative goals and some steps they would need to take to get ready.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Leys second. Vote 4:0

Chair Smith stated that the Board was back from closed session and no decisions were made.

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

Respectfully submitted, Attest:

Lauren Linker Mark Evans
Clerk to the Board Chair