



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 1st, 2021 at 4:00 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.

Bryan Edwards explained the creation of the Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation and the Magnolia Project from 1998. He explained the 'as-needed' meeting schedule the group. He said there are still active board members so if there were a need to have a meeting, the ACEDC could do so.

Bryan Edwards explained the loan with Alleghany Group Homes to extend water and sewer to the Alleghany Group Homes property. There was discussion about who all benefits from this water and sewer project including AppHealth and Daymark and thoughts about repaying the loan.

Bryan Edwards explained the loan from the ACEDC is geared towards promoting business in the county.

Dale Caveny gave an update on the BDC and its tenants. There was discussion about which tenants pay and how much. There was discussion about the property purchased by the BDC next to Crouse Park where the Farmer's Market is now. Bryan Edwards explained how the Town of Sparta repaid the BDC for all of the expenses as a strategic opportunity for the Town of Sparta to allow for the expansion of Crouse Park.

Dale Caveny handed out a list of answered questions of the Blue Ridge Business Development Center.

Commissioner John Irwin suggested cancelling the contract between the County and the BDC.

Dale Caveny highlighted the number of employees at the BDC and the number of residents of the county who use the facility for a \$10,000 investment from the County. He said there is \$73,000 in a fund that could be used for practically any purpose such as grant match.

Dale Caveny said they need a really clear vision of what successful economic development looks like from the Board of Commissioners.

Bryan Edwards said the primary funding for remodeling the BDC in the beginning was from EDA via Senator Burr.

There was discussion about how to get the DMV to come back to their office at the BDC. Dale Caveny recommended one of the Commissioners contact Senator Deanna Ballard.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman proposed formulating a letter to send to the DMV.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman