

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
December 17, 2015

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on December 17, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room of Municipal Hall, 83 Allen Street, Sylva, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Lynda Sossamon and Commissioners Mary Gelbaugh, Barbara Hamilton, Harold Hensley, Greg McPherson and David Nestler.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director), Davis Woodard (Police Chief) Tammy Hooper (Asst. Police Chief) and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

VISITORS PRESENT: Marie Leatherwood, Holly Kays, Tanner Hall, and Joe Hamilton.

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Sossamon called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Marie Leatherwood made a presentation on poverty and county spending.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Sossamon noted that she attended New Mayors Training last week and is excited that the entire board will be attending the Essentials of Municipal Government in February.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner McPherson asked certain questions pertaining the budget to get a better understanding of the Town's spending process. He thanked the employees of town businesses for following parking ordinances. Commissioner Hamilton noted that she had received a tremendous amount of positive feedback about the parade. She also told the board that Commissioner Nestler wanted her to tell the board he was out of the country on a trip and that the tickets had been purchased prior to running for the Town Board. Hamilton thanked the Public Works department for helping with the parade and to Eric Ridenour for being the sleigh master.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling and Dan Schaefer met with members of the Farmer's Market to discuss the storage shed at Bridge Park. Construction will begin as soon as possible. Dowling noted that all employees have been trained on Blood Borne Pathogens as required by OSHA. Heath Jones has been hired as a new police officer. Dowling met with three WCU students regarding Sylva's mobile website which should be up and running sometime in the spring. The Town renewed their contract with Advanced Mailing Systems for a postage meter. Town Hall will be closed for Christmas on December 23-25, 2015 and for New Year's on January 1, 2016.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dan Schaeffer wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He updated the board on the progress of construction on the Hooper building.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Woodard distributed reports for October and November to the board. He congratulated the new mayor and commissioners. Woodard noted that the Christmas Parade was successful. He told the board that Heath Jones had been hired to fill the last vacancy, bringing the department back to full staff. Ryan Griffin just returned from parental leave. The department just received their three new cars for the year. The officers participated in 'Shop With A Cop' and helped around 100 children. Woodard thanked the board for their support as law enforcement around the country comes under attack. Commissioner Hamilton noted that the Town of Sylva is lucky to have such a department. Woodard wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Commissioner McPherson asked Woodard if he was aware of a window at Innovation that had been shot several times. Woodard said that a police report had not been filed; therefore he was unaware of the situation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: None.

MAIN STREET REPORT: The Main Street Sylva Association thanked the board for their help with the Christmas parade. Amy Garza will coordinate Greening Up The Mountains again for 2016. The Main Street Board will not meet in January. Meetings will resume in February.

NEW BUSINESS

TWSA BOARD APPOINTMENT: *Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to re-appoint Harold Hensley to the TWSA board. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

APPOINT VICE MAYOR: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to appoint Commissioner Barbara Hamilton as vice-mayor. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

BOARD RETREAT: Mayor Sossamon suggested February 27th as a possible date for a board retreat. Other suggestions were to facilitate a moderator and locations for a retreat. Sossamon told the board to think about these suggestions and a decision would be made in January.

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk