

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
January 9, 2020

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on January 9, 2020 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  
Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner  
Ben Guiney, Commissioner  
Greg McPherson Commissioner  
David Nestler, Commissioner

Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk  
Paige Dowling, Town Manager  
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney

**ABSENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rick Bryson (Asst. Police Chief), Chris Hatton (Police Chief) and Jake Scott (Public Works Director).

**VISITORS:** Erin McCully, Luther Jones, Jeanne McGuire, Mary Ann Lochner, Robert Cochran, Holly Kays, Dave Russell and Robert Franz.

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner Gelbaugh 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:** Erin McCully addressed the board about support for a resolution on energy innovation and the carbon dividend act. The resolution addresses climate change. It will be placed on a future agenda for discussion. Luther Jones addressed the board about political funding from a group called NC Down Home. He urged the board to pass a resolution condemning the use of political action groups.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Sossamon inquired if the board was interested in having a retreat on a future date. Several commissioners responded voicing interest.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Gelbaugh reminded the board that Harold Hensley's seat on the Neighbors in Need board would need to be replaced and asked if Barbara Hamilton could serve as the Town appointment instead of the County because she is a Town Commissioner. Manager Dowling will ask if this is possible. Commissioner Nestler requested that the board review the recycling ordinance and possibly add a requirement for landlords to supply recycling bins to tenants. Commissioner McPherson commented that vehicles were using loading zones for longer than the allowed 15-minute time and asked the police department to watch those more closely. Commissioner Hamilton reminded everyone of the Superbowl ad that includes the Town of Sylva and encouraged everyone to watch it.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

- Employment Update: Tim Dillard is retiring as a mechanic in Public Works at the end of January.
- Greening Up the Mountains: The first planning meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Since the festival has filled up the last couple of years, Kendra Hamm is revising the policies to include a new vendor selection process.

**MAIN STREET REPORT:** The annual Main Street Program Assessment report has been complete and submitted to the NC Commerce Department. This report determines the Main Street Sylva Association's program accreditation. The NC Main Street program requires this as part of the national Main Street program.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mike Bryson has retired from the county as Sylva's Fire Services Coordinator. The county employs the fire services coordinator, but the fire chief and town fill the vacancy. Mallory Caraway was hired to fill the vacancy.

- Updated Fire Department officers: Keith Buchanan (Asst. Chief), Brandon Sutton (Asst. Chief), Sam Shuler (Captain), Jesse Turner (Lieutenant). Chris Green has resigned as an officer but is staying on the fire department.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACH AND REACH SERVICES UPDATE:** Bob Cochran and Mary Ann Locknear from the Center for Domestic Peace addressed the board and requested a resolution of support for the center. They will be separating from Macon County Reach Services and establishing their own program. The resolution will be forwarded to the Town for a future agenda.

**2019-2020 FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT:** Manager Dowling explained the need for replacement lids for recycling bins. There is currently not an option to purchase just a lid or bin outside of the grouped cost. This amendment establishes fees for individual lids and bins for replacement purposes only. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to approve the amendment. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**2020-2021 BUDGET CALENDAR:** *Commissioner Guiney made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Calendar. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Mayor Sossamon thanked the applicants for the vacancies. Manager Dowling explained that Ben Guiney's seat was vacant due to his recent election to the Town Board. It will end February 28, 2022. *Commissioner McPherson made a motion to appoint Melissa Madrona to fill the vacancy of Guiney. Commissioner Guiney requested to be excused from voting because Madrona is his wife. The request carries with a unanimous vote. The motion by Commissioner McPherson to appoint Madrona carries with a unanimous vote.*

Manager Dowling explained that Joe Bill Mathews' seat had expired and he did not wish to be reappointed. This vacancy will be for a three-year term. *Commissioner Nestler made a motion to appoint Alan Brown to fill the vacancy. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Guiney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 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