

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners and Sparta Town Council met in joint session on Monday, September 30, 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, Karen Leys, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans, Town: Mayor John Miller, John Brady, Chris Jones, Mike Parlier and Town Manager Bryan Edwards.

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

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda for this September 30, 2013, meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

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

John Brady made a motion to approve the agenda for this September 30, 2013, meeting. Mike Parlier seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

Joint County/Town Meeting
September 30, 2013
Agenda

7:00pm Meeting Called to Order
Motion on Agenda

7:05pm Ashley Weaver
RE: Community Event Calendar Request

7:15pm Bryan Edwards
RE: Water Authority Update

7:20pm Don Adams/Bryan Edwards
RE: Alleghany County/Town of Sparta Economic Development Plan Update

7:35pm Don Adams
RE: Veterans Park Update

Other Business

Town Adjourn

EMS Ambulance Surplus and Offer to Purchase

County Adjourn

Ashley Weaver, Chamber of Commerce Director, along with Jim Connor, Tourism Development Authority (TDA) chairman, came before the Board to talk about a community-wide calendar and possibly using the Ever Wonder network. She further explained how it works, people who currently use the system, partnering through High Country Host for \$600 per member per year for three years. Jim Connor stated that it's their understanding they can't commit to more than one year without talking to the Commissioners. He explained the purpose, multiyear contract and their interest. They talked about how the Chamber and TDA have discussed this, requirement of 4 members for \$600 for 3 years and the concerns of the TDA.

John Brady and Ashley Weaver talked about examples and how/where anyone could go to upload their events. She explained where else the calendar information would be shown.

Commissioner Leys and Ashley Weaver talked about having someone to input the information with the library. They discussed there isn't a community-wide calendar at this point.

Commissioner Smith and Ashley Weaver talked about the Alleghany County library rather than the regional library.

Commissioner Leys, Ashley Weaver and Jim Connor talked about they don't want any money at this point. Jim Connor talked about the timeline with the TDA and then they would come back to Board of Commissioners.

County Manager Don Adams and Jim Connor talked about the amount for the TDA. The County Manager and Ashley Weaver talked about staff at the library uploading the information.

Town Manager Bryan Edwards and Ashley Weaver talked about having a PowerPoint demonstration to show to the partners the actual websites and Ashe County's website; coolest corner.com.

John Brady, Commissioner Leys and Ashley Weaver talked about the calendar.

County Manager Don Adams talked about long-term uses for the calendar and the multi-year commitment from all of the organizations which would justify financial input.

Chair Cox and Ashley Weaver talked about having a school calendar, and the schools are a different format.

Commissioner Leys and Jim Connor talked about this is on the agenda for the next TDA meeting. Jim Connor stated that there isn't a time table for approval from the TDA.

Mike Parlier and Ashley Weaver talked about not having a timeframe to approve this but it takes 3 weeks to launch.

Town Manager Bryan Edwards provided a Virginia/Carolina Water Authority update including the closeout with Rural Development has been completed and approved. He talked about having low water alarms last week, found the problem and fixed it with no further issues at this time. He said the project was started in 2006 and in 2013 is providing water for both towns. He talked about the importance of the water project for the prison in Grayson County, and they will be moving inmates in next week and their water consumption.

Mike Parlier and Bryan Edwards talked about having a ribbon cutting and dedication for the water plant in the spring.

County Manager Don Adams explained that the process has been started for the Alleghany County/Town of Sparta Economic Development Plan with Darren Rhodes from the Division of Community Assistance (DCA) coming here along with 8 of his employees to meet with the 39 stakeholders. He further explained the process on Monday and Tuesday including they had a leadership meeting on Tuesday. He talked about DCA and the High Country Council of Government have taken the information back to determine the next steps. He stated he hopes in the next couple of weeks they will come back with the next steps and have a community-wide meeting.

Town Manager Bryan Edwards talked about they had scheduled 39 participants and interviewed the merchants. He said that they did a good job. He talked about receiving good feedback and helping us to develop a plan.

Chair Cox talked about how several of us participated in this, and the surveys were pretty extensive. He further talked about the follow-up meeting showed they really listened.

Commissioner Smith, the Town Manager and County Manager talked about the timeframe, input on how to hold the community-wide meeting and having a couple more steps completed before the end result.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about trying to decide how in depth it is for the community, and the original goal was a rough draft in January, and the need for more input from the outlying communities.

County Manager Don Adams presented a Veterans Park update including recent activity at the Park. He talked about the original goal's completion was October 2013, but the permitting process took until May 2-13 and didn't receive the final permit from the Town of Sparta until last month, which allowed work to proceed. He explained that the process has been started with County labor, and the goal is to get the grading done before winter. He stated the project received an extension to September 2014 and all of the matching funds can be held that long. He talked about deciding to install the drain lines, and do the grading. He stated his appreciation to the Town for allowing the use of Town staff. He explained that drainage will be very similar to the fairgrounds. He further explained that the property is designed to flood and provided an example. He talked about going out to bid in January/February for the remainder of the project. He explained the funding is a total of \$344,959 and listed the sources of revenue. He talked about starting in the spring and by mid summer having an open park.

Mayor Miller and the County Manager discussed the County Manager's visits to the banks in the initial fundraising but haven't visited them recently.

Chair Cox talked about how the County used our own labor and bought locally so far.

Mayor Miller said this is an impressive report and everyone should be proud.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams recognized all of the maintenance staff for their work on the Park, stating they have done a great job.

The Town Manager mentioned the annual trunk or treat on October 31 at Crouse Park from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and having a rain date of as November 1 at the Emerson Black Building.

Chair Cox talked receiving a thank you from Rita Woodruff for the donations for the symphony. The Mayor talked about almost \$9,300 was raised for the symphony.

Chris Jones stated his appreciation for the efforts of everyone here.

Mike Parlier said he was excited about the groups that came about the Economic Development Plan and how this will benefit both the County and the Town.

Commissioner Smith said these have been a lot of good reports, good to see everyone, and appreciates everyone's work.

Commissioner Leys said that it's great to hear of the positive news and she appreciates all of the work. She talked about getting a tour at the Veterans Park, and it's going to be great. She talked about the Daniel Cater art appreciation held on Friday that had about 50 people to attend and was a big success. She stated Chris Jones and herself talked to Mike Finley, Richard Burr's representative, who suggested having the County Manager and the Town Manager set up a time quarterly for the Federal representatives to come talk with the public. She talked about inviting all of the representatives. She explained that today Clark Hunter and she attended a Department of Commerce listening tour by Secretary Sharon Decker and Dr. Pat Mitchell talking about initiatives they are working on. She said that Sharon Decker suggested starting an international export initiative, and the meeting will be on October 24.

Being no further Town business, Chris Jones made a motion to adjourn at 7:52pm. John Brady seconded the motion. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams talked about receiving an offer to purchase our 2006 Chevrolet 4x4 diesel ambulance that has 139,838 miles. He explained that the offer is 5000 from Trevor Nichols. He said that the last time the County sold one was in 2007 for \$3,775 at an auction. He explained how the \$5,000 came about and recommended going through an upset bid process. He explained the process and said that this is the only way he knows to get a minimum amount. He asked if the Board wants to proceed and if so they need to surplus the vehicle then to accept the offer of \$5,000 subject to the upset bid process.

Chair Cox and Commissioner Smith talked about going ahead with this.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the condition of the vehicle. County Manager Don Adams explained this is more about getting the process started.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to declare the 2006 Chevrolet ambulance surplus. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to accept the \$5,000 offer from Trevor Nichols contingent upon the upset bid process. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Being no further County business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen Evans, Clerk to the Board

Larry Cox, Chairman