

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
December 14, 2017

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on December 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

PRESENT:	Lynda Sossamon, Mayor	Paige Dowling, Town Manager
	Barbara Hamilton, Vice-Mayor	Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk
	Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner	Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney
	Harold Hensley, Commissioner	
	Greg McPherson, Commissioner	
	David Nestler, Commissioner	

Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Hooper, Rick Bryson, Dan Schaeffer, Lynn Bryant, John Jeleniewski, and Caroline Edmonds.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Suzanne Saucier, wife of Commissioner David Nestler, addressed the board and voiced her support for Nestler to be reappointed to the TWSA Board. Roy Davis, step-father of Commissioner Nestler, also voiced his support for the reappointment. He also mentioned that TWSA needed to look at ways to help lower income families.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon attended the NCLM New Mayor Orientation and the Southwestern Commission's quarterly local mayors meeting. She noted that the local meeting topic of discussion was broadband internet and the survey residents can complete about internet services in the area.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Gelbaugh congratulated Michael McCardle, who was in attendance, on the birth of a grandchild. She commended Police Officer Fritz and the Police Department on their safety checks with banks in town. Gelbaugh witnessed Officer Fritz in action during one check. She also told the board that luminaries in Sylva were cancelled the previous weekend because of snow and would try to be rescheduled the following weekend. Commissioner McPherson requested that the Public Works Department repair the handrail on Mill Street damaged by a car wreck. McPherson added that budget planning was coming up and he wanted to see emphasis on pedestrian safety walks in town. Commissioner Hamilton noted that she appreciated the attendance for the Christmas Parade but was concerned about child safety as children kept walking out into the street. She challenged the board to build a float for next year's parade.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Dowling reminded the board that this is the only meeting for the month of December. Mural proposals for the Public Art Committee are due by Friday, December 15th. Dowling met with a WCU MPA student regarding an internship with the Town that will begin in the summer. Jeff Lewis has resigned his position with the Police Department because he is moving. Town Hall will be close December 25th -27th.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

AUDITORS REPORT: Bronwyn Burleson of Burleson and Earley, PA presented the financial statements and auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. An unmodified opinion was given with no findings. Burleson encourages the board to review the report and to read the management discussion.

SWEARING –IN CEREMONY: The Honorable Bradley B. Letts performed the ceremony and administered the oath of office to the newly re-elected mayor and commissioners.

Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner
Barbara Hamilton, Commissioner
Lynda Sossamon, Mayor

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to recess the meeting for a reception in honor of the elected officials. The motion carries with a unanimous vote and the meeting was recessed at 6:22p.m.

Mayor Sossamon reconvened the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING-ANTENNA INSTALLATION ON CELL TOWER: Mayor Sossamon opened the public hearing at 6:48 p.m. and asked for comments on the request to waive the fee for installing an FM broadband antenna on an existing tower on Kings Mountain. *Being no comment Commissioner Hensley made a motion to close the hearing at 6:48 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

OATH OF OFFICE TO PLANNING BOARD MEMBER: Mayor Sossamon administered the oath of office to Planning Board Appointment, Dawn Gilchrist.

TOWN ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT: Mayor Sossamon announced that only one application for Town Attorney had been received and it was from the current attorney Eric Ridenour. Sossamon read his qualifications to the board and noted he was an excellent candidate for the position. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to reappoint Eric Ridenour as the Town Attorney. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

MAYOR PRO-TEM APPOINTMENT: *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to appoint Commissioner Barbara Hamilton as Mayor Pro-tem. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

OATH OF OFFICE TO MAYOR PRO-TEM: Mayor Sossamon administered the oath of office to Mayor Pro-tem Barbara Hamilton.

BUDGET CALENDAR: Manager Dowling reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 budget calendar with the board. Commissioner Nestler thanked the board for accommodating his work schedule. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 budget calendar. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SCHEDULE CHANGE-PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE: The Public Art Committee has requested to change their December 2017 meeting to December 20th at 4:30 p.m. and their January 2018 meeting to January 24th at 4:30 p.m. *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve those calendar changes as noted. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

SCHEDULE CHANGE-PLANNING BOARD: The Planning Board has requested to change their January 2018 meeting to January 25th at 5:30 p.m. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to approve the change as noted. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

ANTENNA INSTALLATION ON CELL TOWER: Manager Dowling reviewed the fee waiver request with the board. John Jeleniewski, County Senior Planner, reviewed the application, his management letter, and site requirements with the board. Commissioner McPherson asked why the Town would waive the fee. It was explained that the radio services to the community were greater and include things such as emergency notifications and amber alerts. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to approve the fee waiver request. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

TWSA BOARD APPOINTMENT: Mayor Sossamon explained that Commissioner Nestler's term on the TWSA Board was expiring December 31, 2017 and the seat would need an appointment. She noted that an application had also been received from David Kelley. Commissioner Hensley commented that a lot of negative statements had been told about his service on the board and that he wanted others to understand the facts before condemning his service. Hensley would like to see someone on the board who knows the infrastructure in town based on the NCDOT construction coming soon to Sylva. *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to appoint Dan Schaeffer to the TWSA Board for these reasons.*

Commissioner Nestler spoke to defend his re-appointment and noted that disagreement with things TWSA does is a good thing. He added that he had fought tirelessly for what he thought was important including impact fees. He believes that he has done a good job as a board member. Nestler also identified things he had proposed or worked on while on the board that no one wanted to look at. He noted that residents tend to pay more than businesses.

Mayor Sossamon called for a vote on the motion made by Commissioner Hensley. The motion failed with a 1-4 vote. Voting in the affirmative was Commissioner Hensley. Voting against the motion were Commissioners Gelbaugh, Nestler, McPherson, and Hamilton.

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to reappoint David Nestler to the TWSA Board and added that more young people needed to be on the board and he had done a good job. The motion carries with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Gelbaugh added after the vote that she would like to see Dan Schaeffer attend the TWSA meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk