

JOINT MEETING
POLK COUNTY BOC, TOWN OF COLUMBUS,
TOWN OF TRYON, CITY OF SALUDA
September 22, 2011, 7:00 pm
Columbus Town Hall

Members Present: BOC - Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Walker; City of Saluda - Mayor Baisden, Commissioner Kinard, Commissioner Morgan; Town of Tryon: Mayor Peoples; Town of Columbus - Mayor McIntyre, Councilman Gage, Councilwoman Kan, Councilwoman Metcalf, Councilman Hall

Staff Present: Polk County Manager Ryan Whitson, County Manager's Assistant Dianne Timberlake; Saluda City Clerk Doris Marion; Columbus Manager Jonathan Kanipe, Columbus Assistant Clerk Devon LaFromboise.

Member of the Press: Leah Justice

Guest Speaker, Danny Gee, NC Emergency Management Coordinator

1. Town of Columbus Mayor Eric McIntyre called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Town of Tryon Mayor Alan Peoples led the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Eric McIntyre led the pledge.
4. Public Officials Workshop on Emergency Management – Danny Gee, Coordinator with the NC State Division of Emergency Management /Crime Control and Public Safety conducted training as required by NC G.S. 166A, the Emergency Management Act. Mr. Gee's presentation described how emergency management comes together at the local, state and federal levels including: how the Division is organized; when and why to declare a state of emergency; the local emergency management chain of command; disaster relief and other related costs; responsibilities of each department in the agency; and upcoming changes. The City of Saluda expressed appreciation for the support they received from the program after last year's ice storm. Also, Mr. Gee commended the County for submitting one of the first plans approved by the State, which was created by Sandra Halford, Polk County Emergency Management Coordinator.
5. Mill Spring Columbus Water Line – Mayor Eric McIntyre provided background on the discussions about the Mill Spring Columbus waterline. Until now, it was not prudent for the Town of Columbus to discuss it because of a pending development agreement with Foster Creek. The agreement passed 3-2 at their last Council meeting, with the stipulation that the water line be built when the 175th dwelling is in place. There is justification to act now because of the economy, the

impact of shutting down the schools and businesses for line breaks, and it could take 5-6 years to get the line in the ground.

Mr. Whitson advocated to move forward based on the value and importance of the line to the municipalities and the County. There have been times when the line to the middle school came close to being closed, and the line to the high school has been closed a few times. The water line also is important for the new Human Services building. The plan is for a valve to allow flow in both directions, as well as a meter at the HS. Also, the line could serve Saluda in the future.

A survey to determine the level of supply required from Columbus was suggested, but it is needed only when there is a break. In those instances, the County's use is expected to be minimal. It was noted that Lake Adger still needs the watershed classification, so it is not ready yet to come online.

Mr. Whitson and Mr. Kanipe will meet to draw up an agreement. This agreement will be for water lines only and not sewer. Joint responsibilities along the line have been determined. The customer base for each entity will be determined by the point at which a property is connected.

The issue of restrictions for water sales by municipalities was raised. However, that relates only to the ownership of the lines.

A major advantage of this venture is the ability to connect to other water systems such as Asheville, Hendersonville and Greenville. It benefits everyone because if one part of the line goes down, another part can provide the supply. It is extremely important for the residents of the County.

Next, the group will revisit a list of joint priorities identified some time ago and determine which to address. The Town and County will email their top five to Justin Hembree for the next meeting.

The next joint meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at 7:00pm.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Dianne Timberlake
Administrative Assistant

Ray Gasperson
Chair