



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 1st, 2021 at 6:00 pm 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 Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klien and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

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

AGENDA
Monday, February 1, 2021
6:00 pm

6:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
Approval of agenda

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. 6:30 **Presentations to the Board:**

- i. Wilkes Community College - Dr. Jeff Cox
- ii. Rescue Squad presentation – Chief, Jason Long
- iii. Veterans Services Officer introduction – Marge Gray

B. 6:40 **General Business:**

- i. Land swap with Town of Sparta
- ii. Rec sports participation
- iii. David Spicer, Public Works Director
 - a. Recycling grant application approval (potential matching funds)
- iv. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 1-9)
 - a. Report of unpaid tax
 - b. Set date for advertisement of 2020 unpaid tax liens
 - c. Set dates for 2020 Board of Equalization and Review hearings
 - d. Revaluation update
- v. Award Courthouse earthquake damage bid (pages 10-25)

C. 7:00 **County Manager Comments**

D. 7:10 **County Commissioner Comments**

E. **Adjourn**

Presentations to the Board

Wilkes Community College – Dr. Jeff Cox

Dr. Jeff Cox explained the relationship between the County and Wilkes Community College. He explained the Golden Leaf grant WCC is pursuing. There was some discussion about the lease between the County and WCC. He introduced Dr. Yolanda Wilson, Vice President of Instruction.

Susan Nilo gave a presentation about WCC Alleghany Center.

Rescue Squad presentation – Chief Jason Long

Jason Long, Rescue Chief gave an update on the Rescue Squad and highlighted their rescue capabilities. He asked that the County budget team look closely at their request for the upcoming year.

Wes Brinegar, Vice-Chair of the Rescue Squad urged the County to allocate more money to the Rescue Squad.

Marion Leys, Chair of the Rescue Squad respectfully asked for the County to see how they could help the Rescue Squad.

VSO introduction

Marge Gray, Veterans Services Officer introduced herself and talked about her background.

General Business

Land Swap with Town of Sparta

County Attorney, Heather Klien said the deeds are not ready to complete the land swap with the Town of Sparta.

Rec sports

Assistant County Manager, Drew Temple explained the options for Rec Sports moving into Spring 2021.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table Rec Sports until the midmonth meeting until more information is gathered from a zoom meeting with the Tarheel League. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Recycling Grant

David Spicer, Public Works Director explained the recycling grant he is pursuing.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained there is a line item in the Transfer Station fund for improvements which would be the matching funds for this grant.

David Spicer said he has someone coming to grind brush that will cost approximately \$22,500.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the recycling grant application. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator reported the 2020 unpaid taxes. She recommended advertising the unpaid taxes on 4/21/21.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the recommended date. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller recommended setting only a start time for the Board of E&R meetings.

Commissioner John Irwin suggested having the Board of E&R meetings on April 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 beginning at 6 pm and adjourning on 4/21 at 7 pm.

Rita Miller gave a revaluation update.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to set Board of E&R meeting dates for Tuesday and Wednesday the first three weeks of April beginning at 6 pm on 4/6 and ending at 7 pm on 4/21. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Courthouse earthquake damage bids

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the Courthouse earthquake damage bids. He said we are pursuing additional funding efforts. He recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Stone Restoration.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to accept Stone Restoration's bid. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter said the Courthouse and courtroom annex projects are well underway. He said the roof of the historical portion of the Courthouse will be a PVC-type material to comply. He said we have completed the tax collection agreement and passed it on to our attorney. He said he will not be at the February 15 Commissioners meeting.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked the Rescue Squad and said there were good reports from WCC. He thanked David Spicer for his leadership.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin thanked the Maintenance staff for getting the snow removed. He said DOT and Blue Ridge Electric worked very hard during the weather event. He recounted a story from Vietnam.

Commissioner John Irwin thanked the Maintenance department for their work, especially at the Black building during the COVID-19 vaccine clinics. He said the issue is not getting enough vaccines. He apologized for mentioning a Rescue Tax because it was not discussed during the budget process.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she does not want to be without the Rescue Squad and thanked the volunteers. She said all of our COVID-19 vaccines this week and last were diverted to Charlotte Motor Speedway for a mass-vaccination and Virginia Foxx and Deanna Ballard stood up for us and were able to get our doses back for our citizens.

Chair Bill Osborne thanked our supporters during COVID-19.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman