



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, May 20th, 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.

AGENDA
Thursday, May 20, 2021
6:00 pm

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

FY21/22 Budget Public Hearing

- A. **County Manager Comments**
- B. **County Commissioner Comments**
- C. **Adjourn**

William Bottomley spoke on behalf of the Alleghany County Rescue Squad and asked if there was any way to allocate more funding to them since they cover the whole county.

Jason Long spoke on behalf of the Alleghany County Rescue Squad. He highlighted their activities this year and said they can only operate 3 more years this way.

Twyla Kennedy said the Alleghany County Rescue Squad does more than only run ambulance and went over the other certifications they have. Jason Long said there is no way to fulfill the requirements of the contract with the county with the funding proposed.

Marion Leys spoke on behalf of the Alleghany County Rescue Squad. He said they cannot bill for their services. He said their doors will shut in 3 years at the current funding.

Ricky Brown spoke on behalf of the Alleghany Chamber for Economic Development. He explained the reorganization and identified the 40% reduction in their budget request. He said comments made by Commissioner John Irwin saying they did not require funding were incorrect.

Lisa Bottomley spoke on behalf of the Alleghany Chamber for Economic Development. She asked the Board to keep in mind that there are groups in the community who don't get anything out of helping the county.

Pat Polley spoke on behalf of the Alleghany County Public Library. She said the library budget was cut \$9,000 last year and the book line was deleted. She said the hours have been cut. She said the Board approved the salary plan last year. She asked the board

to fund the library at the full funding level to get the employees the pay raises they are entitled to.

Debbie Brewer spoke on behalf of the Alleghany County Public Library. She highlighted the library's activity while they were closed for COVID-19. She said another budget cut this year impacts the whole library system.

Joyce Spease spoke on behalf of the Alleghany County Public Library. She said what the Rescue Squad does for the body, the Library does for the mind.

Nick Hawks spoke on behalf of the Sheriff's Department. He gave statistics about the activities of the Sheriff's Department.

Brandon Keener spoke on behalf of the NC Forest Service. He emphasized the need for and appreciation of the appropriation from the county.

Tom Kilby spoke on behalf of the Alleghany Youth Justice Program.

Scott Perry with DPS spoke in support of the Children's Center is NWNC.

Ricky Brown spoke on behalf of Alleghany Health. He said 3 members of the board made a pledge to the hospital. He said if the county doesn't meet the \$100,000 pledge this year, they don't know how it will affect other pledges.

Richard Doughton spoke on behalf of Alleghany Health. He said the hospital wouldn't be there without the Commissioner's commitment.

Larry Prince spoke on behalf of Alleghany Health. He said the hospital is something we can be proud of and we can't afford to cut back now.

Lauren Barricklow spoke on behalf of the Library. She encouraged the Commissioners and attendees to play an active role in reintroducing the ¼ cent sales tax.

Rich Smith with DPS spoke on behalf of the JCPC. He said we have not seen the affects of "Raise the Age" because of COVID.

Steve Mason spoke on behalf of the Wellness Center. He thanked the county for their consideration and support.

Chair Bill Osborne closed the public hearing.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman