



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 6th, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

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

AGENDA

Monday, December 6, 2021

6:00 pm

- 6:00 Meeting called to order
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Invocation
 - Approval of agenda
 - Motion on minutes from 8/16 work session, 8/19, 9/20, 10/4 work session, 10/4, 10/7, 10/18 (pages 1-25)

6:05 **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.

- A. 6:20 **Elect Board Chair**
 - Elect Board Vice-Chair**
 - Appoint Clerk to the Board**
 - Appoint County Attorney**
 - Review and revise Board appointments (pages 26-28)**
 - Rules of Procedures (pages 29-38)**
- B. 6:40 **Presentations to the Board:**
 - i. Rescue Squad annual presentation – Chief Jason Long
- C. 7:00 **General Business:**
 - i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 39-47)
 - a. Request for release/refund of solid waste fee
 - b. Requests to approve late applications
 - c. “Good cause” definition
 - ii. 2022 holiday calendar (page 48)
 - iii. NCDOT 93 and 221 – Commissioner Bobby Irwin
 - iv. Vaya County Commissioner Advisory Board appointment – Commissioner John Irwin (pages 49-51)
 - v. Resolution Supporting Passage of Heartbeat Bill - Commissioner Bill Osborne (pages 52-53)

- vi. Resolution in support of individual freedom over personal vaccination status – Commissioner Bill Osborne (pages 54-55)
- vii. Budget deadline – County Manager, Michael Carter
- viii. General Fund budget amendment #3 – April Hamm, Finance Officer (page 56)
- ix. Truist Resolution for deposit account – April Hamm, Finance officer (pages 57-58)
- x. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for licensed engineer/architect relating to design work and demo of 90 S Main – County Manager, Michael Carter
- xi. Request to facilitate a study on the Courthouse by licensed engineer/architect

D. 7:30 **County Manager Comments**

E. 7:40 **County Commissioner Comments**

F. **Request for Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-3 To consult with an attorney, 6 Personnel**

G. **Adjourn**

Public Comment

No comment

Elect Board Chair

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman nominated Bill Osborne as Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Elect Vice-Chair

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman nominated Commissioner Bobby Irwin as Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Appoint Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to reappoint Drew Todd as Clerk to the Board. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Appoint County Attorney

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to appoint Heather Klein as County Attorney. There was a second. Vote 5:0.

Review and revise Board appointments

The Board of Commissioners reviewed and revised all boards with Commissioner appointees.

Rules of Procedure

There was discussion between the Board, County Manager, Michael Carter and Clerk to the Board, Drew Todd about changes to the Rules of Procedures.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the Rules of Procedures until mid-month. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0

Presentations to the Board

Alleghany Rescue Squad annual report

Chief Jason Long gave the Rescue Squad annual report. There was discussion about funding for the Rescue Squad.

General Business

Request for release/refund of solid waste fee

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve both requests for release of solid waste fee. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Request for approval of late application

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the request for late application. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Define “good cause”

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to put “define good cause” on the January work session agenda. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

2022 State holiday schedule

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the 2022 State holiday schedule. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

NCDOT 93 and 221

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would like to see what the next steps would be to get the speed limits changed on 93 and 221.

Vaya CCAB

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to appoint Commissioner Mechelle Luffman and DSS Director Lisa Osborne to the Vaya CCAB board. Chair Bill Osborne seconded.

Resolution Supporting Passage of a NC “Heartbeat Bill”

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting Passage of a NC “Heartbeat Bill.” Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0
Chair Bill Osborne said he would like to see the Commissioners take time to further research this bill before voting.

Resolution in Support of Individual Freedom

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the Resolution in Support of Individual freedom over persona vaccination status. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Budget deadline

County Manager, Michael Carter said he would like to set the budget deadline for 2/11/21.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to set the budget deadline for 2/11/21. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

General Fund budget amendment #3

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General fund budget amendment #3. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

General Fund budget amendment #4

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve general fund budget amendment #4. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0

Truist Signature Resolution

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the proposed signature resolution. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

RFQ engineer/architect work 90 S Main

County Manager, Michael Carter explained why he would like to put out a RFQ for engineer/architect work at 90 S Main.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to authorize County Manager, Michael Carter to put out an RFQ for architect/engineer services for 90 S Main. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

RFQ for facility study on the Courthouse

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the need for a facility study on the Courthouse money.

County Manager, Michael Carter said it should be an approved use of the \$2M that may be coming from the state.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to allow County Manager, Michael Carter to put out an RFQ for a facility study at the Courthouse. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter said we have several big things coming up; budget, second Courtroom, fixing up our current Courthouse and he's thankful for that.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans said he hopes everyone enjoys the season for what it is. He encouraged everyone to jump in since filing opened today. He thanked all staff for the positive things going on under County Manager, Michael Carter's leadership.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin congratulated the Town Chamber of Commerce on the parade. He said the hospital dedication was very nice. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He said Toyota Motor North America is building a major scale battery manufacturing plant in Greensboro with an investment of \$1.29B. He said the community colleges will be training employees for this plant. He asked about paving estimates at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner John Irwin congratulated the County Manager and his staff on the audit findings. He said the wording in the Alleghany News does not reflect the actual events of awarding the telephone/internet RFP. He explained when and why governments have to bid. He said the telephone RFP met the requirements so we went out for bid. He said NCGS also says we must accept the lowest bid unless we have reasonable doubt that they can perform. He said the winning company, Ideacom, provides telephone and internet for Baptist hospital, Camp Lejune, Cherry Point, New River, Alexander County. He said Skyline is the 8th largest telephone cooperative in the nation. He wished everyone a happy holiday season. He said he enjoyed the parade on his campaign platform.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she toured the hospital expansion and it's beautiful. She said she believes in the vaccine but she doesn't believe you can mandate people to have a medication put into their arm. She said everyone has to make their own personal decision about the vaccine.

Chair Bill Osborne said the hospital ceremony was very nice and there is a lot to be proud of. He said the Christmas parade was very nice and the Chamber did a great job. He said he appreciates the Rescue Squad.

Request for Closed Session

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to go into closed session to include April Hamm, HR Officer. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Chair Bill Osborne said no action was taken during closed session.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to promote the GIS Specialist pay grade 63 to the combined GIS Administrator pay grade 70. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion add the state-mandated Adult Protective Services position at DSS at grade 71A. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to increase all full-time DSS workers' salaries by a one-time \$2,000 adjustment beginning January 2022. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to increase all full-time Sheriff's office law enforcement personnel salaries by a one-time adjustment of \$2,000 beginning January 2022.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to increase all certified detention officers' salaries by a one-time adjustment of \$2,000 beginning January 2022. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

There was a motion and second to adjourn. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman