



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 19th, 2021 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 Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klien and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to approve minutes from 1/4. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

## AGENDA

Tuesday January 19, 2021

10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order  
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation  
Approval of agenda  
Motion on minutes from 1/4 (pages 1-4)
- 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. 10:20 **Presentations to the Board**
- i. Earthquake update – Daniel Roten
  - ii. AppHealth/Alleghany Health COVID-19 vaccine update
  - iii. TDA quarterly update – Steve Mason
  - iv. Fuel purchase update – Sidney Moxley, Assistance Finance Officer
  - v. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Director
  - vi. Facilities update - David Spicer, Public Works Director
  - vii. Excise tax update – Miranda Roupe, Register of Deeds
- C. 10:40 **General Business**
- a. Emergency Paid Sick Leave extension – April Hamm
  - b. AIM van bids (pages 5-6)
  - c. HCCOG Charter amendment (pages 7-13)
  - d. HCCOG Joint Community Advisory Committee appointment – Leslie Choate (page 14)
- D. 11:00 **Consent Agenda (Board action requested)**
- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 15-29)
    - a. License Plate Agency month end report
    - b. December auto refunds
    - c. December real and personal property refunds
    - d. Real and personal property releases
    - e. Collections monthly totals report

- f. Delinquent taxpayer contracts
- g. Motor vehicle appeal
- h. Application for property tax relief
- i. Line item transfer request

E. 11:10 **County Manager Comments**  
December building inspection report (page 30)

F. 11:30 **County Commissioner Comments**

G. **Adjourn**

**Public Comments**

William Bottomley highlighted the 2020 Small Business Marketing Initiative.

**Presentations to the Board**

Earthquake update

Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Coordinator said the Fairgrounds sewer project is complete. He said the County and Town will be responsible for the remaining gravel expense which is approximately \$12,000 total to be paid back over the next couple of years, we are waiting on the final document for the County to sign. He said the 5 temporary-housing campers are all here. He said 50 residents have received payment for earthquake repair.

COVID-19 vaccine update

Jen Greene gave an update on the schedule for COVID-19 vaccines in North Carolina, protocol for signing up for the vaccine, plans for distribution, volunteers and limited supply. She said the State is looking at how many doses are being entered into the mass database to decide how many more doses a county receives. She said they are testing Mondays and Thursdays. She said AppHealth is working to accommodate home-bound citizens to group them together to be sure the vaccine is used once the vials are punctured.

TDA quarterly update

Steve Mason gave the quarterly TDA update. He invited the Board to attend a meeting this quarter and went over the schedule for the next few months.

Fuel purchase update

Sidney Moxley, Assistant Finance Officer explained her report on fuel purchases. She said she would look further to spot-check a few more dates on fuel purchases.

Financial update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave the financial update. She said the auditors will be here next Monday for a few days. She said the Finance office has been sending documents to the auditors over the past few months.

Facilities update

David Spicer, Public Works Director said bids were opened for construction renovation of earthquake damage last week. He said the weather has hindered the roof repair in the past couple of weeks but the project will be coming up shortly. He said a company did come fix the security door inside. He said the new Courtroom is on schedule and hope to have a rough-in inspection this week so they can carry in with insulation and installation of sheetrock. He answered Commissioner John Irwin's concerns about the floor joist. He said the Transfer Station staff is working diligently to improve the grounds. He said a \$30,000 grant is almost ready to be submitted for a compactor for recycling so we can comingle recyclable materials that come in except for corrugated cardboard. He said once the bailor is in working order, corrugated cardboard recycling can continue as well. He said the County's contribution to continuing and improving recycling will be approximately \$11,000. He said earthquake repairs in County buildings will begin soon. He said the project at the Fairgrounds has been tested

and is in working order. He said the hookups with the campers have been insulated and heat-taped so it can be a year-round project. He said ServPro will be finished at Daymark soon so contractors can come estimate repairs.

County Manager, Michael Carter said since there is a discrepancy in the earthquake repair amounts at the Courthouse, he has decided to allow Daniel Roten to take the bid tabulation back to the State to ask for more repair funds. He said there is a holdup with the Historical Designation at the Courthouse but he has asked the engineering firm to accelerated getting this settled so the roof repair can begin.

#### Excise Tax update

Miranda Roupe, Register of Deeds gave an update on excise tax received in Alleghany County and highlighted the spike in real estate sales. She said her office has already exceeded last year's total excise tax collection.

### **General Business**

#### EPSL extension

April Hamm, HR Officer explained the need to extend Emergency Paid Sick Leave.

It was consensus of the Board to extend this leave so employees are not coming to work sick.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to extend the EPSL for Alleghany County employees that was provided under the FFCRA in the spring of 2020 for six months beginning January 1, 2021 for employees that have not used their allocation of 80 hours, and to assist any newer employees that may not have 80 hours that may be needed for Coronavirus sickness or quarantine family situations. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

#### AIM van bids

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the high bid. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

#### HCCOG charter amendments

County Manager, Michael Carter explained his concerns with the Charter amendments for the HCCOG.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion not to accept the HCCOG Charter amendments or the proposed Resolution. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

#### HCCOG committee appointment

Chair Bill Osborne made a motion to appoint Leslie Choate to the HCCOG Joint Community Advisory committee. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 3:1 (aye: Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman nay: Commissioner John Irwin)

### **Consent Agenda**

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator gave the LAP report.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:0.

### **County Manager comments**

County Manager, Michael Carter encouraged the Board to look over the December building inspection report.

County Manager, Michael Carter said as a follow-up to the meeting with Republic Services, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner John Irwin and David Spicer, we are looking at a date to tour their facility and plan a follow-up meeting.

County Manager, Michael Carter said the Tarheel League is looking at starting baseball and softball registration later in the Spring than usual. He asked the Board to think about how they want to proceed with the Rec Sports participation in Alleghany County to discuss at the next meeting.

County Manager, Michael Carter proposed an additional work session for the last Thursday or Friday of this month to be able to gather information for the February meeting to consider BDC/ACEDC information, Dispatch and Animal Control.

There was discussion about planning for one work session every month moving forward. The Board decided to have a work session on 1/28 from 3:00 pm from 5:00 pm.

#### **County Commissioner comments**

Commissioner John Irwin said he would only agree to the joint meeting with the Town of Sparta if it can be televised.

County Mechelle Luffman thanked the Town Council and the Mayor for allowing her to speak and graciously waiving the fees for the water hookup for the new Courthouse facility.

Commissioner John Irwin thanked the Town for waiving the water fees and for the efforts to get the water/sewer hookup at the Fairgrounds. He said the County has lost a family available to keep foster children. He said DSS pays \$1,500 per month in long distance charges. He said the County has given the BDC \$400,000 and Wilkes Community College pays the County \$25 rent. He encouraged citizens to get involved.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said at budget time, he hoped to address the part-time to full-time situation with the VSO position. He complimented the Transfer Station employees on the appearance of the facility. He expressed his concerns with the lip on the tipping floor.

Chair Bill Osborne thanked the Town for waiving the fees. He said we will all prosper from the Fairgrounds project. He said the Board needs to e-mail Senator Ballard and Rep Stevens about COVID-19 doses available for Alleghany County.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple  
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne  
Chairman