



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 16th, 2020 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 Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney Donna Shumate and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve minutes from 3/2, 3/3 and 3/6. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA  
Monday, March 16, 2020  
10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order
  - Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
  - Approval of agenda
  - Motion on minutes from 3/2, 3/3 and 3/6 (pages 1-6)
  
- A. 10:05 **Public Comments/Agenda Items:** Citizens are encouraged to comment at this time on any item(s) specifically listed on this meeting's agenda. Guidelines for public comment are posted in the meeting room.
  
- B. 10:10 **Presentations to the Board**
  - i. Lisa Bottomley, Chamber Director
  - ii. Karen Evans, Finance Officer
    - a. Financial update
    - b. Blue Cross Policy update
    - c. Communities in Schools update
  - iii. Johnathan Hartsell – Blue Ridge RC&D programs
  - iv. Ricky Brown - Alleghany Health update
  - v. **Andy Blethen – AppHealth COVID-19 update**
  
- C. 10:25 **General Business (Board action requested)**
  - i. Josh Greene, Public Works Director – HVAC bid (page 7)
  - ii. Megan Edwards, Recreation Director
    - a. Mowing bids (pages 8-18)
    - b. Pool plan invoice (page 19)
  - iii. Alleghany Fire Service District Resolution – Creating (pages 20-21)
  - iv. Alleghany Fire Service District Resolution – Rate Limitation (page 22)
  - v. **April Hamm, HR Officer – BCBS opt in**
  - vi. **Alleghany in Motion – suspension of airport and non-essential trips**
  
- D. 10:40 **General Business (no action)**

- i. Veterans Park brick sale suspension

E. 10:45 **Consent Agenda (Board action requested)**

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 23-35)
  - a. License Plate Agency month end report
  - b. February auto refunds
  - c. February real and personal property refunds
  - d. Real and personal property releases
  - e. Delinquent taxpayer contracts
  - f. Motor vehicle appeal
  - g. Solid Waste request for release
- ii. High Country Workforce Development Board reappointment (page 37) **\*removed**

F. 10:50 **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.

G. 11:00 **County Manager Comments**

- i. February building inspection report (page 36)

H. 11:10 **County Commissioner Comments**

I. **Adjourn**

**Public Comments/Agenda Items**

No comment

**Presentations to the Board**

Lisa Bottomley, Chamber Director

Lisa Bottomley introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Chamber and shared some Chamber updates.

Karen Evans, Finance Officer

Financial update

Karen Evans, Finance Officer explained the Municipal Dashboard.

Blue Cross Policy update

Karen Evans explained level rates for Blue Cross Blue Shield 2020/2021 and reduction in deductible by \$250 per individual.

Communities in Schools update

Karen Evans explained the JCPC disbursement suspension for Communities in Schools.

Commissioner John Irwin asked for Communities in Schools funding suspension to be added to the first April agenda.

Karen Evans said Sharon Edmundson was encouraging following our response letter from the NC Dept of Treasury.

Karen Evans said she received a letter that we have paid off the 348 S Main Street building.

Johnathan Hartsell – Blue Ridge RC&D programs

Johnathan Hartsell gave a presentation about Blue Ridge RC&D.

There was discussion about a future project for Veterans Park and the Fairgrounds.

Ricky Brown – Alleghany Health update

Ricky Brown introduced Kathryn Doby as the COO of Alleghany Health.

Ricky Brown gave a construction update on Alleghany Health and said they hope to begin April 1<sup>st</sup> and hope the project will be completed by fall of 2021.

Andy Blethen – AppHealth COVID-19 update

Andy Blethen from AppHealth gave an update on COVID-19 and the status of other programs through AppHealth.

### **General Business**

Josh Greene – Public Works Director, HVAC bids

Josh Greene, Public Works Director explained the HVAC bids and asked for approval on the Billings Heating and Cooling bid.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve Billings Heating and Cooling's bid. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked for a report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> court room for the mid-April meeting.

Megan Edwards, Recreation Director – mowing bids

Megan Edwards, Recreation Director explained the mowing bids.

Megan Edwards recommended Lyall's Lawn Care as the lowest bid.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to table the mowing bids until the first April meeting. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:0.

Pool plan invoice

Megan Edwards explained the request for \$2,030 out of Outdoor Recreation Fund to pay the invoice for pool slide plans.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve to pay the pool plan invoice from the Outdoor Recreation Fund. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:0.

Alleghany Fire Service District Resolution - Creating

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Alleghany Fire District Resolution. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:0.

Alleghany Fire Service District Resolution – Rate Limitation

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Alleghany Fire District Resolution Rate Limitation. Commissioner Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 4:0.

April Hamm, HR Officer – BCBS opt in

April Hamm, HR Officer explained the recommendation to opt-in by Blue Cross Blue Shield to waive copays and for COVID-19.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to opt-in to waive BCBS copays related to COVID-19. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:0.

Alleghany in Motion – suspension of airport and non-essential trips

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the request to temporarily suspend all airport transportation, non-essential transportation and limit in-town transportation with Alleghany in Motion.

Suspension of non-essential out of county employee travel

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the request to temporarily suspend non-essential out of county travel for employees.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to accept County Manager, Michael Carter's recommendations to suspend and limit specific AIM transportation and suspend employee travel. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

#### Veterans Park brick sale suspension

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the issue surrounding the Veterans Park brick sales.

County Attorney, Donna Shumate explained that according the letters received by the Veterans Advisory Committee, to continue selling Veterans Park bricks the VAC would need to contract with a vendor who has authority to reproduce the military insignias or ask the current vendor to acquire authority to reproduce the military insignias.

There was discussion between the board about the licensing issue with the brick manufacture the VAC has been using and how to proceed.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:0.

#### **Public Comments**

Bryan Edwards, Town Manager explained the options the Town of Sparta will be considering later today regarding declaring a State of Emergency.

#### **County Manager comments**

County Manager, Michael Carter updated the board about the new COA 2<sup>nd</sup> courtroom plans which should be available March 20<sup>th</sup>.

County Manager, Michael Carter highlighted the current expenditure and revenues the budget committee is working on.

#### **County Commissioner comments**

Chair Bill Osborne enacted the Declaration of State of Emergency and encouraged citizens to be vigilant, be safe and check on the elderly.

Commissioner John Irwin recounted the Spanish Flu of 1918 and encouraged people not to panic.

Commissioner Larry Prince said he will continue to pray for the people of Alleghany county and continue working hard on the budget.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the Fairgrounds clean up went well on Saturday. Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Coordinator explained Governor Cooper's guideline for special gatherings not to exceed 100 people exempts businesses.

The board congratulated Donna Shumate on her judgeship.

Chair Bill Osborne said there is a fire tax meeting at Sparta/Alleghany Fire Department tonight at 7 pm.

#### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple

Bill Osborne

Clerk to the Board

Chairman