



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 6:00 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 Mark Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve minutes from 8/9, 8/11, 8/12, 8/17, 8/26 and 9/2 as presented. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

## AGENDA

Monday, September 8, 2020

6:00 pm

6:00 Meeting called to order  
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation  
Approval of agenda  
Motion on minutes from 8/9, 8/11, 8/12, 8/17, 8/26 and 9/2  
(pages 1-16)

6:05 **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.

### A. 6:20 **General Business**

- i. Megan Edwards, Recreation Coordinator – Waive Earthquake Rally rental fee at Fairgrounds
- ii. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
  - a. Earthquake impact on Revaluation
  - b. Bottomley Enterprises impact on ad valorem and fire taxes
- iii. April Hamm, Interim Finance Officer
  - a. Salary Line Item Transfers (page 17)
  - b. General Fund budget amendment #2 in the amount of 15,953 to transfer insurance proceeds for computer repairs. (page 18)
  - c. General Fund budget amendment #19 in the amount of 29,152 to budget for attorney fees and foster care. (page 19)
- iv. Carolina West Wireless consolidation report (pages 20-21)
- v. Alleghany Ag Committee Ex-officio member appointment – Dena Sheets (pages 22-24)
- vi. NC BOE: Statement to Voters About Election-Related Mailers, Text messages and Phone Calls (pages 25-26)
- vii. Earthquake Review Document – Hemphill Randel Associates \$3,100 (pages 27-30)

- viii. Design, Construction documents, bidding and construction phase schedule agreement – Hemphill Randel Associates \$19,500 + mileage (pages 31-47)
- ix. Interlocal Agreement with Town of Sparta (Coronavirus Relief Fund) (pages 48-51)
- x. Direction on roof replacement at the Courthouse
- xi. Internal repairs at Courthouse (pages 52-54)

**B. 6:50 County Manager Comments**

- a. August building inspection report (page 55)
- b. Earthquake relief update

**C. 7:00 County Commissioner Comments**

**D. Request for Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.(a)-(6) Personnel**

**E. Adjourn**

Chair Bill Osborne read a statement about conduct during Commissioners meetings.

**Public comments**

David Higgins thanked the board for the fire tax.

David Higgins said Jamie with the Office of the State Fire Marshall would be happy to come talk to two members of the board and County Manager, Michael Carter about the VFD contracts and fire tax.

Darryl Reeves with Boy Scout Troop 299 offered their support to the local VFW post in the amount of \$1,000 to help with earthquake damage to the VFW building. He said they would also like to issue a challenge to citizens of Alleghany county to help each other.

**General Business**

Earthquake Rally rental fee waiver

Megan Edwards explained the request to waive the Fairgrounds rental fee for the Earthquake Rally.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to waive the Fairgrounds rental fee for the Earthquake Rally. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator explained earthquake damaged homes does not affect 2021 Revaluation.

Rita Miller explained if the board wanted, she could see about paying more appraisers to come in at the end of the year to look at properties to make adjustments before the Revaluation notices go out.

Rita Miller said as of now, the earthquake has not had much affect on the tax office because the real estate market is still so strong.

Rita Miller explained the ad valorem tax impact of Bottomley Enterprises moving their trucking operation to Surry County is \$26,900 and the fire tax impact is \$3,200 in the Glade Creek fire district.

April Hamm, Interim Finance Officer

April Hamm, Interim Finance Officer explained the salary line item transfers.

April Hamm explained General Fund budget amendment #2.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #2. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm explained General Fund budget amendment #19.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve General Fund budget amendment #19. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Carolina West consolidation update

Assistant County Manager, Drew Temple explained the consolidation of county cell phones with Carolina West Wireless.

Ag Committee appointment

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve Dena Sheets as an ex-officio member of the Ag Committee. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

NC BOE

Commissioner Larry Prince urged citizens not to be confused by mailings about mail-in voting.

Earthquake Review Document

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the AIA agreement with Hemphill-Randel to perform the review for our insurance for \$3,100.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the Earthquake Review document from Hemphill-Randel. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Bidding and construction agreement

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the bidding and construction agreement with Hemphill-Randel for \$19,500.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the bidding and construction agreement with Hemphill-Randel for \$19,500. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Interlocal Agreement

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Sparta and Alleghany County.

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

Courthouse roof replacement

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the abatement options for the Courthouse roof. He said the real question is do you want to leave the tin in place and re-coat it or reroof the tin portion.

Michael Carter said the cost for reroofing is \$42,000 and it is included in the \$600,013 allocation from the state.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to reroof the tin portion of the Courthouse roof as well as the design. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Internal Courthouse repairs

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the abatement estimate to abate the internal Courthouse material. He said this was, also included in the \$600,013 allocation from the state.

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

**County Manager comments**

County Manager, Michael Carter encouraged everyone to look at the August building inspection report.

County Manager, Michael Carter read a statement from Daniel Roten, Emergency Management Coordinator regarding his office and traffic surrounding the earthquake and relief. He read that Daniel Roten has a meeting later this week about how the \$24M will impact SBA loan balances.

County Attorney, Donna Shumate said the state relief money does not go towards commercial property.

County Manager, Michael Carter said a set of scales at the Transfer Station failed inspection and is now disabled until the county makes the proper repairs.

David Spicer, Public Works Director explained American Scales tried to calibrate the scale today so they could continue to use it. He said the four corners of the scale will have to be chiseled out and plates put underneath. He said it is congested sometimes because the incoming scales are having to be utilized for outbound traffic to be weighed.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained most commercial vehicles have a stored tare weight that is generated so they don't have to be out-weighed. He said he didn't think it was a far cry to expect our Transfer Station to utilize one set of scales until we can repair the down scales. He recommended getting an estimate on a "red-light/green-light system" when we get estimates on repairing the scales.

**County Commissioner comments**

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked the county for their work through the crisis and COVID.

Commissioner Larry Prince said it is encouraging to see more people wearing masks and urged people to shop local and support the ¼ cent sales tax.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the BDC paving was done one day last week but asked David Spicer and County Manager, Michael Carter to go look it over because the man-hole cover is quite high.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the caution light at the bypass and Hwy 18 is very dangerous with all the traffic from people being rerouted around town.

Chair Bill Osborne said Aaron Ray Tompkins secured grant money for a new head gate at the Fairgrounds. He said he hoped people would support the ¼ cent sales tax.

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to go in to closed session to include April Hamm, HR Officer. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

Chair Bill Osborne said no action was taken.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to interview all four candidates for County Attorney. Commissioner Larry Prince seconded. Vote 5:0.

**Adjourn**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Temple

Bill Osborne

Clerk to the Board

Chairman