



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 16th, 2021 at 10:00 am 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 Attorney, Heather Klein and Clerk to the Board Drew Todd.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

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County Commissioners
Bill Osborne
Bobby Irwin
Mark Evans
Mechelle Luffman
John U. Irwin, Jr.

County Manager
Michael L. Carter

Clerk to the Board
Drew Todd

County Attorney
Heather R. Klein

AGENDA

Monday August 16th, 2021
10:00 am

10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 5/3 work session, 5/3, 5/13 work session, 5/17, 5/17 work session, 5/20 work session, 5/20 public hearing, 5/27 work session, 6/7 work session, 6/7, 6/21 (pages 1-27)

- A. 10:05 **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.

Employee Recognition

- B. 10:20 **Presentations to the Board**
- i. NCDOT – Joseph Lee
 - ii. Charters of Freedom – Ron Lewis (pages 28-32)
 - iii. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Officer
 - iv. Facilities update – David Spicer, Public Works Director
 - v. Fairgrounds update – Cole Edwards, Recreation Director
- C. 10:40 **General Business**
- a. Fairgrounds application and fees (pages 33-38)
 - b. Lions Club roof 3rd quote (page 39)
 - c. Veterans Park track quote (page 40)
 - d. Ag Fair request for funds – Travis Dalton, Ag Board member

- e. Earthquake damage tipping fees at Transfer Station
- f. Earthquake damage building permit fees
- g. JCPC reappointment – Amy Lucas
- h. Roll-off truck procurement approval – County Manager, Michael Carter
- i. Transportation Fund budget amendment #1 in the amount of 167,020 for vans that didn't arrive in 2020/21 (page 41)
- j. ARPA fund budget amendment #1 in the amount of 1,081,616 for American Rescue Funding (page 42)
- k. Recreation line-item transfers (page 43)
- l. Rita Miller
 - a. Appeals of motor vehicle value (pages 44-45)
 - b. Requests to approve late applications (page 44)

D. 11:20 Consent Agenda (Board action requested)

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 46-63)
 - a. License Plate Agency month end report
 - b. July auto refunds
 - c. July real and personal property refunds
 - d. Real and personal property releases
 - e. Collections monthly totals report
 - f. Delinquent taxpayer contracts

E. 11:25 County Manager Comments

- a. July building inspection report (page 64)

F. 11:30 County Commissioner Comments

G. Adjourn

Public Comments

Tonya Oliver Alessi explained her frustration with the speed limit change to Hwy 93.

Chris Jones explained his opposition to the speed limit change on Hwy 93.

Bobby Raglan explained how the Lion's Club Pavilion came to fruition. He said the Lion's Club and the County own it jointly. He listed the other contributions the Lion's Club has made to the county.

George Sheets explained the history of the Lion's Club Pavilion.

Buck Mitchell listed the activities the Lion's Club participates in.

George Sheets said the Lion's Club is willing to pay for the new roof on the pavilion and the only vendor who bid on this project was out of town. He said they would like to keep the project in the county and the bidder they recommend does not have insurance but would sign a waiver.

Presentations to the Board

NCDOT

Joseph Woodie with NCDOT explained his position.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin explained his experience with the speed limit change on Hwy 93.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked why the speed limit was changed?

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked who made the decision to change the speed limit?

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked what it will take to reverse the decision?

Joseph Woodie said the Western Regional Engineer gave the recommendation and his office wrote the ordinance to change the speed limit to 45. He said it was a group who made the decision after driving Hwy 93. He said he would be happy to go back and look at changing sections of Hwy 93 possibly back to 55.

There was discussion between the Board and Joseph Woodie about the process of changing the speed.

Commissioner Mark Evans asked about other intersections in the county including Grandview and Sparta Bypass.

Employee Recognition

County Manager, Michael Carter presented Brenda Trivett and Dawn Mabe with employee recognition plaques for their hard work through COVID-19.

Charters of Freedom

David Streater and Ron Lewis gave a presentation about Foundation Forward and Charters of Freedom.

Recess

Financial update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave a financial update.

Facilities update

David Spicer, Public Works Director said the Courthouse earthquake damage punch-list has been completed. He said we are still waiting on the roof on the front section of the courthouse then we will take care of repairing the stairway. He said work is still ongoing at Daymark due to delays on carpet from Lowe's. He said the COA building is being painted now and should be finished up shortly. He said 90 S Main is still a work in progress and reports will be presented to the board when they are in. He said the loader is up at the Transfer Station and there was a productive meeting with ACT. He said ACT assured him they would take care of the loader and repairs would be handled in a timely manner. He said they are in the process of getting information and pricing on the tipping floor. He said they are moving forward with replacing the cement pad at the Law Enforcement Center.

County Manager, Michael Carter said we will be working on the BDC server room over the next 60 days.

David Spicer said we are waiting on the compactor and 2 annual reports have been sent in to DEQ. He said by the end of September, first of October, we will hopefully have our recycling program up and running again.

County Manager, Michael Carter said there is a contract with Tecta to get the roofing project up and running. He said after pressing the engineer, the project needs to be moved up on the schedule. With regards to the tipping floor, he said in order to effectively fix the primary facility, we need to construct a temporary tipping floor because of the time frame of the repair. He said the temporary tipping floor gives us a lot of flexibility and hopefully will occur before the end of the year then we can prioritize resurfacing the existing.

Fairgrounds update

Cole Edwards, Recreation Director said the electronic sign is in and they are going to get some training before it is installed. He said around 2,000 people attended the Demolition Derby last weekend.

General Business

Fairgrounds application and fees

There was discussion between the Board, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klein and Recreation Director, Cole Edwards about changes to the Fairgrounds application for use.

There was discussion between the Board, County Manager, Michael Carter and Recreation Director, Cole Edwards about how applications are approved/denied at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion that the decision for events resides with the Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she wanted it noted that the final calendar belongs to the Recreation Director.

Chair Bill Osborne called a recess and this meeting will reconvene at 3:00 pm.

Lions Club roof bid

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to table the Lion's Club roof bid until September 7th meeting. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Veterans Park track

Cole Edwards explained the quote he secured for milled concrete at Veterans Park. He recommended pulling the funds from the Outdoor Recreation Fund to make up the difference in the maintenance budget.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the quote to repair the track at Veterans Park. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Ag Fair request for funds

Travis Dalton explained the plans for the Alleghany Agricultural Fair later this year.

County Manager, Michael Carter said this is an expenditure that was not budgeted for. He said unassigned fund balance is available if the Board decides to utilize it.

Travis Dalton explained if the Governor shuts the state down because of the pandemic again, there will either be a refund, different date or insurance to offset the loss.

Commissioner John Irwin said this is an ambush like the Ag Banquet.

Travis Dalton said if there isn't a signed contract for the rides by next Wednesday, the date goes back to open for another county to use.

Commissioner John Irwin suggested canceling the second Ag Banquet and using that money for the Ag Fair carnival rides.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to use no more than \$10,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance to pay for part of the carnival rides for the Ag Fair. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Earthquake damage tipping fees

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the need to consider extending waiving Transfer Station tipping fees and building permit fees.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to extend tipping fees for earthquake victims through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 4:1. (aye: Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin nay: Commissioner Mark Evans)

Earthquake damage building inspection fees

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to extend building inspection fees for earthquake victims through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

JCPC Board appointment

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to appoint Amy Lucas to the JCPC Board. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Roll-off truck approval

County Manager, Michael Carter explained there is \$79,000 in the budget to purchase a used roll-off truck and asked that the Board allow David Spicer and himself the authority to secure a vehicle.

Chair Bill Osborne made a motion to allow David Spicer and Michael Carter to spend up to \$79,000 of budgeted monies on a used roll-off truck. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Transportation budget amendment

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve Transportation budget amendment #1. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

ARPA budget amendment

April Hamm, Finance Officer explained the ARPA budget amendment.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve ARPA Fund budget amendment #1. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Appeals of motor vehicle value

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator explained the motor vehicle appeal.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the recommended motor vehicle value. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Requests for approval of late applications

Rita Miller explained the late applications.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve application 1. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve application 2. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve application 3. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter encouraged the Board to look at the building inspection report. He said there is a joint meeting later this month. He said he and April Hamm will be looking at sections of the personnel policy. He said there is an Ordinance Committee meeting Wednesday morning and there will be an Insurance Committee meeting coming up.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans said the fire departments asked for more money but did not want their rates to go up. He encouraged the members and boards of the fire departments to be involved in the fire tax process.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the Veterans Committee is back on the brick sale. He said he is glad there will be another NCDOT at the September 7th meeting. He asked that the gentleman who rode the roads come to that meeting. He said he wishes we could come to an agreement on the Lion's club roof.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said she is glad NCDOT came. She said Grandview Drive and 18 intersections are very important to her. She sent the call out for everyone to volunteer. She said we are having a Mountain Heritage Festival, Ag Fair, Lion's Club. She encouraged people to shop local.

Commissioner John Irwin said that as Commissioners, there are things that predate this Board. He read a page from a historical book about the Recreation Commission. He said the County don't own the Lion's Club. He said he hopes the county can come up with an equitable agreement for this property. He said we are having an uptick, since January we have 1.3 million illegal aliens and 1/3 are testing positive for COVID. He said he woke up to a nightmare this morning and explained what he saw on the news this morning in Kabul.

Chair Bill Osborne encouraged the Ag Fair coming up. He said the Boards of Directors are tasked with watching over the fire tax money. He said Music on Main and Music in the Park are coming up.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman