



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 16th, 2019 at 10:00 am in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner John Irwin, and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

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

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve minutes from 12/2 and 12/6. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Bill Osborne clarified the closed session would be pending County Attorney, Donna Shumate's arrival.

AGENDA

Monday, December 16, 2019

10:00 am

10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 12/2 and 12/6 (pages 1-8)

- A. 10:05 **Public Comments/Agenda Items:** 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. 10:15 **Presentations to the Board:**
- i. Chamber of Commerce Spotlight Business
Blue Ridge Santa – Sam and Julia Simmons
- C. 10:30 **General Business (Board action requested)**
- i. Josh Greene, Public Works Director - COA roofing bids (pages 9-10)
 - ii. Amy Lucas, Cooperative Extension – Carmen Long out-of-state travel

- iii. Jacquelyne Isner, NCDHHS – Internship proposal (pages 11-12)
- iv. Communities in Schools funding request (pages 13-18)
- v. Compensation for Interim County Manager
- vi. Satellite lease opportunity (pages 19-21)
- vii. TDA board appointments
Nominations:
 - a. Tommy Maines (current member)
 - b. Shirley Richardson (current member)
 - c. Charlie Scott (previous member)
 - d. Jeff Smith (Local businessman and Sparta Lights)
- viii. Chad Beasley, Alleghany County Schools – Davis Field expansion

D. 11:00 **Consent Agenda** (Board action requested) (pages 22-29)

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
 - a. November auto refunds
 - b. November real and personal property refunds
 - c. Real and personal property releases
 - d. Delinquent taxpayer contracts

E. 11:15 **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. 11:25 **Interim County Manager Comment**

- i. November building permit report (page 30)
- ii. January mid-month meeting date
- iii. Set date for workshop

G. **County Commissioner Comments**

- i. Commissioner Mark Evans
 - a. Purchasing department/agent policy needs
 - b. Facilities security needs
 - c. Annual Safety training plan
 - d. Training pre-approval

H. **Request for Closed Session pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11.(a)-(3) Legal**

I. **Adjourn**

Public Comments/Agenda Items

No comment.

Presentations to the Board

Chamber of Commerce Spotlight Business

Karen O’Leary gave a Chamber update, highlighted new Chamber members and explained the 2020 Alleghany County Magazine.

Blue Ridge Santa, Sam and Julia Simmons, explained their work in the county.

General Business

Josh Greene – COA roofing bids

Josh Greene explained that Alleghany County cannot be the general contractor on the COA building because the county leased the land instead of own the land. Frank Dillard will award the roofing bid but will take recommendations.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said Alleghany County has given the Alleghany Wellness Center over \$700,000 over the years and they would not deed the piece of property to the county which in the long-term cost the county more money.

There was discussion between the board and Josh Greene about why the land for the COA was leased to the county instead of deeded.

Josh Greene explained the liability of the poplar trees at Lions Club pavilion.

Commissioner Mark Evans explained board members should be asking the Chair for permission to address presenters or ask questions.

Josh Greene explained the conversations he has had about someone removing the trees is not for stump removal.

Commissioner Mark Evans explained the county does not own all of Davis Field.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if there was a problem with the deed for Davis Field because of a grant?

Recreation Director, Megan Lyons explained Davis Field was built with a PARTF grant and the only thing it can ever be is a ballfield, it must stay county property and it cannot ever be given to anyone else.

Megan Lyons said she spoke with Phil Trew from HCCOG and he said as long as we are expanding Davis Field for the same purpose, that is fine but they will not give us any more funds to do so.

Megan Lyons explained if we change Davis Field into 2 fields, middle school baseball cannot play their games there.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion for Josh Greene to seek bids to cut the timber at Lions Club pavilion. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Amy Lucas – Carmen Long out-of-state travel

Amy Lucas explained Carmen Long’s out-of-state travel reimbursement request.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve Carmen Long’s out-of-state travel reimbursement. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Jacquelyne Isner – Internship proposal

Jacquelyne Isner explained her proposal to place an intern with EMS/Public Works.

Jacquelyne Isner said Vocational Rehabilitation will assume all liability and pay the intern up to 21 hours per week.

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

Communities in Schools funding request

Glendora Yarbrough said she brought a funding request to the board.

Commissioner Mark Evans clarified the request is for approximately \$40,000.

Glendora Yarbrough said Alleghany Cares has pledged funding contingent upon CIS getting more support from businesses and parents. She said she asked Alleghany Cares how much funding they would like to see and she has not heard back from them.

Commissioner Larry Prince said parents should be paying more for afterschool care.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said this request needs to be addressed during budget season.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked that this request be tabled until the budget process.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said with the community support, he thinks the schools should financially support this program as well.

Commissioner Mark Evans explained other value students receive from Communities in Schools, not just afterschool care.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to allocate \$20,000 to Communities in Schools. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 3:2 (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince nay: Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner John Irwin)

Glendora Yarbrough said the national office has a new and will be rolling out a grant for CIS affiliates who expand or work in rural communities.

Commissioner John Irwin said he supports educational endeavors but our taxpayers are tapped out.

Commissioner Larry Prince said there should be enough money saved from jail meals to pay to cover this and therefore he supports the program.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the county has already spent nearly \$50,000 in contingencies this fiscal year.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said this program is useful and if the schools think this program is this useful, they can come up with \$20,000 and other charities in the county can come up with the additional \$20,000.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would like this program to be tabled until the county starts the budget for next year.

Chair Bill Osborne said there is room to improve on the amount parents are asked to pay and hopefully the schools can kick in some money to keep the program moving forward.

Karen Evans, Finance Officer explained the county will have a savings of approximately \$35,000 from the change in the jail meals contract. She said her comfort level would be around the \$25,000-\$30,000 range.

Compensation for Interim County Manager

Commissioner Mark Evans asked the board to consider compensating the Interim County Manager.

Satellite lease opportunity

Commissioner John Irwin asked if this lease would impact the welding shop going in at Wilkes Community College.

Commissioner Mark Evans explained the correspondence he had exchanged with Roger Neale regarding this satellite lease opportunity.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked that Josh Greene have someone look at the trees around the parking lot at the Wilkes Community College building and said he supports looking further into the lease opportunity.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to move forward with investigating this satellite lease opportunity. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

TDA board appointments

Commissioner Mark Evans explained one of these appointments must be someone who collects the TDA tax.

Chair Bill Osborne made a motion to nominate Shirley Richardson. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to nominate Jeff Smith. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Chad Beasley – Davis Field expansion

Chad Beasley explained the challenges Alleghany County Schools will face if the county expands Davis Field to 2 fields.

There was discussion between the board and Chad Beasley about options to circumvent the issues described by Chad Beasley if the county expands Davis Field to 2 fields.

Megan Edwards, Recreation Director explained why the county cannot use Lady Trojan, Jarrett and bus garage/Sparta fields.

Josh Greene, Public Works Director explained how Recreation could use the 2 fields between the school bus garage and Sparta School gym.

There was discussion between the board, Chad Beasley and Megan Edwards about using Glade or Piney to practice and play baseball/softball.

Megan Edwards explained that 11 and 12 year old baseball and softball only had one team and they played several games in Ashe because they had a field available when Alleghany did not.

Noah Lyon explained what changing Davis Field will do to the middle school baseball program.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to freeze the Davis Field expansion project to include a survey. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if the school board could possibly help with the survey cost.

Chad Beasley said he would ask.

Commissioner Larry Prince said they need to let the schools, Parks and Rec and Maintenance figure this out.

Recess

Consent Agenda

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

Public Comments

No comment.

Interim County Manager Comment

Drew Temple presented the November building permit report.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to move the mid-month meeting to Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

There was discussion about when to have the work session, who to invite and what to discuss.

Commissioner Mark Evans said it would be a shame to have this work session before the new county manager arrives.

Drew Temple suggested asking Michael Carter to attend the work session.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to have the work session on December 30th to start roughly at 9:00 am and invite Mr. Carter. No second.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to schedule the work session based on the availability of the new county manager. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin aye: Commissioner Bobby Irwin)

Drew Temple said she has a meeting with Daniel Roten, Wendy Williams, Jessica Welborn and Phil Trew to go over the final fire districts then present them to the fire districts at the next fire commission meeting.

Drew Temple said filing ends Friday, 12/20 at noon.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans said we need to look at a purchasing department/agency policy, facilities security, annual safety training and training pre-approval.

Commissioner John Irwin recommended getting a light system to ask for permission to address the meeting.

Commissioner Larry Prince said he is encouraged by the discussion and wished the citizens a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and asked about the upset bid of the Moxley Rd/18 property.

Chair Bill Osborne wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked Sheriff Maines for his Run for a Claus.

Request for Closed Session pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11.(a)-(3) Legal

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the closed session until legal counsel is available at the next monthly meeting. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0

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

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Temple,
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne,
Chairman