



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 3rd, 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 Mark Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, May 3, 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.

A. 6:20 **General Business:**

- i. Glade Creek Volunteer Fire Department – request for funds invoice (pages 1-4)
- ii. Salary line-item transfers – April Hamm, Finance Officer (page 5)
- iii. Set budget public hearing date
- iv. BDC contract – Commissioner John Irwin (pages 6-9)
- v. RFP for audit services

B. 6:40 **County Manager Comments**

C. 6:50 **County Commissioner Comments**

D. **Adjourn**

Public Comments

Dale Caveny explained how the NC State Parks meeting came about and a list of invitees. He said the meal at Muddy Creek was paid for by private funds.

General Business

GCFVD request for funds invoice

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve an additional \$2,019.76 out of fire tax contingency funds for GCFVD for the CW Williams invoice. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Salary line-item transfers

April Hamm, Finance Officer explained the salary line-item transfers for the Jail and EMS.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to approve salary line-item transfers. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Set budget public hearing date

There was consensus among the Board to have the budget public hearing Monday, May 17th at 6:00 pm.

BDC Contract

Commissioner John Irwin explained his concerns with the Blue Ridge BDC contract. He said he wanted the contract canceled effective July 1, 2021 so the county can take economic development over with proper management.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to cancel the BDC contract effective July 1, 2021. (Withdrawn)

There was discussion between Commissioner John Irwin and County Attorney, Heather Klein about potential breaches in the BDC contract.

County Attorney, Heather Klein explained there would need to be a material breach to cancel the contract.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to table the BDC contract until the June 7, 2021 meeting. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin nay: Commissioner Mark Evans)

Commissioner Mark Evans said there was knowledge of the maintenance issues at the BDC/Wilkes Community College building when they were going on.

Chair Bill Osborne said it was a known fact that there were plenty of leaks in the roof.

RFP for audit services

April Hamm, Finance Officer explained the audit for FY20 is the last audit under the current contract with Gould Killian. She said now that we are not bound by contract, there is the option to put it out for bid which could be cheaper. She said she received an e-mail that the fee of approximately \$61,000 would be reduced by \$4,500 if we stay with GK.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to put the audit services out for RFP. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter thanked the budget committee for their work on the budget. He said he received the final draft animal control ordinance Friday. He said the Tag Office will be closed this Friday, 5/7.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked the budget committee and Brian Shuping from Vaya Health.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin identified the animal control ordinance committee. He said the Health Department is finished at the Black building for COVID-19 vaccines.

Chair Bill Osborne thanked the budget committee and thanked the animal control ordinance committee. He said the disaster relief fund is still ongoing.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said it is a good thing we have the fire tax because GCVFD would be in bad shape otherwise. She said the root of lots of problems is mental health. She said there are some gaps and lacking but the board is going to work with Vaya Health to work on these.

Commissioner John Irwin listed his issues with the e-mail sent by Dale Caveny about the meeting with NC State Parks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman