



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 25th, 2021 at 4:30 pm at the Village Park Conference & Event Center 308 Memorial Park Drive, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klein and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

**AGENDA**  
Monday January 25, 2021  
4:30 pm

- 4:30 Meeting called to order  
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation  
Approval of agenda
  
- A. 4:35 **General Business**
  - i. Law enforcement challenges for handling mental health and drug related IVCs at Alleghany Health
  - ii. Final needs and status of Streetscape such as waste containers, benches, etc.
  - iii. Recycling and cardboard
  - iv. Collection of Town taxes and associated fees
  
- B. **Town Manager Comments**
  
- C. **County Manager Comments**
  
- D. **Town Council Comments**
  
- E. **County Commissioner Comments**
  
- F. **Adjourn**

Mayor Wes Brinegar apologized to Commissioner Mechelle Luffman for his comments at the Town Council meeting.

Mayor Wes Brinegar said the Town and County don't have anything to do with the Earthquake Relief Fund and asked that the Alleghany News or anyone else reporting on meetings get the information right.

**General Business**

Law enforcement challenges for handling mental health and drug related IVCs at Alleghany Health

Commissioner Mark Evans explained there had been discussion a few years ago about changes with mental health and Vaya Health and wanted to see what the situation was "on the ground" with our local law enforcement.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman explained that if someone is placed in our hospital under involuntary commitment, a law enforcement officer must sit with the patient until they are moved to the appropriate facility.

Commissioner John Irwin said he has spoken with DSS and with the pandemic, a mobile crisis team has been implemented which is a phone call. He said one of the challenges is that if there is a suicidal patient, the professional cannot read the patient's body language. He said there are simply not enough mental health facilities in North Carolina.

Mayor Wes Brinegar asked if the County could get the newly revised hospital involved in hiring security guards.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said there was discussion between the Vaya Health Board and Alleghany Health to share in the cost of security at the hospital.

Lieutenant Nick Hawks encouraged the idea of the hospital sharing responsibility of security. He said the Sheriff's Department sits with IVCs as a courtesy, not per General Statute. He said commitments are very time consuming and the state has shut down facilities so the wait times at the hospital are much longer than they used to be.

Councilmember Milly Richardson asked if it would be appropriate to have a joint Resolution asking Alleghany Health to provide their own security.

Councilman Cole Edwards said his wife had placed patients out of state as a Care Coordinator in mobile crisis because there isn't enough room at facilities in-state. He encouraged the County to reach out to Brian Ingraham with Vaya to solve this problem.

Chief Bob Lane said he sat on an IVC for 3 weeks over Christmas and the patient, in his opinion, needed outpatient treatment. He said our hospital is one of the few around that does not have security. He said he assesses commitments as to whether they need to "sit on" them 24/7 and sometimes the doctor will tell him they don't need around the clock surveillance.

Town Manager, Ryan Wilmoth quoted session law that towns and counties must provide a transportation plan.

There was discussion about whether to pass a joint resolution pressing the hospital to provide security to free up our law enforcement.

Councilman John Brady made the recommendation that the Managers, Mayor and Chair meet with these people to come up with a plan to implement whatever they come up with.

Final needs and status of Streetscape such as waste containers, benches, etc.

Town Manager, Ryan Wilmoth updated the group on Streetscape. He said when all said and done, the Town actually expended 98.6% of their budget for Streetscape. He said the loan dollars were expended first and the grant dollars expended last. He said to maximize the remaining funds, the Town decided to purchase fixtures and repair the Evergreen parking to replace public parking that was lost during the project. He said with the remaining funds, the Town is going to procure 6 benches and 6 trashcans. He said the SRC has some money to contribute to benches, planters and pedestrian light-pole fixtures.

Recycling and cardboard

David Spicer, Public Works Director said the County is still recycling metal, white goods, tires and oil. He said he has been in the process of writing a grant to include a 3-yard compactor and (2) 40-yard roll off containers to process comingled recycling. He said paper, plastic, cans will go into the same hopper. He said the grant is due February 15<sup>th</sup>. He said the cardboard tipping fee has been implemented on a temporary basis. He said he is working diligently on a plan for the County to take corrugated cardboard again.

Mayor Wes Brinegar said the cardboard tipping fee does not apply to household trash.

David Spicer said the biggest generators of cardboard are businesses. He said between October and December, the transfer station is overwhelmed with cardboard making the waste loads lighter. He said if we get the comingled recycling grant, we cannot spend the money until July 1. If we get the grant, he has a plan to implement the process by September 1. He said the cardboard bailor needs an overhaul.

Councilman John Brady said the County or Town or whatever should think about getting a small compactor just for cardboard because the bailor is in bad shape and not efficient.

David Spicer said most facilities will not handle corrugated cardboard mixed with comingled recycling.

Councilman John Brady said he would entertain the idea to look at a joint venture between the County and Town to purchase a cardboard only compactor.

David Spicer said he is exploring different cardboard recycling options and is trying his best to find a suitable vendor. He explained there won't be need for an employee to watch the recycling operation all the time with the compactor he is planning on purchasing. He said the platform would not support a skidsteer or dumptruck.

#### Collection of town taxes and associated fees

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the history of the interlocal agreement between the County and Town for tax collection. He cited the termination paragraph discussing how one of the parties to the agreement could terminate.

Mayor Wes Brinegar said the Town needs to know ASAP whether the County is interested in continuing to collect the Town's taxes. He said he was not contacted or called about canceling the contract and he felt blindsided.

County Manager, Michael Carter said he hoped to have the revised agreement to the County Attorney by mid-February.

#### Town Manager Comments

Town Manager, Ryan Wilmoth thanked the boards, thanked DW Miles for providing the space at no charge, thanked Charlie Scott for setting the meeting up and thanked County Manager Michael Carter.

#### County Commissioner comments

Commissioner John Irwin explained unfunded mandates on the County.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman thanked Mayor Wes Brinegar for his apology. She said tonight has been a great start and she looks forward to having great meetings like this and being able to show a united front.

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked the Council for their help with the water connections at their recent meeting.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the hospital is going to look into their budget to see if they can help with security. He said there are over 2,000 people on the waiting list for the COVID-19 vaccine. He said the hospital had given 400 doses to the County so the County can administer them.

#### Town Council comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Parlier said he hoped the group could get these issues worked out. He said one-stop tax collection is essential.

Councilman John Brady thanked Mr. Carter and Ryan for setting this meeting up. He said he looks forward to the next meeting and the Council is always there to listen.

Councilmember Milly Richardson thanked everyone for coming, said our strength is working together, said she feels confident everyone can civilly and responsibly do the business of the community and thanked the managers.

Councilman Cole Edwards thanked everyone and said he is in a precarious position as a County employee. He said after the paper last week, his words looked differently than he meant them.

Chair Bill Osborne said a lot has been accomplished and he said with the tax collection, the County is only looking to cover the cost.

Mayor Wes Brinegar thanked everyone and said we are not all going to agree. He said if he has offended anyone, he sincerely apologizes. He asked who the Animal Control Officer is.

County Manager, Michael Carter said boots on the ground animal control is the County Maintenance department. He said one item on the work session is the Animal Control ordinance.

David Spicer said in the evening, citizens need to call dispatch and they will call him. He said during the day, call the Transfer Station for animal control issues.

There was a motion and a second to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple  
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne  
Chairman