

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
October 13, 2016

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on October 13, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Lynda Sossamon and Commissioners, Mary Gelbaugh, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Davis Woodard, (Police Chief) and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Marie Leatherwood, Mary Arbaugh, Jason Farmer, and Holly Kays.

**CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Marie Leatherwood addressed the board about nuisance issues from a neighbor's tree. She also addressed the board about another property in her neighborhood in need of clean-up.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Sossamon thanked Mayor Pro-tem Hamilton for conducting the September 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting. She noted that she worked with Cub Scouts cleaning up Savannah Drive. Sossamon recommended to the board that the October 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting be a work session.

*Commissioner McPherson made a motion to change the October 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting to a work session. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Hamilton recognized Ida Bryson and her service to our country as noted in a Sylva Herald article. She also mentioned that the owners of End of Main requested signs be added to Main Street to say "Slow Down and See Sylva" in hopes of bringing more attention to businesses. Hamilton commended crews for the replacement railroad tracks on Grindstaff Cove Road and Municipal Drive. She reminded the board that they needed to be thinking about a float for the Christmas parade. Commissioner McPherson commented he thought the crosswalks in town would look good. Commissioner Hensley told the board that Freedom Park would be completed soon. Commissioner Nestler announced that the Town received the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant and official paperwork would be forthcoming. He also reminded the board about an article on the Town Manager in the Smokey Mountain News. Commissioner Gelbaugh attended an Arts Council event on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Manager Dowling reminded the board that the Jackson County joint municipality meeting is Monday, October 17th at 5:30 p.m. The Town has ordered a flashing pedestrian signal for Mill Street. It will be placed near Landis Street. This will be like the one near Hunter Library at WCU. Dowling also told the board that Christmas Parade applications are on both the Town and MSSA websites and to please reserve Saturday, December 3rd for the event. Dowling will be out of the office all next week. Dowling, Mayor Sossamon, and Commissioner Hamilton will be in Raleigh for the NC League of Municipalities conference October 23-25.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT:** The Planning Board continued their work on a food truck ordinance at their September meeting. The October meeting has been cancelled due to several absences.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**POLICE K9 UNIT FUNDRAISER:** Police Chief Davis Woodard addressed the board and explained the need for a K9 unit in the Sylva Police Department. He gave the board background information on the opportunity to purchase the unit at a discounted rate, stating that the Waynesville Police Department had the unit available and it was declined by another police department. Woodard told the board that the unit could be purchased for \$5,000 with an additional \$2,000 for certification and documentation. Training for the K9 unit and the officer would be free of charge. The K9 unit is already trained in drugs and will be trained in tracking in the future. Woodard believes this is a great opportunity that cannot be passed up being that a new K9 unit usually costs around \$15,000. Woodard asked the board for their blessing to hold a fundraiser to raise money for the purchase of the unit. Manager Dowling explained the annual budget costs of the unit. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the K9 unit fundraiser and any necessities to ensure the Town of Sylva Police Department is able to purchase the dog. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**PROCLAMATION: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS:** Mary Arbaugh addressed the board about October being breast cancer awareness month and asked the board for their support. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve a proclamation that October is breast cancer awareness month in the Town of Sylva. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**PROCLAMATION: RED RIBBON WEEK:** *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve a proclamation that the week of October 23-31, 2016 is Red Ribbon Week in the Town of Sylva. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**DISCUSSION OF ART SCULPTURES:** Commissioner McPherson opened the discussion by explaining his idea of public art that should be in the Town of Sylva. He would like to see a committee formed of 3 county residents and 2 Town of Sylva residents that could meet and evaluate art for the town. He would like for the members to be separate from the Town Board. He would like this committee to focus on issues including but not limited to structure selection, identify locations for art, insurance liability, public safety, etc. McPherson also noted that he would like the board to consider setting aside .15 to .25 cents in the next budget year for public art.

Commissioner Nestler stated his agreement with McPherson. Hamilton also added that a committee would be a good thing. Mayor Sossamon added that she thought Manager Dowling needed to be on the committee, however McPherson noted only as a non-voting member. Commissioner Gelbaugh suggested having interested residents complete the application already

in place for serving on Town Boards so that the committee is not hand-picked. Commissioner Hensley added that after the committee makes a suggestion, it should be addressed by the public. The committee will need guidelines to follow to locate, evaluate, and propose to the board a piece of public art. Public art will be discussed further at the Board Work Session on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN MEETING:** *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to schedule the next comprehensive economic development plan meeting for November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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Lynda Sossamon  
Mayor

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Amanda W. Murajda  
Town Clerk