



The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 17th, 2022 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 Mechelle Luffman, Commissioner John Irwin, County Manager, Michael Carter, County Attorney, Heather Klein, Clerk to the Board, Drew Todd.

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

Alleghany County Board of Commissioners

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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 October 17th, 2022
10:00 am

10:00 Meeting called to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Approval of agenda

- A. 10:05 **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.
- B. 10:20 **Presentations to the Board**
- i. Avery pool photos/video – Commissioner Bobby Irwin
 - ii. TDA Quarterly report and vacancies – Steve Mason
 - iii. Alleghany Chamber for Economic Development marketing and event update – Lisa Bottomley
 - iv. Educational Foundation – Melissa Vestal, Susan Nilo
 - v. VAYA updates – Zach Shepherd
 - vi. Financial update – April Hamm, Finance Officer
- C. 10:40 **General Business**
- a. General Fund budget amendment #2 – April Hamm (page 1)
 - b. General Fund budget amendment #3 – April Hamm (page 2)
 - c. Escheat Process Summary 2022 – April Hamm (page 3)
 - d. Lions Club roof quotes – Randy Murphy, Recreation Director (pages 4-6)
 - e. Republic Services proposed fee changes – Drew Todd (page 7)

- f. Proclamation in honor of Senator Deanna M. Ballard Day (page 8)
- g. Daymark lease revision – County Attorney, Heather Klein

D. 11:20 Consent Agenda (pages 9-27)

- i. Rita Miller, Tax Administrator
 - a. License Plate Agency month end report
 - b. September auto refunds
 - c. September real and personal property refunds
 - d. Real and personal property releases
 - e. Collections monthly totals report
 - f. Delinquent taxpayer contracts
 - g. Request to approve late application PIN: 4011171881

E. 11:35 County Manager Comments

- a. September building inspection report (page 28)

F. 11:45 County Commissioner Comments

G. 12:15 Recess; this meeting will reconvene at 85 E Whitehead St. promptly at 1:00 pm.

H. 1:30 Adjourn

Chair Bill Osborne welcomed County Manager, Michael Carter back.

Presentations to the Board

Avery pool visit

Commissioner Bobby Irwin shared pictures and videos from the Avery pool visit.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said it is going to take considerable funds to build this pool. She said a pool like Avery's is \$3M. She said part of the process is finding the appropriate location for the pool.

Chair Bill Osborne said the normal season for the pool is approximately 100 days.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the next step will be to hire a firm to come in and look at possible locations for the pool. He said the Wellness Center is a consideration.

Commissioner John Irwin questioned the attendance at the Avery pool and the attendance the last year the pool in Allegheny County was open. He said a new pool would be competing with Sparta's splashpad. He said the voters in this election will decide because property taxes will have to pay for the debt.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said Avery loses about \$50,000 per year on their pool. He said there are certain amenities the County is responsible for providing their citizen that aren't necessarily profitable.

Randy Murphy, Recreation Director said everyday pool attendance will increase because of the number of people moving into the county with children.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman said the County is looking at every way to save money on this pool project.

Commissioner John Irwin said he would like to see the pool on the ballot because the taxpayers are going to pay for it.

Steve Mason said the population in this county deserves the state-of-the-art pool facility the Board is considering building. He said the Recreation Committee is going to have the opportunity to consider a lot of outside funding sources for this project so the burden won't be solely on the taxpayer.

TDA quarterly report

Steve Mason gave the TDA quarterly report. He said Shirley Richardson's term is ending and she does wish to serve again. He said Jeff Smith resigned from the TDA and said there were recommendations.

Commissioner John Irwin said he wanted minutes and supporting documents for every meeting. He questioned how some of the recommended replacements Jeff Smith qualified to serve on the TDA.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said the information from the TDA is available in the Finance office if a commissioner has the gumption to go review them.

Commissioner John Irwin asked April Hamm to provide the TDA monthly information to him so he could occupy the time of a County employee.

Alleghany Chamber for Economic Development

Lisa Bottomley highlighted marketing and events projects the Chamber for Economic Development has produced/participated in in the last year. She thanked the TDA for the funding for the Chamber to partner with High Country Host.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman recognized Lisa and her hard work.

Alleghany Educational Foundation

Melissa Vestal gave a presentation on the Alleghany Educational Foundation and the work she and Susan Nilo are doing.

VAYA update

Zack Shepherd gave a VAYA update.

Financial update

April Hamm, Finance Officer gave the Financial Update.

General Business

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve GF budget amendment #2. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve GF budget amendment #3. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to approve the Escheat Process for 2022. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

April Hamm said this would be a yearly process moving forward.

Lions Club roof

Randy Murphy explained the Lions Club roofing quotes.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the lowest bid. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. *Withdrawn

County Manager, Michael Carter said the money allotted in the budget was an estimate at the time.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the low bid contingent upon the Lions Club providing the funds above \$5,000 which is in the County budget. There was a seconded. Vote 5:0.

Republic Services

Drew Todd, Assistant County Manager explained the letter received by Republic Services.

Proclamation in honor of Senator Deanna M. Ballard Day

Commissioner Mark Evans made a motion to approve the Proclamation in honor of Senator Deanna M. Ballard Day. Commissioner John Irwin seconded. Vote 5:0.

Daymark lease

County Attorney, Heather Klein explained the request from Daymark for an addition to their lease.

County Manager, Michael Carter explained if Daymark ended their lease today, there would be costs associated with a tenant leaving mid-term.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin made a motion to table the Daymark lease until general counsel and the County Manager have had time to do some research. Commissioner Mark Evans seconded. Vote 5:0.

Consent Agenda

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

County Manager comments

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator said there is a video of Dalila on the Educational Foundation website.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve A-F of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mechelle Luffman seconded. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner John Irwin made a motion to approve the late application. Chair Bill Osborne seconded. Vote 5:0.

County Manager comments

County Manager, Michael Carter said the September building inspection report is attached and encouraged everyone to look at it. He thanked everyone for thoughts and prayers over the last weeks and the reception today.

County Commissioner comments

Commissioner Mark Evans said here was a joint meeting with the School Board last week in the auditorium to get an update on the grant, needs at the auditorium and update on their facilities. He said he is personally indifferent about the pool discussion but he thinks pursuing something like the presentation shown will be a very nice addition to the county and he would support the conversation.

Commissioner John Irwin welcomed Michael back. He asked for prayers for Mayor Wes Brinegar because he had a heart attack Thursday. He said there are challenges coming up at the schools in the future. He said the pool is a discussion we need to have. He said if there are handouts to be considered, he wants them prior to the meeting. He said this election is the most important vote they will ever make.

Commissioner Mechelle Luffman explained how early voting works and gave their hours. She said Trunk or Treat is Halloween Day. She also welcomed Michael Carter back.

Commissioner Bobby Irwin said he's glad to see Michael sitting there again. He said his work schedule is 3 days a week until he regains his strength. He said they are starting on phase 3 of the Vet Park brick purchases. He said the Charters of Freedom are finished. He said Deanna Ballard's proclamation will be 1:00 at the Annex building and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He encouraged everyone to be educated and explained early voting is in the Commissioners meeting room.

Chair Bill Osborne recessed the meeting until 1:00 at 85 E Whitehead Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Todd
Clerk to the Board

Bill Osborne
Chairman