

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January, 3rd 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, Vice-Chair Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner Tom Smith, Commissioner John Irwin, County Attorney Donna Shumate, County Manager Mike James and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

Chair Evans called the meeting to order.
Commissioner Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Prince offered the Invocation.

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

AGENDA
Tuesday, January 3, 2017
6:30 PM

- 6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Motion on Agenda for January 3, 2017 Meeting
Motion on minutes from meeting on June 30, August 1, and October 3, 2016
- A. 6:35 Spotlight Business, Imaging Specialist
- B. 6:50 Public Agenda Comments
- C. 7:05 Alleghany Sparta Trails Association
- D. General Business
 - 1. Resolution of Support – Get Outside Mountain Relay
 - 2. Request for addition to State Maintained secondary road
 - a. River Creek Drive
 - b. Dockery Lane
 - 3. Request for abandonment of State Maintained road
 - a. Old Gap Road
 - 4. Elections Board Assistant Position Creation Grade 57
 - 5. County Property Inventory
 - 6. PSAP Backup
 - 7. County Manager Mike James to discuss his activities and provide updates.
- E. Public Comments—30 minutes
- F. County Manager Comments
- G. Commissioners Comments
- H. Adjourn

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from June 30, August 1, and October 3, 2016.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he couldn't say that the minutes are accurate since it has been six months since the meeting and two of the Commissioners weren't here when the meeting happened.

Commissioner John Irwin said there was a correction it should say the Marine Corp League not the Marine League.

Chair Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Imaging Specialist Jeff Halsey and Claire Halsey started in 1988 as prepress shop in Greensboro, in 2000 moved the business back to Alleghany County and became more graphic work on computer with the evolution of computers. He explained all the projects they have been working on some of the different things their business now does.

Alleghany Sparta Trail Association presented what their vision is for a trail system in Alleghany County and all the work they have done to get this started.

County Manager Mike James went over the resolution of support for the Get Outdoor Mountain Relay.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Get Outside Mountain Relay resolution. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained two NCDOT road requests, two addition to the secondary system.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to adopt both resolutions for addition to the secondary road system. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained a request by the NCDOT to take a road out of the secondary road system.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if the owner would pay taxes on the road and who currently pays taxes on the road.

County Attorney Donna Shumate said no you don't have to pay taxes on any road.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the resolution to take the road out of the secondary road system. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James explained a new elections position that is needed since the resignation of both Election positions.

Commissioner Smith clarified that currently this position is not filled.

County Manager Mike James said currently there is an employee in a lower level position that will be moved into this position.

Commissioners Jon Irwin asked if her current will be filled that she will be vacating.

County Manager said correct, they want to keep her and give her more responsibility of the day to day activities.

Commissioner Smith asked since she would be on salary if she would be considered a full time person.

County Manager Mike James said no it will be the same number of hours the Election Board wanted to give the lady a dollar and hour raise because she is the only employee of the Election Board right now and that couldn't be done under the current salary plan that was adopted last year.

Commissioner Smith asked if there has ever been anyone as an assistant for forty hours.

County Manager Mike James said not to the best of his knowledge and the lady that is working about 25 hours now is just getting a little more pay.

Commissioner Smith wanted to clarify that the created position will stay a part time position.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if in the next step of the salary scale plan if the position would get a raise then as well.

County Manager Mike James said yes.

Commissioner Prince asked if the position would take away some of the directors responsibilities.

County Manager Mike James said not according to the salary plan.

Chair Evans clarified that the Board of Elections is looking for a director and once that position is filled they will keep this person on part time to help.

Commissioner Smith asked if there was a job description for the Board assistant.

Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board said that the position was to help facilitate the hiring of the vacant positions and get them started in the right direction since there would be no one but the Board there.

Commissioner Smith asked if there would still only be two positions in that department.

County Manager Mike James said yes that is correct.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin when the next election would be.

Commissioner John Irwin said yes in November.

County Manager Mike James explained that both the Director and Assistant Director resigned within a short amount of time and this is the only person that has been through an election so the Board wants to keep her to help keep from total chaos.

Commissioner Prince said the dollar and hour may help keep her in this position.

Commissioner Prince made a motion to approve the creation of the Elections position. Commissioner John Irwin Vote 5:0

County Manager Mike James talked about county property and having all the property inspected in the coming months. He then updated the Board on the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Port) backup project currently being worked on. He went on to talk about the QZAB loan and explained the audit report would be done at the next meeting. He informed the Board about audio and video quotes for the Board room.

Chair Evans opened the public comments sections.

Lou Nachman spoke about the issue of missing 911 road signs.

Harry Jones suggested painting coordinates on the road for safety so it wouldn't matter if the signs are gone.

Commissioner Evans stated if there was a better attachments the County should look at it. He then seeing no one else closed the public comments section.

County Manager Mike James talked about the joint meeting with the Sparta Town Council for January 30th at 7pm in the County Administration Building. He went on to speak about the economic plan and said that Mr. Caveny has narrowed it down to two bids and are working to decide between two. He went on to inform the Board of a new business named Mountain Biz Works that is working to help small businesses the project is called Scale Up NC. He then updated the Board on Beamer property and discussed options. He went on to inform the Board that the Legislative Goals conference is next week. He then thanked the department heads hard work and help.

Commissioner John Irwin and Commissioner Prince said they will be at school Friday and Saturday in new commissioner's school.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if County Manager had heard back from the judges from the courthouse meeting. He stated that there was a bunch of trash that has blown to the outside of the fence at the Transfer Facility. He went on to talk about all the trash at the fair grounds.

Commissioner Smith said the library is open for business and there was standing room only. He went on to say that the Library Board would be getting together to discuss a grand opening.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair