



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 29th, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room 348 S Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

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

AGENDA
Monday March 29th, 2021
6:00 pm

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

- A. 6:05 **Tax Collection contract**

- B. **Town Manager Comments**

- C. **County Manager Comments**

- D. **Town Council Comments**

- E. **County Commissioner Comments**

- F. **Adjourn**

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

Tax Collection contract

Mayor Wes Brinegar said he is speaking on behalf of the Mayor's office, as a Sparta citizen and an Alleghany county citizen. He gave a presentation and urged the Board to reconsider the rate for the Town Tax Collection Agreement.

Councilwoman Milly Richardson asked County Manager, Michael Carter how much the County could collect Town of Sparta taxes for in FY21/22.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained in his negotiations with the Town Manager, he proposed a rate of 3% for tax collection but it would be for a period of 3 years.

Councilman John Brady asked the Board of Commissioners to consider a compromise at 2.5%.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the most recent cost to the Town of Sparta for tax collection was \$9,168.85 including 1.5% of the town's tax levy plus postage and advertising.

Commissioner John Irwin confirmed that in the past, if a property was sold on the courthouse lawn, the County paid all the legal expenses.

Town Manager, Ryan Wilmoth said that was only 2-3 parcels and that a little perspective goes a long way.

County Manager, Michael Carter said the true impact on the Town of Sparta is \$7,794.70.

Councilman John Brady confirmed that it costs the County approximately \$15,589 to collect the Town's taxes.

Councilman John Brady made a motion for the Town Council to accept the 3-year tax collection contract at 3%. Councilwoman Milly Richardson seconded.

Town Manager, Ryan Wilmoth recommended the Town Council table this motion until their April meeting.

Councilman Mike Parlier made a motion to table the Tax Collection agreement until their April meeting.

County Manager, Michael Carter asked that any changes be discussed by both attorneys.

Town Council comments

Councilman Mike Parlier said he has been on the Council a long time and he does not think this agreement is good for the town.

Councilwoman Milly Richardson thanked everyone for coming together.

Councilman Cole Edwards said he wanted to get together more often than months with five Mondays. He said he would like to come together and decide what direction the county and town are headed.

Councilman John Brady said the joint meetings are very helpful. He said he appreciates this meeting in particular. He said he is hopeful these meetings will go on more often. He said there are a lot of places we can help each other.

Mayor, Wes Brinegar thanked the Board for listening to what he had to say. He said a group of volunteers have been cleaning for the past 3 Saturdays picking up litter. He thanked the County for letting those folks dispose of that trash.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans gave kudos to the cleanup crew. He said he did have some challenges with the original 4% proposal. He said he was happy with the work on the rate and that he would have been happy with more work.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he thinks this agreement is good for both of us. He said he appreciated the Town Manager and County Manager working together to get a lot of the details worked out. He said he looks forward to continuing these meetings and encouraged people to thank the people who have been cleaning the past few weeks.

Chair Bill Osborne said he was amazed at the trash pickup effort. He said he hoped the county showed we were trying to cooperate. He said the Disaster Relief money is available, to contact Daniel Roten and that the money is used for living instead of construction.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman commended both managers for their cooperative spirit working on this tax collection agreement. She said we are all working for the same folks. She said we are simply trying to cover the true cost to the county. She thanked everyone and said we need to get together more often.

Commissioner John Irwin said it all begins and ends with communication.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the lights are up at Veterans Park and encouraged everyone to go by and take a look at night.

Town Manager comments

Town Manager, Ryan Wilmoth had no comment.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter said towns and counties will have differences but he encouraged these meetings to be tuned more towards moving forward in a positive manner to work on issues.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman