



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 1st, 2020 at 6:30 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 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 accept the agenda. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

AGENDA
Monday, June 1, 2020
6:30 pm

6:30 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation
Approval of agenda

6:35 **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.

A. 6:40 **Presentations to the Board**

- i. Lisa Bottomley – Chamber update
- ii. Public Safety employees recognition

B. 6:50 **General Business**

- i. ¼ cent sales tax referendum (page 1)
- ii. Fire and Rescue Association
- iii. Remote participation (pages 2-11)
- iv. Authorize VFD and Rescue contract revisions
- iii. FY20/21 Budget
 - a. FY20/21 Budget ordinance (pages 12-18)
 - b. FY20/21 Fee schedules (pages 19-25)
- iv. BDC/Wilkes Community College/Library paving follow-up
- v. Agenda layout; items to be voted on, items for information to be voted on at a later time
- vi. Start evening Commissioners meeting at 6:00 pm

C. 7:00 **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.

D. 7:10 **County Manager Comments**

E. 7:20 **County Commissioner Comments**

F. 7:30 **Request for Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-(6) Personnel, G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-**

(3) Legal

G. Adjourn

Public Comments/Agenda Items

Tina Rector explained her problems with claims made by Fang and Keagan Alford at the fire tax public hearing.

Hugh Shephard explained his problems with claims made by Fang and Keagan Alford at the fire tax public hearing.

Dale Caveny said he is in favor of the fire tax but he is concerned with the board not having the new contract in place before passing the fire tax.

Presentations to the Board

Lisa Bottomley – Chamber update

Lisa Bottomley gave a Chamber update and said she will be back at the mid-month meeting to unveil the new Authentically Alleghany website.

Public Safety employees recognition

County Manager, Michael Carter recognized Public Safety employees and thanked them for their response especially during COVID-19.

General Business

¼ cent sales tax referendum

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the ¼ cent sales tax. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Fire and Rescue Association

Commissioner John Irwin explained his thoughts behind creating a Fire and Rescue Association who can review and advise the board on equipment and changes in rules and regulations.

Remote participation

County Manager, Michael Carter said it had been discussed previously to allow commissioners to participate in meetings remotely.

There was discussion between the board and County Attorney, Donna Shumate about whether the board's Rules of Procedures already allow remote participation.

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to table the remote participation deliberation until mid-month. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

Authorize VFD and Rescue contract revisions

Commissioner John Irwin said he and Chair Bill Osborne met to discuss revisions to the current VFD contracts to include: a financial statement of expenditures yearly, language that the funds provided by the fire tax could only be used for the operation of the fire departments; equipment, operations, things of this nature and a general ledger.

Commissioner John Irwin said he would like to have the new VFD contract by July 1.

FY20/21 BUDGET

Commissioner Mark Evans pointed out a mistake in the Budget Ordinance in section 17.

Commissioner John Irwin thanked the budget committee and made a motion to approve the County budget. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 4:1. (aye: Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin nah: Commissioner Mark Evans)

Commissioner Mark Evans commended the budget committee and said he is not comfortable with the fire tax at this point without the contracts being finalized.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the fee schedules. Vote 5:0.

BDC/Wilkes Community College/Library paving follow-up

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the meeting he, Commissioner John Irwin and Assistant County Manager, Drew Temple had with Jeff Reavis with High Country Paving which resulted in the owner agreeing to repair the bad run of asphalt as well as sloping and puddling issues.

Agenda layout

Commissioner Bobby Irwin explained why he wants the agenda to have separate sections for items for action and items for discussion only.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to adopt the new agenda layout. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 4:1 (aye: Commissioner Mark Evans, Chair Bill Osborne, Commissioner Larry Prince, Commissioner John Irwin nay: Commissioner Bobby Irwin)

Evening Commissioners meeting

Commissioner Larry Prince made a motion to move the evening Commissioners meeting to 6:00 pm. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager Comments

County Manager, Michael Carter said there is a 2nd Annual Run for a Claus on September 12th and the Sheriff will be here to talk about it at the mid-month meeting.

County Manager, Michael Carter asked the board to identify one if not two members to be on the Courthouse Committee and begin discussing the status this Wednesday.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he would like to stay on the Courthouse Committee.

Commissioner Mark Evans said he would give up his spot on the Courthouse Committee.

Commissioner John Irwin agreed to be on the Courthouse Committee.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the situation we are in with the new Council on Aging as well as the current COA/2nd Courtroom building.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said DOT has been stretched to the limits with money and being able to take care of secondary roads.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if when the fire tax is implemented, will the records submitted become public record?

County Attorney, Donna Shumate explained when the records pursuant to the VFD contracts are turned in to the county, they become public record.

Commissioner Mark Evans said he appreciates the county and pray for our country and our leaders.

Commissioner Mark Evans said this is the earliest the board has adopted a budget in years and thanked everyone involved.

Chair Bill Osborne thanked and recognized the budget committee as well as the department heads.

Chair Bill Osborne said we are way behind on the Census and encouraged people to complete it.

Commissioner Prince thanked the budget committee and the board.

Commissioner Prince said citizens of Allegheny have done a great job staying safe and thanked them.

Commissioner John Irwin explained the issues he had with comments made at the fire tax public hearing with regards to the Rescue Squad and suppressing votes to establish fire service districts.

Commissioner John Irwin explained the items to be added to the VFD contracts.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to go in to closed session. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Chair Bill Osborne said no action was taken during closed session.

There was a motion and second to adjourn. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman