



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 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 Klein and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

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

**AGENDA**  
Monday, March 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.

**Public Hearing proposed road name: Little Juan Drive (pages 1-5)**

- A. 6:30 **Presentations to the Board:**
  - i. Cooperative Extension, Amy Lucas – Grass seed project
- B. 6:40 **General Business:**
  - i. Garrison Wagoner – jail meals (pages 6-7)
  - ii. NWRL Regional Board appointments – Missey Weaver, Carolyn Sprinkle (page 8)
  - iii. C-coop – County Manager, Michael Carter (pages 9-26)
  - iv. Revised audit agreement (pages 27-29)
- C. 7:00 **County Manager Comments**
- D. 7:10 **County Commissioner Comments**
- E. **Adjourn**

**Public Hearing: Little Juan Drive**

Chair Bill Osborne opened the public hearing for Little Juan Drive.

Wendy Williams, GIS Coordinator explained the proposed road name.

Chair Bill Osborne closed the public hearing for Little Juan Drive.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the road name change Little Juan Drive. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

## **Presentations to the Board**

### Cooperative Extension

Aaron Ray Tompkins explained the previous grass seed program from 2018. He said disaster declaration and relief would start at the local level with Emergency Management. He said the Department of Ag does not declare disasters.

Eric Hamilton, Soil and Water Director explained the Pasture Renovation program through Soil and Water. He said the previous grass seed program was funded through private donations.

Aaron Ray Tompkins said Johnny Wishon and the Ag sub-committee said if there are any items they could look at reviewing, pursuing or making comments or suggestions on, they would be willing to do so. He said a tractor-trailer load of seed would cost \$85,000 and would repair 1,680 acres. He said last time, they lost 40% of the seed because it wasn't utilized.

## **Public Comments**

No comment

## **General Business**

### Garrison Wagoner – jail meals

Garrison Wagoner explained the difficulties his business is facing with inmate counts being down at the Jail. He said it roughly costs the same in labor to prepare 17 meals as it does to prepare 30 and the 12% increase in food cost is substantial. He suggested a minimum guaranteed number of meals per day.

County Attorney, Heather Klein said it may cause an issue with readvertising if we amend the contract. She said she would look into it.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the Jail Meals contract until the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

### NWRL Regional Board appointments

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve Missey Weaver and Carolyn Sprinkle to serve on the NWRL Regional Board. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

### C-coop agreement

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the annual C-coop agreement. He recommended the Board to consider and adopt it as presented.

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

### Revised audit agreement

April Hamm, Finance Officer explained the amendment to the Audit contract is only on the due date.

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

## **County Manager comments**

County Manager, Michael Carter suggested creating a protocol for special called meetings/work sessions. He said considerations could be whether to take action at special called meetings or whether those meetings should be recorded. He said historically, work sessions have been handled in different ways recorded/not recorded, votes taken/no voting.

County Manager, Michael Carter said there is a sub-committee meeting with members of the Fairgrounds board on 3/5 at 2 pm.

County Manager, Michael Carter said we are meeting with the Dispatch group tomorrow at 3 pm to get a more reflective estimate on services from the third party.

County Manager, Michael Carter said there is further earthquake damage at the Courthouse from aftershocks.

#### **County Commissioner comments**

Commissioner John Irwin said there was a good meeting with the ACEDC and BDC this afternoon. He said he does not like 501(c)(3)s and that the Board learned information they did not know. He commended AppHealth for the job they are doing with COVID-19 vaccine administration.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said AppHealth is doing a great job with the vaccines and that the Board is working diligently on figuring out the direction with Dispatch.

Chair Bill Osborne said he learned vital information from the wor session with the BDC and ACEDC. He said the Health Department and Walgreens are giving the COVID-19 vaccines.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said Skyline Bank is handling an SBA PPE program for farmers in Alleghany County. He said it is a loan that can be forgivable and encouraged people to get in touch with Dennis Gambill. He said AppHealth does more than COVID. He said he has received calls from contractors about septic permits. He said the average wait time is 27 days and it is mostly due to weather. He said Commissioners cannot tell private businesses what to sell.

Commissioner Mark Evans said he looked forward to the discussion about work session, agendas, etc. He said the BDC and ACEDC have always worked closely with the County Manager and it may have put egg on our face for taking the County Manager off those boards. He also commended AppHealth for their work.

#### **Adjourn**

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