



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 20th, 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 Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter and Clerk to the Board Drew Temple.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA

Monday, April 20, 2020
10:00 am

- 10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 3/16 and 4/13 (pages 1-8)

Public Hearing: Wellness Way (pages 9-13)

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. Governor's Crime Commission grant – Nick Hawks
- ii. Alleghany Health
- iii. AppHealth – Andy Blethen, COVID-19 update
- iv. Authentically Alleghany/Chamber update

C. 10:40 **General Business (Board action requested)**

- i. Set date for budget public hearing
- ii. Set date for fire tax public hearing
- iii. TDA appointments
- iv. High Country Workforce Development Board appointment (page 14)
- v. Transfer Station operating hours (page 15)
- vi. JCPC additional funding (page 16)
- vii. Mowing bids (pages 17-28)
- viii. Alleghany County Schools funding reduction
- ix. Special appropriations funding reduction
- x. FY19/20 employee furlough
- xi. Communities in Schools funding suspension
- xii. Republic Services (pages 29-31)
- xiii. General Fund budget amendment #12 in the amount of \$1,700 for donations by Rotary Club for K9 carrier (page 32)

- xiv. General Fund budget amendment #13 in the amount of (\$335,676) for indirect costs revenue and expenditure that won't be realized (page 33)

D. 11:15 Consent Agenda (Board action requested)

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator (pages 34-47)
 - a. License Plate Agency month end report
 - b. March auto refunds
 - c. March real and personal property refunds
 - d. Real and personal property releases
 - e. Delinquent taxpayer contracts
 - f. Request for Forestry Present-Use status
 - g. Commercial Solid Waste releases

E. 11:30 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.

F. 11:40 County Manager Comments

- i. March building inspection report (page 48)

G. 11:50 County Commissioner Comments

- ii. ¼ cent sales tax referendum

H. Adjourn

Public Hearing: Wellness Way

Chairman Bill Osborne opened the public hearing for Wellness Way.

Chairman Bill Osborne closed the public hearing.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the road name Wellness Way. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Public Comments

Hugh Shepherd asked the commissioners to publish a statement in the Alleghany News regarding their appropriation amount.

David Higgins said if Commissioner Bobby Irwin can't straighten out what he says, the commissioners need to.

Motion on minutes from 3/16 and 4/13

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve minutes with correction. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Presentations to the Board

Governor's Crime Commission grant – Nick Hawks

Nick Hawks gave an update on Governors Crime Commission grant and statistics on the benefit the county receives from these positions.

Nick Hawks asked the board to allow the Sheriff's Department to use existing funds in their budget to make up the shortfall from the GCC grant.

Commissioner John Irwin asked for the GCC grant funding to be added to the next agenda.

Alleghany Health

Dr. Jim Hoekstra gave an update on Alleghany Health.

AppHealth – COVID-19 update

Jen Greene gave an update on COVID-19.

Authentically Alleghany/Chamber update

Lisa Bottomley gave an update on Authentically Alleghany and the Chamber of Commerce.

Karen Evans

Karen Evans, Finance Officer gave a general budget update and explained the expected decline in sales tax as a result of COVID-19.

Karen Evans explained the unanticipated revenues the county has received, special appropriation reductions and furlough days for employees.

Commissioner John Irwin asked that waiving commissioner pay for the remainder of the year be put on the next agenda.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the communication he has had with department heads and commissioners regarding the financial situation the county is in.

County Manager, Michael Carter said that if the budget numbers go in an unwanted direction, there will be accountability for that.

Karen Evans said when she says we are \$326,000 short for 19/20, that is not touching the \$404,000 appropriated fund balance.

Karen Evans explained we are looking at 1 furlough day for employees and a 3% reduction in special appropriations excluding the fire departments, rescue squad, Vaya Health and AppHealth.

Recess

General Business

Set date for budget public hearing

Commissioner John Irwin asked that we advertise the fire tax public hearing for 3 weeks to give the public plenty of notice and to give the board the authority to move the meeting if we anticipate a large crowd.

There was discussion between the board and County Manager, Michael Carter about when to hold the budget and fire tax public hearings.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to hold the budget and fire tax public hearings on May 19th at 6:30 pm.

TDA appointments

Commissioner John Irwin explained his nominations for the Tourism Development Authority.

Commissioner John Irwin nominated Charlie Scott for the TDA board. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin nominated Bill Nilo for the TDA board. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin nominated Steve Mason for the TDA board. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

High Country Workforce Development Board appointment

Commissioner John Irwin explained his nomination for the High Country Workforce Development Board, Maria Peebles.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to appoint Maria Peebles to the High Country Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin; nay: Commissioner Bobby Irwin)

Transfer Station operating hours

There was discussion between the board, County Manager, Michael Carter, Josh Greene, Public Works Director and April Hamm, HR Officer about the hours at the transfer station.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to approve the new hours at the transfer station with a start date of July 1, 2020. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

There was discussion between the board and Josh Greene about when and how to implement the new hours.

JCPC additional funding

Karen Evans, Finance Officer explained the JCPC additional funding request. Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the JCPC additional funding request. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Mowing bids

There was discussion between the board and Megan Edwards, Recreation Director, County Manager, Michael Carter and County Attorney, Donna Shumate about the mowing bids.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to continue the contract with the exception of mulching and the sourcing of the mulch. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded.

Commissioner John Irwin withdrew his motion.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept the bids for consideration by the board. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 4:1. (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner John Irwin; nay: Commissioner Larry Prince)

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to accept Lyall's Lawn Care bid minus Veteran's Park and Davis Field until COVID-19 is over. Vote 0:5.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to accept the low bid for item 1 only. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:1. (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince; nay: Commissioner John Irwin)

Megan Edwards – not opening DRC

Megan Edwards explained the impact not opening Duncan Recreation Center would have on her budget.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion not to open the pool this season. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Alleghany County Schools funding reduction

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve item 8 to reduce Alleghany County Schools funding. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Special appropriations funding reduction

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to reduce all remaining special appropriations disbursements by 3% with the exception of the fire departments, rescue squad, Vaya Health and AppHealth. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

FY19/20 employee furlough

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve one employee furlough day to be Memorial Day. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Communities in Schools funding suspension

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to suspend any remaining money to Communities in Schools. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Republic Services

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the proposed contract with Republic Services.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Republic Services contract. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

General Fund budget amendment #12

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #12. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

General Fund budget amendment #13

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #13. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Consent agenda

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator explained the Fire Tax District estimates.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter explained how the budget process has been this year.

The board decided to have a work session Monday, 4/27 at 9:00 am.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans encouraged people to hang in there and thanked the budget committee.

There was discussion about going back to our regular meeting schedule.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked for a closed session on the next agenda to discuss replacing the county attorney.

Chair Bill Osborne said it would be a mighty fine time to vote the ¼ cent sales tax in. Chair Bill Osborne said the measures we are taking with COVID-19 are working and wished the 2 infected residents well.

Commissioner Larry Prince complimented the county on complying with COVID-19 regulations.

Commissioner Larry Prince said he appreciated being involved in the budget committee.

Commissioner John Irwin thanked the budget committee.

Commissioner John Irwin went over costs for volunteer fire departments.

Chair Bill Osborne thanked the budget committee and County Manager, Michael Carter for his experience.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman