

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

**JOINT MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2005
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; SANDY CARTER HERNDON, WARREN TAYLOR, KEN RICHARDSON, GRAYLEN BLEVINS, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND DON ADAMS, COUNTY MANAGER.

OTHERS PRESENT: COBY LARUE, ALLEGHANY NEWS AND SHANE FENDER, CYBER CAMPUS, WILLIAM RING, GRAYSON COUNTY, KENNETH VAUGHT, TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE, PATRICK WOODIE, NEW RIVER COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND LESLIE MOZINGO, THE FERGUSON GROUP.

The Sparta Town Council and the Alleghany County Commissioners met at the Sparta Town Hall for their informal joint meeting to discuss items of interest to both Alleghany County and the Town of Sparta. Mayor John Miller presided. Warren Taylor, County Commissioner, gave the invocation. Mayor Miller recognized the guests.

First item on the Agenda for discussion was The Ferguson Group. Patrick Woodie passed out a handout of the Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation's Federal Agenda (See Attached). He then introduced Leslie Mozingo, the Ferguson Group representative. Leslie told the members of the County Commission and Town Council that she had already met with some of the staff members of Senator Dole and Burr in Washington, DC to discuss the Teapot project. She explained the dollar amount being requested for each project did not represent the total amount necessary to fully fund the cost of the project, but the amounts represented what the Ferguson Group felt was an amount that had a reasonable chance of receiving a favorable review by the appropriation committee. She explained the different questionnaires required by different committees and the fact that the Ferguson Group would have the responsibility of insuring that each committee had the correct information in the correct form. Leslie stressed that there are no guarantees of funding for any of the projects, and that even the projects that were funded might not be funded at the requested amount. Initial reaction was good and contracting with the Ferguson Group was well timed. Ideally you would want to be in both the House and the Senate appropriation bills simultaneously, but sometimes you might be in only one. Even after the bills are passed they still have to be signed by the President and actual funds appropriated would not be available until the next year (Spring of 2006). Mrs. Mozingo asked for any questions and pointed out that a small local delegation to Washington sometime in the future would be beneficial. She also pointed out how important the timing of deadlines were in federal appropriations.

At this time Patrick Woodie explained the contract with the Ferguson Group through the Alleghany County Economic Development Corporation with the different entities funding the cost. The Teapot Group has agreed to contribute \$30,000, the hospital has

been asked to contribute \$20,000, the regional Virginia water \$25,000 and the balance would be \$25,000 each from the Town and the County to fund the annual contract. He explained that during the joint water project meetings they had asked the Virginia Attorney General's office to express an opinion if two Counties, two States, and two Towns could enter into a joint water authority. The opinion came back in the affirmative basically giving them a green light to set up such an authority. They have been discussing guidelines for such an authority with a Roanoke Attorney, Webster Day.

Wednesday, February 2nd, would be the next meeting. All four governments would be represented equally. Don Adams wanted to make clear that this authority would be a Virginia Board and would not take away any authority from the County Commissioners or Town Council. Don also pointed out that this is the first step in creating an authority and it would be a long process. Patrick Woodie added that the design process had already been funded by the Mount Rogers Planning Commission which puts them a year ahead on the scheduling process. This design phase also shows the appropriations committee that they are committed and moving ahead with this project. Mayor Miller stated that down the road the Town would need this window of opportunity.

Mayor Miller was impressed with the success of the meeting they had at the Methodist Church with Senator Virginia Fox and the business leaders of the community. He thought it would be a good idea to have such a meeting at least once or twice a year. Everyone agreed.

Both boards expressed their appreciation to Grayson County and the Town of Independence for attending and their willingness to work with Alleghany County and the Town of Sparta on joint projects that projected foresight of all those represented.

There being no other business the Mayor declared the meeting closed.

John H. Miller, Mayor

Kay Cox, Town Clerk