



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 15th, 2022 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 Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klein, Clerk to the Board, Drew Todd.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman made a motion to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

348 South Main Street
Post Office Box 366
Sparta, NC 28675
Tel: (336) 372-4179
Fax: (888) 369-2621

County Commissioners
Bill Osborne
Bobby Irwin
Mark Evans
Mechelle Luffman
John U. Irwin, Jr.

County Manager
Michael L. Carter

Clerk to the Board
Drew Todd

County Attorney
Heather R. Klein

AGENDA

Monday, August 1, 2022
6:00 pm

- 6:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Approval of agenda
Motion on minutes from 7/5, 7/18 and 7/25 (pages 1-9)

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 **Presentations to the Board:**

- i. Ag Fair plans – Johnny Wishon, Jimmy Joines
- ii. NCACC Youth Voice Conference delegate – Abbie Joines
- iii. Alleghany County Sheriff's Department year-end statistics – Chief Deputy, Nick Hawks
- iv. Emergency Medical Services changes – EMS Director, Linda Edwards

B. 6:50 **General Business:**

- i. Conflict of Interest Policy – April Hamm, Finance Officer (pages 10-32)
- ii. County Resolution Conflict Policy – April Hamm, Finance Officer (pages 33-34)
- iii. Request by the Town of Sparta to waive building permit cost associated with the new splash pad

- iv. High Country Workforce Development Board appointment
– Stacy Barker

C. 7:20 **County Manager Comments**

D. 7:30 **County Commissioner Comments**

E. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Public comments

Dr. Denise Bryant explained her position, her understanding of staffing at EMS, that she was not involved in any discussions about dropping to one ambulance overnight, and her thoughts on the transport policy.

Johnny Wishon explained the Ag Advisory Board has been in existence for 8 years, some history of the Board and some accomplishments of the Board. Brad Mabe shared his concern with EMS going down to one unit. He said good staff left due to pay.

Joseph McGrady shared his thoughts about EMS not responding to structure fires at night. He listed several situations where the fire department could not have any ALS support. He said we are leaving the public high and dry.

Jason Long explained how he was made aware of the schedule changes at EMS and his dissatisfaction with the decision.

Donny Brimm said he thinks with the age of our population, we need 2 ambulances and we have some of the best EMS staff.

Gene Crouse shared some history of EMS.

Presentations to the Board

Ag Fair update

Johnny Wishon and Jimmy Joines gave an Ag Fair update. Johnny Wishon said the fair is August 25-28 and shared some changes to the lineup. He said information about entering competitions is available at the Extension office or online at alleghanycountyagfairandpumpkinfestival. He said admission is \$10 per person. He said they expect to receive \$5,000 in advertising money for the Ag Fair.

NCACC Youth Voice Delegate

Abbie Joines explained she is Alleghany County's NCACC Youth Voice Conference delegate. She thanked the Board for their support.

Sheriff's Department end of year report

Chief Deputy, Nick Hawks gave the Sheriff's Department end of year report.

EMS changes

Linda Edwards, EMS Director read the County's statement regarding the recent scheduling and transport policy changes. She explained some history on why staffing reached a critical level and the potential for several employees to retire in the next few years. She said the county wanted to get in front of the further staffing issues. She said this is a nationwide problem. She talked about a few different scheduling matrices but said they would be ideal **if** we had the staff. She said in order to address everyone's concerns, we have to keep looking to see how we can get the employees we need. She said all changes the County has made falls within the guidelines for NC Office of Emergency Management Services. She explained the changes in this budget year to hire EMT-Basics to help staff EMS. She said during career day at the high school, if someone is available, they attend with an ambulance to talk to students.

General Business

Conflict of Interest policy

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept the Conflict of Interest policy. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Resolution by the County of Alleghany Approving the Conflict of Interest Policy Applicable to Contracts and Subawards of Alleghany County Supported by Federal Financial Assistance

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the Resolution by the County of Alleghany Approving the Conflict of Interest Policy Applicable to Contracts and Subawards of Alleghany County Supported by Federal Financial Assistance. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Town of Sparta building permit waiver request

County Manager, Michael Carter explained the waiver of the permit for the Town of Sparta was approximately \$300.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the waiver of the splashpad permit for the Town of Sparta. Commissioner Bobby Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

HCWFD Board appointment

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to accept Stacy Barker for the Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0

County Manager comments

No comments

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans thanked everyone for coming and respectfully expressing their views. HE said there is a work session next week to further discuss EMS.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the 21 yard sale was a big success and local businesses were very busy. He said there are options to look at for EMS and thanked everyone for coming out. He said most of the comments he saw on Facebook were made without knowing the full facts.

Commissioner John Irwin thanked first responders who volunteer.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman thanked everyone for coming out. She said maybe it's time to consider a Rescue Tax. She thanked the Sheriff's Department and for their report.

Chair Bill Osborne said we greatly appreciate what the volunteers in the community do and we are working on a solution to the problem.

Adjourn

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman