



# TOWN OF SYLVA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Board Room, 83 Allen Street Sylva, North Carolina

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## MINUTES

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**PRESENT:** Jonathan Brown, Commissioner  
Blitz Estridge, Commissioner  
Mary Gelbaugh, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Johnny Phillips, Mayor  
Joseph Waldrum, Commissioner

Paige Dowling, Town Manager  
Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk  
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney

**ABSENT:** Brad Waldrop, Commissioner

### CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.*

**STAFF PRESENT:** Lynn Bryant (Finance Officer), Keith Buchanan (Asst. Fire Chief), Robbie Carter (Asst. Police Chief) and John Jeleniewski (Jackson County Planner).

**VISITORS:** Sheila Gahagan, Robert Hunt, Sam McGuire, Natalie Newman, Shawn Oberlies and Lydia White.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

*Commissioner Gelbaugh made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

*Commissioner Waldrum made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Phillips reported on a visit from Anna Stein, North Carolina's First Lady.

### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Gelbaugh reported that the Sylva Support Stop is gaining activity and is stocked more frequently. Commissioner Waldrum thanked voters for their support. Commissioner Estridge had a business owner ask about removing a dead tree on Main Street. Public Works will evaluate the tree. Commissioner Brown met with the Community Table about being prepared for increased business. He also reported that he attended a Pinnacle Park board meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Manager Dowling reported the following:

- The Town received one proposal for the RTP trails. RYU Contracting Inc.'s proposal was for \$115,000. This is the amount of the RTP grant award. The Town used this company in 2019 to build the Shelter Rock Trail. The contract is currently being reviewed and should be executed soon.
- The Town's FEMA Public Assistance amount is still under review since submitting an engineer's estimate. A new program manager has been assigned through FEMA and NC Emergency Management. Dowling and Jake Scott have a meeting scheduled to meet the new FEMA representative and review the Scotts Creek project.
- The Christmas Parade is Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Essentials of Municipal Government course through the School of Government is January 15-16<sup>th</sup> in Asheville. The entire board will attend together to complete this required ethics training.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SYLVA SUPPORT STOP:** Commissioner Gelbaugh noted that she visited everyday to take pictures of the condition. It has been in good shape. She suggested a screen door hinge and pavers for the mud. The location serves well, and volunteers are willing to help. Commissioner Waldrop supports the location. The benefits outweigh any potential drawbacks. What it does and where it is does not need to be changed. Commissioner Waldrum agrees with Commissioners Gelbaugh and Waldrop and believes the board should listen to those who supply and use it. Commissioner Estridge is ok with leaving the box where it is. Commissioner Brown supports the box but would also like to work on the maintenance and condition of it.

*Commissioner Waldrum made a motion to leave the Sylva Support Stop in its current location. Gelbaugh encouraged the board to financially support it. Jake Scott, Public Works Director, reminded the board that the Sylva Support Stop is not currently owned by the Town. He noted it most likely needs a new roof, concrete pad and caulking work. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Waldrop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

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Johnny Phillips  
Mayor

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Amanda W. Murajda  
Town Clerk