

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
August 8, 2019

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on August 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

**PRESENT:** Lynda Sossamon, Mayor  
Barbara Hamilton, Vice-Mayor  
Harold Hensley, Commissioner  
Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner  
Greg McPherson Commissioner  
David Nestler, Commissioner

Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk  
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney

**ABSENT:** Paige Dowling, Town Manager

Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Lynn Bryant (Finance Officer), Jake Scott (Public Works Director) and the Sylva Police Department.

**VISITORS:** Pat Purdy, Dave Russell, Jeannie Kelley, Bob Kelley, Julie Bartell, Deloris Estes, Jerri Stafford, Megan Hall, Doug Farmer, Gina Farmer, Jessica Dills, Teresa Cabe, Luther Jones, Steven Rice, David Schulman, Joann Luker, RA Luker, Jason Kimenker, Alinea Kimenker, Lloyd Lyons IV, Lloyd Lyons II, Jenny Hooper, Jessica Buchanan, Rick Bryson, Zac Newland, April Newland, Kelly Robinson, Joshua Marks, Melissa Dingman, Sara Dingman, Suzanne Saucier, Tom Jones, Cathy Gibson, Deborah Freels, Matt Williams, Vicky Polson, Betty Dishman, Rose Bauguess, Jean Ensley, Connie Sutton, Andrea Ford, Savannah Vining, Ben Collette, Gayle Woody, Amy Willis, Bill Thompson, Jeanette White, Douglas McDonald, Libby Hall, Glenda Gainor, Stacy Munn, Sara Riofrio, Cory Coleman, Boyd Sossamon, Mercedes Pittman, Patrick Dowling, JK Coward, Pam Krauss, Eric Myers, Bill Thompson, Caleb Kelly, Tony Cabe, Charley Woodring, Aaron Littlefield, Autumn Batterson, Boyce Deitz and Holly Kays.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- (a) Julie Bartell, Greens Creek area, stated she was new to the county and had yet to see positive remarks about the project. She thinks that something needs to be done and it should not include a round-a-bout. She inquired if anyone could explain the benefits.
- (b) Luther Jones, 79 Citrus Drive, stated that according to the Sylva Herald there is on average one accident on Highway 107 each week. He doesn't know if bike lanes are needed on the road. He also noted that there were no audible signs in city limits, therefore making it difficult for those who cannot see to cross traffic.
- (c) David Schulman, property owner in city limits, would like to know what the benefits of the road are, questions if there is a reason for a 17-foot median, and noted that bike lanes are not needed.
- (d) Jason Kimenker, Jackson County resident, thanked the board for allowing public comment. He noted that citizens at the meeting are saying they do not want the road and asked the board to listen to the community.
- (e) Jessica Buchanan, business owner on Hensley Circle, stated that she believed the plan would destroy the Town and only create a path to WCU. She asked the board to help find a different plan.
- (f) Kelly Robinson, Hensley Circle, stated that he can see traffic from his property. He believes it is not the volume of the traffic but rather the speed limit on the road. He would like the 35 MPH zone extended out to Evans Road.
- (g) Sara Dingman, Nutmeg Lane, stated that she and her friends agree the road is not a good idea. She believes that bike lanes are not necessary, and jobs will be lost.
- (h) Josh Marks stated he is upset with the project.
- (i) Cathy Gibson, Jackson County resident, stated that the information she had read about the project was alarming. She expressed her opinion about electing board members who would help.
- (j) Deborah Freels, employee in Jackson County, does not want to see the road project. She believes the money could be used for drug and rehabilitation centers.

- (k) Matt Williams, employee at Speedy's Pizza, noted that the Sylva Herald had incorrectly stated the number of employees who would lose jobs for many businesses along the Highway 107 project area. He also stated that round-a-bouts were not needed.
- (l) Betty Dishman, Edgewood Drive, would like the road to be improved but not at such a drastic measure.
- (m) Douglas McDonald, business owner, stated he was totally against the project. He added that gas stations would be gone and replacing them would be difficult.
- (n) JK Coward, business owner, stated that the comments already mentioned were good and that communication with NCDOT could change the project. He also discussed Pinnacle Park and noted that the Department of Corrections and Forrest Service would be working to clear trails.
- (o) Bill Thompson, Greens Creek, spoke against the road. He stated it would not solve traffic problems as proposed. He added that a west exit off of Asheville Highway is needed.
- (p) Charlie Woodring, Jackson County resident, stated that there would be issues with school bus traffic and crosswalk traffic.
- (q) Autumn Batterson, Jackson County resident, stated that she believed the project was a waste of money.
- (r) Savannah Vining, Falls Circle, addressed the board about her ongoing complaints with neighbors who she believes do not keep their property clean.
- (s) Cory Colman, business and property owner in city limits, addressed the board and stated that there had not been a lot of information presented at meeting for the public to see. He would like more input from the board and does not think bike lanes are needed.

At the end of the public comment period, Mayor Sossamon thanked everyone for attending and sharing their comments.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Gelbaugh reiterated to the attendees that the Highway 107 65% plans do not include utilities. She encouraged everyone to read about Duke Energy's underground options. Gelbaugh stated she did not support the road the way it was currently designed. Commissioner Nestler stated that TWSA would be having a policy meeting on August 27, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss relocation policies. Nestler also noted that the absence of the Manager is evidence that a Main Street Director is needed because she was having to attend a required meeting. Commissioner Hamilton stated that she had listened to all speakers tonight. She agreed with Gelbaugh about underground utilities to retain businesses.

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Manager Dowling was absent for the meeting while attending the NC Main Street Managers Conference and left the following report:

- Chris Hatton's first day as Chief of Police will be Monday, August 12, 2019.
- The code assessment and land use character map are still in progress.
- A final report from the Asheville Design Center has not been received.
- Manager Dowling and Jake Scott met with NCDOT, Nantahala Brewing, John Jeleniewski and Dan Harbaugh about the crosswalk at Nantahala Brewing. The crosswalk location has been marked on the pavement and it should be painted in the next couple of weeks. Nantahala is having the sidewalk extended to install an ADA handicap accessible curb cut on both sides of Grindstaff Cove Road. NCDOT is going to restripe the bridge and install a sign before the bridge entrance not allowing parking.

**MAIN STREET REPORT:** The MSSA held their annual retreat on Monday, August 5, 2019 and established the work plan for the upcoming year.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION TO INVESTIGATE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION:** Mayor Sossamon presented to the board a resolution for investigating a petition for annexation. Amanda Murajda explained to the board that the resolution was to instruct the clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition and report back to the board. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION:** Mayor Sossamon presented the resolution of appreciation to the board. *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the resolution of appreciation for Douglas Farmer in regards to his retirement. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote. A reception honoring Douglas Farmer's retirement followed the meeting.*

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Lynda Sossamon  
Mayor

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Amanda W. Murajda  
Town Clerk