



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018, 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, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Tom Smith, Commissioner John Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, County Manager Mike James, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Chair Evans led the pledge of allegiance and Commissioner Tom Smith gave the invocation.

Chair Mark Evans informed the meeting there would be no presentation under item B on the Agenda and will add under General Business the Finance Resolution. Commissioner Bobby Irwin moved to approve the amendments to the Agenda. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin so moved a motion to approve 7/16, 8/13 and 8/20 minutes. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

6:30 pm

- 6:30 Meeting Called to Order
 - Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Motion on Minutes from 7/16, 8/13, 8/20 (pages 1-16)
- 6:40 **Chamber of Commerce Spotlight Business** – Kelly Brady
Murphy Agency
- A. 6:50 **Public Agenda Comments:** Citizens are encouraged to comment at this time on any item(s) specifically listed on this meeting's agenda. Guidelines for public comment are posted in the meeting room.
- B. 7:05 **Presentations to the Board**
 - i. Here! Magazine (Kate Irwin) ***no presentation**
- C. 7:15 **General Business**
 - i. Local option sales tax action plan (Board action requested)
 - ii. Animal Control ordinance discussion (Possible Board action) (pages 17-26)
 - iii. Veterans Park paving discussion (page 27-30)
 - iv. License Plate Agency update
 - v. ***Added – Finance Resolution**

D. 7:45 **Consent Agenda** (Board action requested)

E. 8:00 **Public Comments:** Citizens are encouraged to comment at this time on any item(s) requiring the attention of the Commissioners. Guidelines for public comment are posted in the meeting room.

F. 8:30 **County Manager Comments**

- i. August ABC permits (pages 31-33)
- ii. Transfer station update
- iii. Sparta School construction update
- iv. Upcoming events schedule
- v. Blue Ridge Parkway Project 2D17 (pages 34-35)

G. **County Commissioner Comments**

H. **Adjourn**

Chamber of Commerce Spotlight Business

Katee Hettleman let us know the scheduled spotlight business was not feeling well so she will present next time. Katee introduced Jordon Edwards, Communication Coordinator for the Chamber of Commerce/Main Street Coordinator, Sparta Revitalization Committee. Katee highlighted the visitor's center and the Alleghany Ambassador Program to recruit volunteers.

Jordon explained her role with the Chamber, "The Briefing" publication, welcoming new businesses and ribbon cutting offerings. Katee went over the 2018 Fall Visitors Guide and reminded everyone of the 24th Annual Mountain Heritage Festival next week. The Chamber's next big project is Sparta Magazine and a mailable brochure partnering with Authentically Alleghany. Katee also recognized the 35-year members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Public Agenda Comments

Chair Evans opened public agenda comments. No comments.

Presentations to the Board

No board presentations

General Business

Local Option Sales Tax Plan

Chair Mark Evans said the ¼ cent sales tax has been decided to be put on the ballot in November.

County Manager Mike James asked for the board to expand upon the specificity of how the revenue will be used from the tax.

Chair Evans said the board has come to the decision that the revenue will be split 50/50 half to school safety and half to local fire departments and rescue squad.

Larry Prince asked that the board vote to split the revenue 50/50. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded.

There was discussion between the board about the state of North Carolina possibly assisting schools with safety procedures. County Manager, Mike James said the awards have not been granted yet. He said we do anticipate some money from grant proceeds.

Commissioner John Irwin asked that the Sheriff do a security audit of the schools in the county. He said the NRA has a shield program where they will do the training at no

charge. Commissioner John Irwin said if we do get the sales tax on, the board would need to look at the cap of \$50,000 for the volunteer fire departments.

Chair Mark Evans said there was a motion and second for a 50/50 split for the school safety and fire departments. Vote 5:0

Animal Control Ordinance

County Manager Mike James explained we have had a real increase in animal control calls but our ordinance does not really address vicious dogs and asked for guidance from the board about whether to leave the ordinance, revise it, start over, etc.

There was discussion amongst the board about outdated parts of the ordinance, our current animal control personnel and how to move forward with the ordinance.

County Manager Mike James asked that all commissioners make their notes and send them to him to put the ordinance back on an agenda in October.

Veterans Park Paving

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said there had been a donor who pledged \$11,110 to pay the balance for asphalt paving of Veteran's Park.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the bid from A-1 Paving subject to the receipt of a check for \$11,110 from the Alleghany County Veteran's Advisory Committee. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

License Plate Agency

County Manager Mike James gave an update on the status of the license plate agency application. Rita Miller had an interview last week in Raleigh. There will be a decision in about 60 days. It would mean less than \$10,000 in construction cost and the county could assume that business as early as January. County Manager Mike James explained beyond the construction cost, the business would probably either break even or cost the county \$5,000/yr. He said we are not obligated to take on the business but it is a valuable service and could offer more regular hours as a county entity.

Finance Resolution

Commissioner John Irwin motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

Consent Agenda

Public Comments

Robert Overbay said he appreciated everything the Board of Commissioners has done to help with the paving of Veterans Park.

County Manager Comments

County Manager Mike James reviewed ABC permit applications in the county.

County Manager Mike James said employees are moving Earth clearing the area for new scales at the transfer station. He does not anticipate the transfer station closing any more than one day for the installation of the new scales.

County Manager, Mike James said Sparta School construction should be wrapping up soon.

County Manager Mike James mentioned the rodeo, circus, tax foreclosure sale, and Mountain Heritage Festival are all coming up.

County Manager Mike James went over the NCDOT Blue Ridge Parkway project maintaining some bridges along the BRP.

County Manager, Mike James noted our latest certified population estimate for the unincorporated area of the county is 9,581 people.

Commissioner Comments

Chair Evans attended NCACC Conference and noted the opioid/addiction, child abuse and youth voice sessions he was a part of. He also said there would be a Youth Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the dedication for Memorial Park will be November 11th and he appreciates the support from his fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Smith had no public comments.

Commissioner Prince reiterated the Chamber of Commerce is doing a great job.

Commissioner John Irwin is receiving calls about road signs going missing again. Commissioner John Irwin complimented the transfer station on neatness. He would like to see the panic buttons exercised. He would encourage the Sheriff's dept to contact the NRA to train a deputy on how to evaluate school security. Commissioner John Irwin would like to thank the citizen who wrote the check for Veteran's Park.

Chair Evans received a letter with no name on it. He asked citizens to please put their name to any letters sent in.

Commissioner Larry Prince moved to adjourn. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0