

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
July 20, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on July 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Dillsboro Town Hall, 42 Front Street, Dillsboro, N.C. for the purpose of discussing a fire department substation within the Dillsboro town limits.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maurice Moody and Commissioners Danny Allen, Mary Gelbaugh, Barbara Hamilton, and Lynda Sossamon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Harold Hensley.

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

VISITORS PRESENT: None.

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Moody called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. for the Town of Sylva.

Manager Dowling summarized for both boards what the financial costs and expectations would be. She noted that the Town of Dillsboro would be responsible for the loan proceedings. The Town of Sylva would need to agree that the payment made to Sylva by Dillsboro would be put towards the payment of the loan in the Town of Dillsboro's name and not be due payable to the Town of Sylva over the life of the loan. Dillsboro would handle procurement and the fire chief would manage the project. Dillsboro Mayor Mike Fitzgerald told the boards that he and fire chief Mike Beck met with TWSA and found that water and sewer are already available on the property. Commissioner Gelbaugh clarified the property location. Commissioner David Gates from Dillsboro asked what would happen if a county-wide fire tax were implemented. Beck explained that the fire department would present a total budget to the county and that would be distributed through the fire tax to the county residents. Commissioner David Jones told the boards he spoke with the Department of Insurance and was told that residential rates would not be reduced by adding a substation. In his opinion, Beck has failed to show the cost benefit of adding a substation. Fitzgerald noted that if a 441 corridor is developed, the substation would be of great benefit. Beck noted that the substation would reduce the rates of commercial properties not residential and the main point was truck distribution. Commissioner Tim Parris of Dillsboro asked if the County built all substations and if not, why is Dillsboro being asked to build this one. Jones noted that timing is bad for the Town of Dillsboro. Jimmy Cabe with Dillsboro asked if the County might split the cost somehow and add a Sheriff's department substation in with the fire department. Sossamon questioned the impact fees from TWSA and Fitzgerald noted that would have to be discussed with TWSA.

Commissioner Sossamon made a motion to approve the Town of Dillsboro's payment to Sylva be used towards the loan on a fire department substation building until the loan is paid in full. The motion carries with a unanimous vote by Allen, Gelbaugh, Hamilton, and Sossamon.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Maurice Moody
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk