

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
December 8, 2016

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on December 8, 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, Harold Hensley, Barbara Hamilton, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk).

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Tanner Hall, Marie Leatherwood, Rick Lepore, and Vickie Lepore.

**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 as amended by adding a discussion from the Fire Department about capital needs. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Marie Leatherwood addressed the board speaking against hiring a Main Street Director.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Sossamon said she had received very positive feedback on the wayfinding signs. She was also very pleased with the Christmas parade.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Gelbaugh discussed a citizen inquiry about the schedule of the Sylva Pool and why it was not open for a longer period of time. Commissioner Nestler reminded everyone that the Town is still accepting donations for the Public Art Fund and seeking volunteers to serve on a Public Art Committee. Commissioner Hensley also commended the wayfinding signs and told the board he too had also received positive feedback. Hensley told the board that the parade feedback had also been great. Commissioner McPherson enjoyed participating in the parade. He congratulated Manager Dowling for her work on the wayfinding signs. McPherson asked why the blue DOT signs at the Sylva exits did not have restaurants listed. Dowling will investigate the cost and procedure for this. McPherson would also like for the pool study to include information and cost projections on year-round use. He also noted that he would like the board to look at creating a fund for betterments in Sylva to correspond to the Hwy 107 project. Commissioner Hamilton complimented the wayfinding signs and the Christmas parade.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Jeff Lewis has been hired as the newest officer for the Police Department. His first day of employment will be December 12, 2016. Dowling told the board that she submitted the water fountain grant application to the county. The Town should find out in January if awarded. The Main Street Assessment Report is due to the NC Commerce Department the first week in January. Dowling told the board that a waterline across Mill Street to the Stearns building will be installed in the next few weeks to increase water capacity for a

sprinkler system. Dowling also told the board that the Town of Sylva was featured in a Railroad Newsletter for the crossing replacements installed in October.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT:** The Planning Board met November 17, 2016 and continued their work on the food truck ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL REPORT:** Fire Chief Mike Beck addressed the board about equipment needed for this budget year. Air packs and turnout gear have a useful life of 10 years and the department needs to replace 10 of those this budget year. Beck told the board that the department had \$136,010 in its capital project fund and would like to request the board approve spending approximately \$88,000 to replace the 10 expiring air packs and turnout gear sets. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the expenditure for 10 air packs and 10 sets of turnout gear. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT:** *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to re-appoint Joe Bill Mathews to a three year term on the Planning Board. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**TWSA BOARD APPOINTMENT:** *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to re-appoint Brenda Oliver to the TWSA Board. The motion carries with a 3-2 vote. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioners Gelbaugh, Hamilton, and Hensley. Voting against the motion were Commissioners McPherson and Nestler.*

**BUDGET CALENDAR:** Manager Dowling presented the board with a revised budget calendar for the 2017-2018 budget process. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the proposed calendar. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN MEETING:** *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to schedule the next comprehensive economic development plan meeting for December 12, 2016 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 6:12 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