

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners and Sparta Town Council met in joint session on Monday, April 29, 2013, at 7:00pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: County: Chair Larry Cox, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Larry Davis, John Goudreau, Karen Leys, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans, Town: Mayor John Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Agnes Joines, John Brady, Chris Jones and Town Manager Bryan Edwards. Mike Parlier was present but arrived late.

Chair Cox called the County meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to approve the agenda for this April 29, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Mayor Miller called the Town meeting to order at 7:01pm.

John Brady made a motion to approve the agenda for this April 29, 2013, meeting. Chris Jones seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Joint County/Town Meeting  
April 29, 2013  
Agenda

- 7:00pm     Meeting Called to Order  
              Motion on Agenda
- 7:05pm     Bryan Edwards  
              RE: Water Authority Update  
              Downtown Streetscape Project
- 7:20pm     Don Adams  
              RE: Alleghany County/Town of Sparta Economic Development Plan Process
- 7:35pm     Don Adams/Bryan Edwards  
              RE: Rural Center Resolution
- Other Business
- Town Adjourn/County Adjourn

Town Manager Bryan Edwards updated both boards on the status of increasing the water intake area for the water authority has been completed.

Mike Parlier joined the meeting at 7:03pm.

Town Manager Bryan Edwards talked about the tests for the drawdown after the increase. He stated that the system has been serving both towns. He explained that one location in Sparta isn't served and plans are in place to service that area. He talked about the new prison in Grayson County will be operating in October. Chris Jones commented about how far the project has come in a short time and is great for the community. Mayor Miller talked about it is amazing what has occurred. Chair Cox talked about this is a great partnership across state lines. Bryan Edwards talked about the technology at the water plant.

Town Manager Bryan Edwards talked about the downtown streetscape project. He explained that they received some assistance from the Health Department to look at the downtown area to promote more healthy living. He talked about how the greenway project ties into the streetscape project. He explained that their focus is the core downtown commercial area. He said most of this is tied to the completion of the Sparta Parkway. He explained that it is a good timeframe regarding NCDOT and some of this work will tie into Blue Ridge Electric's 3-year update plan. He talked about it is going to take everyone working together. He explained that they are going to start on Whitehead Street towards the Park to upgrade the sidewalk, crosswalk, resurfacing and have a flashing light at the intersection. Chair Cox and the Town Manager talked about the turning lane beside the Courthouse on Whitehead Street. The County Manager and the Town Manager talked about the goal is to do that section prior to the Parkway in order to use it as a demonstration that people can see. Commissioner Smith and the Town Manager talked about NCDOT's timeline, the Parkway is scheduled for 2016 and resurfacing of Main Street is about 4-6 years out. The County Manager stated his appreciation for the Town's work on this and going to Grayson Street first because he thinks it is good for people to visually see it, and it will be more pedestrian friendly. The Town Manager talked about

brick pavers at the Courthouse and probably will lose a parking space but that makes it the focal point. The County Manager talked about the Courthouse being a focal point.

County Manager Don Adams talked about Allegheny County and the Town of Sparta met with community leaders on April 9 about what it would take to update the master economic development plan. He explained that the County's plan was done in 2003, and the Town's in 2008. He talked about it's time to update the plans. He further talked about who attended the meeting, and the meeting was more of an organizational meeting. He said they are meeting again in May. He explained the purpose of the next meeting. He talked about bringing in some other groups and hopefully coming out with new goals to reinvigorate ourselves economically. Town Manager Bryan Edwards talked about the meeting was a good beginning. He further talked about the benefit working from the existing plans. He explained the plan's importance and being beneficial looking forward. He talked about the County/Town working together is the way to go. Chris Jones talked about he was glad to see this beginning again, and the area having so much to offer. He stated his appreciation to Don Adams for getting this going. Mayor Miller talked about the need to have a plan. Commissioner Leys stated she appreciated Don Adams and Bryan Edwards' efforts. Chair Cox talked about utilizing Phi Trew and Darren Rhodes for assistance.

Chair Cox talked about him and Chris Jones attended the High Country Council of Government's meeting and funding of the Rural Center was discussed. He explained that the Council of Government passed a resolution similar to the one before the boards tonight. He further explained that we want to continue to see funding for the Rural Center because they help rural areas. County Manager Don Adams presented a Rural Center resolution supporting full funding of the Rural Center. He read a portion of the resolution. He listed out the benefits for the last five years for Allegheny County. Town Manager Bryan Edwards listed out the benefits for the Town of Sparta. He said it is worthwhile for both boards to support funding for the Rural Center. Chair Cox read the last paragraph of the resolution and talked about sending the resolution to our members of the General Assembly and the Governor. John Brady talked about the Town has used the Rural Center for a lot in the past and continue to do so. Mayor Miller said it's probably been the best vehicle to help the citizens here.

John Brady made a motion to adopt the resolution. Chris Jones seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

John Brady passed out brochures for the Studio Tour in June and October.

Mayor Miller talked about having a tremendous crowd recently at the Take a Break from the Interstate.

John Brady provided information for the Arts Guild's activities this year. He invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Miller stated his appreciation for these meetings, and the Town feels welcome.

Chris Jones stated his appreciation for everyone willing to get involved.

John Brady agreed about the cooperation between the two entities, working together, and there are a lot of things happening in Allegheny County/Sparta.

Mike Parlier talked about what is good for one entity is good for the other entity, and we all want to make it better.

Commissioner Davis said this is his first meeting, and it looks like a lot is going to happen before long.

Commissioner Goudreau agreed with Mike Parlier's comments. He stated his appreciation to Susan Miles and the Sparta Revitalization Committee, the Tourism Development Authority and to everyone who gets involved with the community.

Commissioner Leys talked about the importance of these two groups getting together. She said she is excited about our progress and happy to be a part of it.

Commissioner Smith said it's always good to see the Town Council. He talked about events in Sparta and his appreciation to people mentioned by Commissioner Goudreau.

Chair Cox stated his appreciation for adopting the resolution. He urged both boards to talk to our legislators about it and to let them know there are good things happening here but we need them. He talked about the Studio Tour. He further talked about the Take a Break from the Interstate.

Being no further County business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn at 7:41pm. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Being no further Town business, Chris Jones made a motion to adjourn at 7:41pm. Mike Parlier seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans, Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox, Chairman