

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ALLEGHANY COUNTY
TOWN OF SPARTA**

**JOINT MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2004
7:00 P.M.**

THOSE PRESENT: **TOWN COUNCIL:** JOHN H. MILLER, MAYOR; ROBERT ANDREWS, JOHN BRADY, AGNES JOINES, LOIS SHEETS, AND MIKE PARLIER, COUNCILMEMBERS; AND BRYAN EDWARDS, TOWN MANAGER.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: ELDON EDWARDS, CHAIRMAN; PATRICK WOODIE, WARREN TAYLOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND DON ADAMS, COUNTY MANAGER.

OTHERS PRESENT: LAURA DEAN, ALLEGHANY NEWS AND JOE POTTS, ALLEGHANY WELLNESS CENTER DIRECTOR.

The Sparta Town Council and the Alleghany County Commissioners held an informal joint meeting at the Alleghany Wellness Center to discuss items of interest to both Alleghany County and the Town of Sparta. Mayor John Miller presided.

Mr. Joe Potts, Director of the Wellness Center gave the Boards an update on the center's progress:

Average 200 people per day
Sold more than 500 memberships
Open 96 hours per week
Variety of classes and activities

Don Adams, County Manager, gave a report on the road projects (widening US 21 from Sparta to Roaring Gap and completion of the Sparta Parkway Bypass). Sam Erby, NC Department of Transportation Board Member for Division II, and DOT representatives had met with County and Town officials along with representatives from Martin Marietta and BCB trucking to discuss the timeline for these projects. Both were scheduled for 2008-2009 and both were under environmental review. These projects need to remain a top priority for both boards.

Bryan Edwards, Town Manager gave an update on the joint water study project. Bryan explained that if they go forward with this project the water rates would have to increase to pay for the Town of Sparta's part. An increase of water rates would be implemented over a five-year period. With higher rates the Town would be eligible for loans. Under the current proposal a water authority would be set up in Virginia to sell water to both Sparta and Independence from a water treatment facility on New River. Each town would be responsible for their lines from the station. Sparta's pipeline would cost 1.8 million. The total cost of the project is projected at 8.2 million.

Next, the boards discussed the proposed Osborne Road water line that has been discussed since last summer. The new water line will provide an alternative water source for residents. The cost was estimated at \$134,000. This is under consideration and will be on the September Agenda for the Town Council.

Bryan Edwards reminded the Boards of Litter Sweep for September and the Town's plan for two additional pickups at curbside (September 10th and 17th).

Another topic discussed was the need for a full-time grant writer or economic developer serving both Town and County.

There being no other business, both Boards toured the Wellness Center facility and the Mayor declared the meeting closed.

John H. Miller, Mayor

Kay Cox, Town Clerk