



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 15th, 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 Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Attorney, Heather Klein and Clerk to the Board Drew Todd.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

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County Commissioners
Bill Osborne
Bobby Irwin
Mark Evans
Mechelle Luffman
John U. Irwin, Jr.

County Manager
Michael L. Carter

Clerk to the Board
Drew Todd

County Attorney
Heather R. Klein

AGENDA

**Monday November 15th, 2021
10:00 am**

10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 7/6 work session, 8/2 work session,
8/2 (pages 1-7)

- A. **10:05 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; please use the sign-up sheet provided.
- B. **10:20 Presentations to the Board**
- i. Introduce new IT Administrator, Chris Miller
 - ii. Facilities update – David Spicer, Public Works Director
 - iii. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Officer
 - iv. Fairgrounds priority list (pages 8-9)
 - v. Veterans Park update – Eric Hamilton, Soil and Water
 - vi. TDA Quarterly Report – Steve Mason
- C. **11:00 General Business**
- a. Edwin Barquet (River Country Estates) – Request for release of fire debris from clubhouse fire
 - b. Soil and Water Office Admin and Education Coordinator job description – Eric Hamilton (pages 10-12)

- c. Nominations Committee recap – Commissioner John Irwin (pages 13-14)
- d. Alleghany County Library Board appointment
Vacancy due to Susan Nilo accepting position with NWRL
- e. TDA appointments including Chair
Members with expired/expiring terms
 - a. Charlie Scott
 - b. Jeff Smith
 - c. Bill Nilo
- f. AIM 5311 Designee Certification Form Resolution – Tiffany Boyer, AIM (page 15)
- g. 90 South Main follow-up – County Manager, Michael Carter
- h. ARPA Funds appropriations – April Hamm, Finance Officer
- i. Premium/Hazard pay policy – April Hamm, Finance Officer (page 16)
- j. Recreation line item transfer – Cole Edwards, Recreation Director (page 17)
- k. Courthouse tree and luminaria walk (page 18)
- l. Telephone/Internet consideration

D. 12:00 Consent Agenda (Board action requested) (pages 19-29)

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
 - a. License Plate Agency month end report
 - b. October auto refunds
 - c. October real and personal property refunds
 - d. Real and personal property releases
 - e. Collections monthly totals report
 - f. Delinquent taxpayer contracts

E. 12:25 County Manager Comments
October building inspections report (page 30)

F. 12:30 County Commissioner Comments

G. Adjourn

Public Comments

Jeff Smith read a paper about Charlie Scott's accomplishments on the TDA including 13 specific projects. He said Steve Mason was appointed to the Fairgrounds Board unknowing by the TDA and hasn't given any updates since. He said no other TDA board members have brought new ideas to the table at this time. He said the bylaws of the TDA have never been adopted. He read statistics about the Fair. He read statistics about Cycle NC. He said if Mr. Scott is replaced as secretary, he wants to be replaced too.

Presentations to the Board

Introduce IT Administrator

County Manager, Michael Carter introduced Chris Miller, IT Administrator.

Facilities update

David Spicer, Public Works Director said a plan is still being formulated for 90 S Main. He said the new display is waiting on the brick mason at Veterans Park. He said the last thing we are waiting on is the flooring for Administration building when the materials arrive. He said everything that needs to be has been winterized. He said the roof is on and doesn't leak. He said he has 2 estimates on repairing the water damage in the old roof section of the Courthouse; Stone Restoration \$37,736.13, Caldwell Construction

\$27,829.48. He said after these repairs, the Courthouse would pretty much be to where it used to be.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to give David and the County Manager the authority to go ahead and try to negotiate some of the maintenance issues with the lowest bidder in this and then bring it back to the board for a final vote. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

David Spicer explained the recycling flyer he provided. He gave an Animal Control update. He said he has not run across any potential rabies at this time. He said the recycling center has the right to reject our recycling loads and when they do that, it becomes a load of trash which defeats the purpose of recycling. He said it is \$45/ton processing fee. He said he and County Manager, Michael Carter are working on getting us a truck to do our own transportation. He explained which type of plastic cups/bottles are acceptable for recycling. He said there is about 2/3 of a container full of recycling. He said there is a container more than 1/2 full of cardboard. He said he is still working on signage. He said they try to make a courteous effort for people not to have to wait during evergreen season.

Financial update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave a financial update.

Fairgrounds priority list

Cole Edwards, Recreation Director explained the Fairgrounds maintenance items priority list.

There was discussion between Commissioner Bobby Irwin and Chair Bill Osborne about getting paving and striping quotes for the Fairgrounds.

Veterans Park update

Eric Hamilton, Soil and Water Director said we got the Ecosystem Enhancement Grant through DOJ and Division of Water Resources grant meaning we are about \$60,000 short of having the project fully funded. He said the CCAP grant should be awarded around mid-December as well as the floodplain mitigation funds in the state budget. He said the total budget will be around \$370,000-\$380,000.

TDA Quarterly Report

Steve Mason explained the TDA handout he distributed. He said between 12-15 applications are presented to the Board throughout the year. He said they are being proactive with going after events rather than waiting on them to come to the TDA.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin suggested giving smaller grants to more applicants.

Commissioner John Irwin said in 2019 and 2021, there is no record of anyone approving to obligate the funds or transfer the funds to the Chamber of Economic and Tourism Development. He read minutes from the TDA Board meeting from May, 2021 describing the process for approving or denying grant requests submitted to the TDA. He then said he brought up in 2019 that the bylaws of the TDA had never been approved by the Board of Commissioners.

There was discussion between Commissioner John Irwin and Steve Mason about the proposed \$20,000 transfer to the Chamber of Commerce in 2020 and 2021.

Steve Mason agreed there has been recent success on the TDA. He said minutes, issues, budgets, agendas, etc. are available in the Finance office at all times.

Commissioner John Irwin read from the Ordinance passed December 1, 2011.

Steve Mason explained his interpretation of the membership qualifications for members of the TDA.

County Attorney, Heather Klein agreed with Steve Mason's interpretation of the qualifications for members of the TDA citing "members can serve dual roles."

Recess

General Business

River Country Estates – request for release of fire debris

Ann Singer, owner of River Country Estates and Edwin Barquette explained the request for release of fire debris from the catastrophic loss of River Country Estates clubhouse. She said her structural engineer said most of the structure will have to be demolished. She asked for relief for the remaining debris that doesn't fall into the no-cost, allowable categories at the Transfer Station. She said it is impossible to actually estimate how much debris that needs to be hauled.

County Manager, Michael Carter said the County needs more details before the Board could consider any relief for debris. He asked David Spicer to reach out to DEQ about debris tables.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the request for release of fire debris until 12/20. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Soil and Water Admin and Education Coordinator

Eric Hamilton explained the proposed changes to the Admin and Education Coordinator job description.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Soil and Water Admin and Education Coordinator revised job description. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Nominating Committee recap

Commissioner John Irwin reviewed the Nominating Committee meeting and listed the current positions for reappointment.

Alleghany County Library Board appointment

Commissioner John Irwin said Dale Caveny was removed from the Workforce Development Committee for nonparticipation and described the speculation as to why he wasn't attending and how he should have informed the Board of Commissioners. He said Dale Caveny's brother has passed. He said he recommends the appointment of Sheila Franklin.

Chair Bill Osborne said Dale Caveny was contacted this morning and is able to fulfill the obligations of the Library Board.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said Dale Caveny was the unanimous nominee by the Library Board.

Commissioner John Irwin said it's the Board of Commissioners' responsibility to nominate, check, make sure they're qualified and vote on the boards.

Chair Bill Osborne made a motion to appoint Dale Caveny to the Alleghany County Library Board. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman; nay: Commissioner John Irwin)

TDA appointments

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to appoint Jeff Smith as Chairman of the TDA. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. County Attorney, Heather Klein explained the TDA Board member qualifications again. *Rescinded

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to appoint Jeff Smith for the unexpired term. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 3:2 (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner John Irwin nay: Chair Bill Osborne Commissioner Mechelle Luffman)

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to reappoint Bill Nilo to the Board. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve Charlie Scott to the TDA Board. There was a second. Vote 3:2 (aye: Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin nay: Commissioner Mark Evans, Chair Bill Osborne)

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to appoint Jeff Smith as Chair of the TDA. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 2:3 (aye: Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner John Irwin, nay: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman)

Chair Bill Osborne made a motion to nominate Steve Mason as the Chair of the TDA. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman nay: Commissioner John Irwin)

AIM 5311 Designee Certification Form Resolution

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the AIM Resolution. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

90 S Main follow-up

County Manager, Michael Carter said he would like to proceed with Action 1 presented by RND Architects to remove the addition and put back in place an entrance-way.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve option 1. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

ARPA Funds appropriation

April Hamm, Finance Officer explained the proposed ARPA Funds appropriations discussed at the work session.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the ARPA Funds appropriations. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Premium/Hazard pay Policy

April Hamm presented the premium pay policy.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the premium pay policy. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Recreation line-item transfer

Cole Edwards updated the Board on progress at the disc golf course. He explained his request for funds from the "Beamer Fund" for tee-pads.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the line-item transfer. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Courthouse tree/luminaria walk

Commissioner Bobby Irwin explained the proposed courthouse tree/luminaria walk.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the courthouse tree/luminaria walk. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Telephone/internet consideration

Commissioner John Irwin moved to rescind the motion relating to the bid on the telephone system which was voted on Nov. 1, 2021. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the low bid for the subject telephone system Ideacom. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 3:2 (aye: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner John Irwin nay: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman)

Consent Agenda

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the consent agenda as published. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

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

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner John Irwin said whenever you're appointed to a committee, you devote yourself to the committee by showing up, participating and getting something done. He said he doesn't like people trying to fill their resume. He said on Dec. 6, you can file for County Commissioner.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she believes in taking care of our people, shopping local and our local Internet provider who provides jobs to our County and returns money to our tax base, not Greensboro, NC.

Commissioner Mark Evans said we need to recognize all of our volunteers in different areas where they serve. He said county and town employees go above and beyond and thanked everyone serving to help provide and meet the needs of the county.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin thanked Parks & Rec, Maintenance and Town of Sparta for helping with the Veterans Day Ceremony. He thanked Michael Carter and commissioners who did for attending. He said the brick sale is still going on and the brick sale is for any veteran.

Chair Bill Osborne said the telephone/internet bid was taken very seriously. He said they are governed by the general statutes of NC and it specifically states the obligation to take the cheapest bid. He said the actions taken today were in the best interest of Alleghany County. He said the Christmas parade is 11/27 at 2 pm. and thanked the volunteers in the county. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman