



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 2nd, 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, Clerk to the Board, Drew Todd.

AGENDA
Monday, August 2, 2021
4:00 pm

4:00 Meeting called to order

- A. 4:05 **General Business:**
- i. Fire tax funds follow-up
 - ii. ARPA funds

B. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to switch the items on the agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

ARPA funds

County Manager, Michael Carter explained requests have been submitted by several groups in the community for consideration of ARPA funds the County will be receiving.

Chief Deputy, Nick Hawks explained the ARPA funding request from Law Enforcement.

Mike Dubose explained the ARPA funding request from the Alleghany Wellness Center.

Becky Miller explained the ARPA funding request from the Alleghany Group Home.

Lisa Osborne explained the ARPA funding request from Department of Social Services.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the ARPA funding request from Barbara Halsey with Alleghany Arts Council.

Karon Edwards explained the ARPA funding request for Alleghany County Council on Aging.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained his thoughts on “premium pay” for county employees.

April Hamm, Finance Officer recommended updating our website to inform employees. She explained the suggestions from the Tax office.

Recess

Fire tax funds follow-up

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the process with the budget and fire service contracts and he said the meetings with the departments was beneficial.

Commissioner John Irwin explained his understanding of the uses for the fire tax revenues.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he learned so much talking to the fire chiefs about how the money is spent. He said it explained a lot of his questions and that the vast majority of the answers did fall under the need to operate the fire department.

Commissioner Mark Evans said shared his thoughts on the fire tax, fundraising, contingency funds, community morale.

County Manager, Michael Carter said there may be sections of the agreement that need to be revisited.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she has not heard grumbling about the fire tax.

David Higgins thanked the board for the fire tax. He said Glade Creek VFD cannot do a draw-down this year because they don't have a place to have it. He said they had trouble getting their payment when their truck broke down. He said they don't fully understand the contingency fund. He said they're working towards getting everyone in the gray area inside the 9s insurance rating.

Bobby Fender thanked the Board for the fire tax. He explained his concerns with the approximately 20% contingency and departments "fluffing" their budgets.

Joseph McGrady described a situation where a department needs to make a big purchase and that it would be better on the taxpayer for the department to have full access to the contingency money. He said having the extra money freed up would make for less worries for the department.

David Wyatt said not every department has the ability to go out and pay for something. He said his board does a great job at letting the department know when they can buy something.

David Higgins asked if contingency funds could be used for state grant.

County Manager, Michael Carter went over the projected fire tax spreadsheet.

There was discussion about contingency money, appropriating contingency money and whether the fire tax money accrues interest.

There was consensus to put the projected fire tax spreadsheet on the website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman