

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners and Sparta Town Council held a joint meeting on Monday, November 29, 2004, at 7:00pm in the Conference Room of the County Office Building, 90 South Main Street, Sparta, NC.

Present: Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon, Commissioner Patrick Woodie, Mayor John Miller, Town Council Members Robert Andrews, Agnes Joines, Mike Parlier and Lois Sheets, County Manager Don Adams, Town Manager Bryan Edwards and County Clerk to the Board Karen Evans.

Commissioner Warren Taylor called the meeting to order for the County at 7:00pm.

Mayor John Miller called the meeting to order for the Town at 7:00pm.

Joint County/Town Meeting
Monday, November 29th, 2004

7:00 pm
County Office Building

Joint Discussion/Updates/Presentation on Major Initiative

1. Videotaping Meetings
2. The Ferguson Group
3. Sparta Teapot Museum Project
4. Other Business

Travis Sturgill
General Discussion
Jonathan Halsey
Patrick Woodie

Commissioner Warren Taylor turned the meeting over to the County Manager.

County Manager Don Adams discussed the Cyber Campus video recording these meetings to be broadcasted on Channel 50 and the costs for personnel to actually videotape the meetings.

Travis Sturgill with the Cyber Campus stated that they will continue to provide the camera, tapes and broadcasting services for the meetings, but asked if the Commissioners and Town Council want to continue this service and also if the Boards are willing to pay \$30 for personnel to video record each meeting.

The Board of Commissioners, County Manager Don Adams and Travis Sturgill discussed the popularity of broadcasting the Commissioners' meetings.

Mayor John Miller asked that Town Manager Bryan Edwards place this topic on the next Town meeting agenda.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon made a motion to continue with this service and pay the Cyber Campus the \$30 personnel expense per meeting.

Travis Sturgill stated that the Cyber Campus will provide everything free of charge with the exception of paying the camera operator to record each meeting.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie seconded the motion on the floor. Vote 3:0.

County Manager Don Adams reminded everyone of the background of Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) being formed and projects that are going on in Alleghany County

currently. He talked about how these projects are trying to raise funds through grants and other funding sources. He introduced The Ferguson Group by explaining that they will work with everyone on raising money for the projects.

Leslie Mozingo with The Ferguson Group gave the background of the company. She talked about meeting with several of the different projects today in Alleghany County. She further talked about her experience with this type of work.

Debbie Bryant with The Ferguson Group gave the Boards her background and expertise. She explained that they would help to work with our Congressional Delegation to get Federal funds for Alleghany County and will serve as an extension to our staff in working with the Congressional staff members.

Leslie Mozingo and Debbie Bryant thanked both Boards for allowing them this opportunity to discuss ways The Ferguson Group can assist Alleghany County's projects.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie talked about his experiences with the American Heritage River designation. He further talked about The Ferguson Group being one of the most respected lobbying groups in Washington, DC.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated his thanks for The Ferguson Group spending time here.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the purpose of tonight's meeting is to introduce The Ferguson Group to both Boards.

Town Manager Bryan Edwards talked about ways The Ferguson Group can help with projects that current personnel doesn't have time or resources to adequately complete.

County Manager Don Adams talked about how The Ferguson Group will put together a presentation for both Boards and a contract showing what services they think they can offer. He reminded everyone that the contract would include every agency that has an on-going project such as; Alleghany Memorial Hospital, Sparta Teapot Museum, etc. He further stated that this meeting was intended to be an informational meeting and to see if there are any objections from either Board to proceed with discussions with The Ferguson Group.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie gave everyone a copy of the fundraising brochure and the executive summary of the research report for the Sparta Teapot Museum project.

Jonathan Halsey presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board regarding the Sparta Teapot Museum project. He presented the project's background and benefits once the project begins.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie stated that the property site is currently under contract to purchase.

Jonathan Halsey reviewed a timeline of the project with the opening slated for Spring 2008.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie talked about the Sparta Teapot Museum has added their second full-time employee today. He further reiterated the fact that no County or Town monies have been spent on this project.

Commissioner Warren Taylor thanked Commissioner Patrick Woodie and Jonathan Halsey for their work on the project.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie stated that this is his last official meeting as a County Commissioner, and he has enjoyed working with everyone and will continue to do so.

Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon talked about the quality of the brochure that has been produced for the Teapot Museum and the opportunity for Alleghany County to get an identity associated with the Museum.

Mayor John Miller, Commissioner Patrick Woodie, County Manager Don Adams and Town Manager Bryan Edwards talked about how The Ferguson Group could assist with all of the current projects.

Councilwoman Lois Sheets stated that this meeting has been very interesting.

Councilman Mike Parlier stated that the Board will miss Patrick Woodie and wish him luck. He welcomed Ken Richardson back to the Board.

Councilwoman Agnes Joines stated that she thinks more work needs to be done about educating everyone about the teapot project.

Commissioner Patrick Woodie stated that several things have been planned to show everyone the benefits of the project.

Councilman Robert Andrews stated that the teapot project would greatly benefit the Town and are behind the project all of the way.

Mayor John Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Commissioner Sandy Carter Herndon seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

ATTEST:

Eldon Edwards
Chairman