

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners  
January 21, 2016

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on January 21, 2016 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 Harold Hensley, Mary Gelbaugh, Greg McPherson, and David Nestler.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Barbara Hamilton.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Paige Dowling (Town Manager), Amanda Murajda (Town Clerk), Dan Schaeffer (Public Works Director), Davis Woodard (Police Chief), John Jeleniewski (Code Compliance Officer), Michael Poston (County Planner) and Eric Ridenour (Town Attorney).

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Tanner Hall, Avram Friedman, Allen Lanax.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Mayor Sossamon moved to recommend adding an agenda item on Ending Corporate Personhood. Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** John Jeleniewski introduced the new County Planner, Michael Poston. Mr. Poston addressed the board and gave a background of his experience.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Sossamon told the board she attended a meeting with the Southwestern Commission on walkability and twenty things that make a great town. She will discuss those at a later meeting.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Gelbaugh reminded everyone to be safe during the upcoming winter storm. Commissioner Nestler thanked the Southwestern Commission for their help on the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant. Commissioner Hensley, in reference to the Mayor's report, would like to see more walking trails and residents using those trails.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Manager Dowling reminded everyone of the budget work session next Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Dowling told the board Sarah Thompson would be facilitating the upcoming Board retreat and they were in the processing of developing an agenda. Power poles on Mill Street will be upgraded on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> according to Mike Revis from Duke Energy. Dowling advised the board that the financial data for the Finch Street project is being closed and it appears the project was under budget by \$70,158.68. Dowling thanked Dan Schaeffer for his hard work in monitoring the project and keeping costs down. Dowling told the board she would be attending the NC City County Manager's conference February 3-5<sup>th</sup> and would miss the board meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup>. She reminded the board that the joint municipal meeting will be on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> with dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Dan Schaeffer advised the board that significant winter weather was approaching our area and a state of emergency could possibly be issued. There was no trash pickup on Wednesday due to weather and Schaeffer noted he did put the announcement on the 540 AM radio station.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Chief Davis Woodard presented the December 2015 statistics report to the board. He reminded everyone to stay home during the upcoming winter storm. He also noted that the police department is back to full staff.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** None.

**MAIN STREET REPORT:** Planning for Greening Up The Mountains has begun and a planning committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION/RESOLUTION—ENDING CORPORATE PERSONHOOD:** Avram Friedman made a presentation to the board on ending corporate personhood. He presented a resolution to the board and asked for support. Commissioner Nestler noted that Commissioner Hamilton asked him to voice her support during her absence. *Nestler made a motion to approve the resolution presented by Avram Friedman in support of ending corporate personhood. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF FUNDS (if awarded)—CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND:** Commissioner Nestler explained to the board that this was a grant to develop a plan on how to mitigate pollution in the Scotts Creek. Nestler, along with Manager Dowling, met with Sarah Thompson, Rose Bauguess, and Tom Massie on the logistics of the grant application. Estimates from the discussion include a \$50,000 grant for the city limit area of the watershed area with a match of \$10,000 from the Town or \$85,000 for the entire watershed area and a match of \$17,000 from the town.

Mayor Sossamon asked if Sarah Thompson had communicated with anyone from outside of the city limits to see if there was support to participate. Nestler noted that he was not aware of it. Commissioner Hensley added that he believed the County would support the plan. Nestler advised that the grant application was due February 1<sup>st</sup> and would be awarded in April. Manager Dowling presented the financial data from the Fisher Creek Funds, as this would be used for the Town's matching of funds. Dan Schaeffer noted that the Town should check to see whether the Fisher Creek Funds can be used outside of city limits before proceeding.

*Commissioner Nestler made a motion to authorize Mayor Sossamon to sign the resolution of support only if the Town can spend the Fisher Creek money outside of city limits so that the entire watershed can be addressed with the application being for \$85,000, with an in-kind match of 5% and \$17,000 from the Town. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m. The motion carries with a unanimous vote.*

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Lynda Sossamon  
Mayor

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Amanda W. Murajda  
Town Clerk