



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 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 Temple.

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

AGENDA
Monday March 15, 2021
10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order
 - Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
 - Approval of agenda
 - Motion on minutes from 1/14, 2/15 (pages 1-6)

- 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. Earthquake relief statistics – Daniel Roten
 - ii. Facilities update – David Spicer
 - iii. Financial update – April Hamm
 - iv. Introduce Recreation Director, Chris Martin

- C. 10:40 **General Business**
 - a. Recreation Sports direction
 - b. Special meeting procedures
 - c. Assign budget committee members
 - d. Solid Waste contract (pages 7-14)
 - e. General Fund budget amendment #9 in the amount of \$12,109 for JCPC/NC DPS funds (page 15)
 - f. Request for Refund – Gibson (page 16)

- D. 11:00 **Consent Agenda (Board action requested) (pages 17-25)**
 - i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
 - a. License Plate Agency month end report
 - b. February auto refunds
 - c. February real and personal property refunds
 - d. Real and personal property releases
 - e. Collections monthly totals report
 - f. Delinquent taxpayer contracts

E. 11:10 **County Manager Comments**
February building inspection report (page 26)
Grass Seed (pages 27-29)

F. 11:30 **County Commissioner Comments**

G. 11:45 **Request for Closed Session Pursuant to
G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-3 Legal**

H. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/14 and 2/15.
Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Public comment

No comment

Presentations to the Board

Earthquake relief statistics

Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Coordinator reported on the status of Earthquake relief in the county and the earthquake damage to the schools in the county.

Facilities update

David Spicer, Public Works Director presented the Certificate of Occupancy for the Secondary Courtroom. He said earthquake repair at the main Courthouse starts this week and should be an eight-week project. He said the roofing company will continue work. He said corrections at the Transfer Station are underway, the loader is working, the new fuel tank is up and running and brush grinding should be beginning soon. He said he is waiting on estimates for the concrete pad at the Sheriff's department and that the State is going to cover the cost since it was earthquake damage. He said estimates are in for Daymark and they are considerably more than what the adjuster estimated. He said his team has patched the Health Department roof and they are waiting on the weather to break to see if the patch is going to hold. He said the COVID-19 clinics are still going well at the Black building. He said the brush is being burned at the Fairgrounds today and the new donation signs are up. He said there will be a ribbon-cutting at the Secondary Courtroom. He clarified how the new fuel tank will work at the Transfer Station. He explained the issues at 90 S Main for the public.

County Manager, Michael Carter clarified the engineers did not find any structural issues with 90 S Main and that the caution tape is merely for the public's safety from the questionable brick column out front.

Financial update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave a financial update. There was discussion about how sales tax is distributed from online purchases.

Introduce Recreation Director

Chris Martin, Recreation Director introduced himself and thanked his neighboring offices, high school and middle school athletic directors and coaches and Maintenance department. He explained the challenges with the schedules colliding with the schools playing several sports now. He asked for approval for Tarheel league athletes to play in Ashe county. He said there would be a form for each child to be eligible to play out of county. He discussed the status of the pool and the future of that facility.

County Manager, Michael Carter suggested a work session to further discuss the future of the pool.

General Business

Recreation Sports direction

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to open-up sports for the summer 2021. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to authorize Alleghany athletes to play in Ashe county. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Special meetings procedures

Commissioner John Irwin recommended special meetings be broadcast.

Commissioner Mark Evans said if the Board takes action in a special meeting, a public agenda be published and documents provided to the Board be provided to the public.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to publish an agenda for every meeting and every meeting be electronically recorded. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would like to see items for action/information on the agenda.

Assign budget committee members

Chair Bill Osborne made a motion to assign himself, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Finance Officer, April Hamm, Assistant Finance Officer, Sidney Moxley and both managers to the budget committee. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Solid Waste contract

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Agreement and modification suggested by County Attorney, Heather Klein.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained why the Board would not want to accept the bid proposal from Republic Services.

Commissioner John Irwin clarified the County will still be responsible for “special waste” such as tires and white goods.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the contract as modified. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

General Fund budget amendment #9

April Hamm, Finance Officer explained General Fund budget amendment #9.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #9. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0

Request for refund

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator explained the request for refund.

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

Consent Agenda

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

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator said there is a tax foreclosure sale tomorrow.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter encouraged everyone to look at the February building inspection report. He highlighted the grass seed responses from the departments involved. He said the third-party option for Dispatch is still getting his estimates together.

He said we met with members of the Lions Club and discussed the status and future of the pavilion.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked the Maintenance department and thanked the Recreation Director.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he did not think the hours at the Transfer Station had anything to do with the amount of trash on the side of the road. He said he was very disappointed in the grass seed responses. He said the Board had all received phone calls about septic tank lead times. He read an e-mail from Jennifer Greene with AppHealth about timelines on septic tank permits.

Chair Bill Osborne said there is a litter cleanup every Saturday in March beginning at Miles Realty. He said David Spicer has done a great job with the Secondary Courtroom. He welcomed Chris Martin. He said not to forget to get your COVID-19 vaccine.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said we need to work to keep our county clean. She said the Health Department has hired someone to help doing perk tests. She said our local drugstores are doing vaccines as well and we are entering phase 4 this week. She said our fire departments responded to several fires last week and recognized them. She said she is extremely excited for sports to get started back up and welcomed Chris Martin.

Commissioner John Irwin welcomed Chris Martin. He said the secondary courtroom is looking good and opening early. He said with lockdowns, we are back up with foster kids at 49. He said when commissioners begin working on the budget, they have influence over about 10%.

Closed session

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to enter in to closed session. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

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

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to have the County Attorney take the action discussed in closed session. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman