

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
July 16, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on July 16, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maurice Moody and Commissioners Danny Allen, Mary Gelbaugh, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, and Lynda Sossamon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director), and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney)

VISITORS PRESENT: Curt Collins, Grace Blunt, David Nestler, Quintin Ellison, Holly Kays, Judy Henderson

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Moody called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Curt Collins distributed information to the board related the use of glyphosate and it's damage to residents, especially children. He is a health educator for Jackson County. He noticed the town using a spray on grounds at Bryson Park. He requested that the Town re-evaluate the use of toxic sprays and chemical to treat problems.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Moody encouraged the public to continuing participating in the online traffic survey.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Hamilton reminded everyone of the Concert on the Creek each Friday night. She also noted that the "Brown Bag Lunch" will continue at the Depot every Friday at noon.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling attended the regional Main Street managers meeting in Tryon. She is required to attend three times per year for the NC Main Street Program. Dowling will be attending the Rural Center Rural Advocacy Roundtable on July 28th in Franklin. She reminded the board of the semi-annual County Commissioner Joint Municipal meeting on August 3rd. The Town is sponsoring the Concert on the Creek on Friday, July 24th.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dan Schaeffer updated the board on the progress of the construction of a wall on Finch Street noting construction has been hindered because of a water line. The Stearns building (Hooper) on Main Street and is progressing. A new sidewalk has

been installed at the Depot with more handicap access. Kathryn Montgomery did the layout for the park and will continue to help in the construction process.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Woodard told the board that the July 4th festivities went really well and they received good positive feedback. He noted that Main Street was congested. The police department will hold another family movie night on Saturday, July 25th. Woodard distributed a summary report to the board for the month of June and noted that the department received a tremendous amount of calls.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: There will be a joint commissioner meeting with the Town of Dillsboro on July 20th to discuss a fire department substation.

MAIN STREET REPORT: Manager Dowling reported that the Main Street Association held its annual retreat on July 10th. Future promotions, designs, and goals were discussed at the retreat. Dana Smith will be president, David Nestler-President-Elect, Paige Dowling-Treasurer, and Camae Pautz-Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

FENCE AT BRIDGE PARK: Commissioner Gelbaugh opened the discussion noting that activity at Bridge Park is increasing that the need to address safety is becoming even more important. She posted a question about beauty vs. safety on Facebook and asked residents to respond. Gelbaugh distributed responses to board members to read.

Commissioner Hensley agrees that safety and children come first and something is needed at Bridge Park but has mixed feelings about what. Commissioner Hamilton also agrees that something needs to be done.

Judy Henderson spoke on behalf of the community vacation bible school and is very concerned about the number of children playing around the creek and the easy access to the water. It is a dangerous environment for children. Grace Blunt also spoke to the board about an accidental death at Poteet park that she was witness to. She told the board that safety, supervision, beauty, and fencing could all be discussed but some people have to think about not seeing a face again because of tragedy. She noted that she loves the activities at Bridge Park but there is not a lot of space behind the pavilion which creates danger for children. Blunt noted that opinion about cost, which fence is prettier, or which fence is better doesn't really matter because what matters is who is going to tell the family of a tragic accident that they voted against installing a fence to provide safety because it did not look good.

Manager Dowling told the board that Scott Stanberry had met with her as well as an agent with Traveler's Insurance and it was determined that there was a hazard present but there were steps to mitigate it including posting danger signs. Commissioner Sossamon asked Dowling if she was able to talk to other towns with parks near water as requested from last meeting. She suggested maybe restricting access behind the pavilion especially after dark and having bathrooms installed on the Bridge Park side of the creek. Hensley asked if all of the quotes were received from one company and can the fences be in different colors. Dan Schaeffer told Hensley all quotes were from Asheville Fence. Commissioner Gelbaugh noted that she obtained

quotes on the same fencing at Asheville Fence and they came in lower than those obtained by Schaeffer. They obtained quotes from different employees of the company.

Mayor Moody told the board that the first decision needed was whether the board wanted a fence. Judy Henderson suggested to offset the cost, maybe the Town could accept donations like was done for the pavilion. Davis Woodard asked if anyone had contacted the adjoining property owners. Hensley stated he liked the idea of a fundraiser. Eric Ridenour explained to the board how liability works and that you have to be negligent to be liable and noted that you have to maintain what you put up. Commissioner Allen told the board that something should be done because the Town is inviting the public to use the facility.

Mayor Moody suggested the item be left open for further discussion at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Maurice Moody
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk