



TOWN OF SYLVA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:30 PM
Board Room, 83 Allen Street Sylva, North Carolina

MINUTES

PRESENT: Blitz Estridge, Commissioner
Perry Matthews, Commissioner
Johnny Phillips, Mayor
Joseph Waldrum, Commissioner
Brad Waldrop, Mayor Pro Tem

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

ABSENT: Samuel McGuire, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order following a Board of Adjustment meeting at 5:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: None.

VISITORS: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Estridge 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 commended Public Works Director Jake Scott for his dedication and efficiency, noting his assistance with snow removal operations while maintaining regular sanitation services during inclement weather.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Waldrum expressed appreciation for the recent joint meeting involving Jackson County and the municipalities within the county, noting that the meeting was beneficial and informative and expressing hope for continued collaboration. Commissioner Matthews reported attending the opening of the Sunrise Community Recovery and Wellness Center. The center provides peer support services, recovery groups, employment assistance, and connections to community resources for individuals seeking recovery support. The facility is located in downtown Sylva above Blue Ridge Coffee. Citizens were encouraged to share this resource with individuals who may benefit from its services.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- **Hometown Place Road Sidewalk Project:** The Town of Dillsboro has been working since 2020 with the N.C. Department of Transportation and the Southwestern Commission on a sidewalk project connecting Mark Watson Park to Monteith Park and an existing sidewalk along U.S. 23, including a crosswalk. A public comment period has begun, and postcards were mailed to adjacent property owners. The Town of Sylva's role will be maintenance of the sidewalk upon completion.
- The Town received notification from the Department of Commerce Small Business Infrastructure Program that the Downtown Stormwater Inlet Rehabilitation and Capacity Improvement Project was awarded funding in the amount

of **\$952,760**. Upcoming steps include adoption of a project ordinance, qualification-based selection under the Mini-Brooks Act, and preparation of a preliminary engineering report. The garbage truck should arrive next week.

- The RTP grant is still in progress in Pinnacle Park. Two small bridges are now needed instead of one long bridge on Trail A. The terrain on Trail B is rougher and rockier than what was drawn on the map. The trail builder is working with the grant administrator and RTP program to determine how to proceed on that trail section.
- Assault on Blackrock is March 21st.
- The next budget work session is March 26th after the meeting.
- Chief Hatton's retirement is April 30th from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the atrium of the historic courthouse.
- Greeining Up the Mountains is April 25th from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and vendor spaces are full.
- Department heads need to remember the grant spending deadline is March 31st.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

CLOSED SESSION: Commissioner Waldrop made a motion to enter closed session at 7:02 p.m. pursuant to NCGS. 143-318-11(a)(3), (2) and (6) for personnel, prevent the premature disclosure of an award, and to consult with attorney. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Waldrum made a motion to come out of closed session. The motion carried with a unanimous vote and the Board entered into regular session at 7:24 p.m. No action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Waldrop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Johnny Phillips
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk