



Alleghany County Board of Commissioners Budget Meeting 6-4-18 Minutes

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called meeting on Monday June 4th, 2018, at 4:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina to present the proposed budget to the Commissioners.

Present: Chair Mark Evans, Commissioner Bobby Irwin, Commissioner Tom Smith, Commissioner John Irwin, Commissioner Larry Prince, County Manager, Mike James, Finance Officer, Karen Evans and Clerk to the Board Lauren Linker.

Chair Mark Evans reconvened the budget meeting from May 25th, 2018.

Karen Evans, Rita Miller and Miranda Roupe presented an estimate from Lumos Safe Point which is \$6,100 per year. They explained it would be used by the finance office, tax office and register of deeds office for depositing money. They explained that currently they all make an unguarded trip to the bank daily. They explained with this contract they would be able to use a provided vault to store money and an armed guard would come and transport it to the bank for the county. Rita Miller said safety was key for her and the security of tracking each deposit. Karen Evans explained that it would help keep the employees safe in the transport as well.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked how often it happened and how it would affect all other departments.

Karen Evans explained they all go everyday to the bank. She then noted all other departments bring their money to the finance office other than the tax office and the register's office.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked where the policy comes from on how much money can be kept overnight.

Karen Evans explained it was state law it came from the general statute.

Chair Mark Evans thanked the ladies for their interest in progress for the county.

Steve Mason gave a brief of what's going on at the wellness center from classes to hosting the schools swim teams, fundraising, special Olympics and outreach events. He went over partnerships with other local organizations and how they work together on different projects.

Chair Mark Evans asked about the membership and day usage.

Steve Mason said there around 700 members and anywhere from 45 some days upward of 100 people per day really depending on the day.

Commissioner Tom Smith asked Steve Mason to explain all their fundraisers.

Steve Mason went over all the major fundraisers put on by the wellness center each year.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked about funding for the school swim teams and if the schools paying for usage.

The board decided to allow public to speak.

Barbra Moncreef from Grayson County explained there are many residents that come from Grayson County to use the Wellness Center.

Lou Nachman said he comes to Sparta four times a week for the silver sneakers program. He said where he lives it would be just as easy to go to Galax or Elkin, but instead it brings them into Sparta.

Chair Mark Evans said seeing no more movement well close that and move on with the meeting.

Chair Mark Evans said the board had express consensus to look into the ¼ cent sales tax options and where the opportunities are for usage. He suggested school safety and fire departments.

County Manager, Mike James said it would be about \$185,000 per year.

Commissioner John Irwin said with the felt I would help alleviate the tax burden on citizen and allow tourists to help pay.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he thought the proceeds would be good to help with school safety and fire departments. They further discussed the pricing for an SRO position and the grant that the Sheriff's Department had applied for.

Commissioner Tom Smith said fire department and school safety would be a good idea if they want it to pass. He felt moving forward to market it will need to be specific for what is planning to be done.

Commissioner John Irwin said if the referendum passes the county wont see any money until 2019. Then he mentioned the current need and the option of a fire tax.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said it needs to be able to be broken down and asked how it would be decided.

County Manager Mike James said it would be up to the board so figure out how the disburse the money.

The board then discussed the school safety and possible safety assessments for the buildings.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if there was time to get the sales tax on the ballot for November.

County Manager Mike James said yes, a resolution would need to be passed by the mid-month July meeting.

The board discussed the school board member compensations.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he felt he should excuse himself from any voting that is involved with the school board.

The board looked at the governing bodies and administration budget. The board then discussed the salary study and the budget increase. Next, they moved to the finance office budget. The board discussed some lines in the finance office budget, but no changes were made.

Commissioner Larry Prince asked what the need for an election department is year-round. He then inquired if the job could be contracted. The board then discussed the duties of the election office on a daily basis. Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked about the decrease in the elections budget since two voting precincts closed. Chair Mark Evans asked about the capital purchase line and what the need is if the last election went well.

The Board moved on to discuss the planning budget and recreation. Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked if there is a need to replace the retiring position that is currently split between recreation and planning.

County Manager Mike James said it would have to be a reduction in programming, but there is no obligation to keep all the programs or pool hours. He said especially where two sports overlap and felt like it would be hard to get all the paper work completed as well as all the out of the office work that must be done.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin asked what the savings would be with the elimination of the position. He said he would like to hear from the department on what sports would be cut and why they would need to be.

The board then discussed the option of tar and chip for the parking lot at Veteran's Memorial Park. They agreed to get more information on the option for paving. Then they discussed splitting the cost between Beemer property proceeds and the Alleghany County budget.

The budget discussed the utilities amount at the fairgrounds and the master plan for the recreation department.

Chair Evans recessed the budget meeting until June 5, 2018 at 10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

Mark Evans
Chair of the Board