



PRESS RELEASE & GROUNDBREAKING INVITATION

To: Media Outlets & Interested Parties

Re: Ground breaking Ceremony for Town Hall and Police Station

Date: July 18, 2014



Rendering provided by Talley & Smith Architecture, Inc.

The Boiling Springs Town Board will break ground on the community's new town hall and police station on July 25th at 3:00p.m. The ground breaking for the 2.8 million dollar, 11,000 square foot facility will take place at the building's site, 114 East College Avenue in Boiling Springs. The ceremony will be open to media outlets and interested parties.

After over a year working with Talley and Smith Architecture of Shelby N.C. to design the new facility, the Town accepted a bid in June from Beam Construction of Cherryville N.C. to build the facility. The town is replacing the 1920's school building that currently houses the administrative offices and police department. The building is divided into two wings, one housing the town's general administrative offices and the other housing the police department. Both will be served by a central lobby where utility payments will be taken. "Good public facilities are foundational to providing good public services. You have to have proper facilities to be able to do your job to your best," said Town Manager Tom Hart. The

building includes several features that the current facility cannot accommodate, including large modern areas for community meetings and staff training, conference rooms, storage space, and offices for future expansion.

Residents will enter the front door into a main lobby where they can speak to a receptionist and get in touch with administrative and police staff. The building will feature a larger reception area that will allow town staff to serve multiple guests at once. “The existing building has a single window through which we can serve visitors,” said Finance Officer Rhonda Allen; “when you get a couple people trying to pay their water bill and combine that with incoming phone calls, it makes for a situation where people are waiting too long.” The administrative wing of the building features a lot of storage including a map room, computer server room, and a fire rated storage for the town’s historical records; features that have been lacking in the existing building.

The police wing of the building will be a more secure work environment than the existing station, “We want people to feel welcome when they visit the police station, but it’s a real problem when a case file is laid on a desk or a victim’s personal information is up on a computer screen and the public can just walk in and see that,” remarked Town Manager Tom Hart. “This new building will control access to areas that need to be secure.” There will be a flexible office space where residents can meet with officers to complete reports and talk about community concerns, improved evidence processing and storage, and locker room accommodations for officers. The building also has some features to help the town continue operating during emergencies like power outages and after extreme weather events.

“The entire Police Department’s been operating out of the Town Hall’s basement in space that was once a first grade classroom. It’s not uncommon to run into a resident who doesn’t know where the police station is. This new station is going to make us more accessible to the public and improve the experience people have when they stop by to talk with us,” said Police Chief Randy Page.

Construction on the new facility will start within a few days of the ground breaking. An exact completion date is not known at this time, different town functions will move into the building at different times, but the facility should be completed before Christmas 2015. Additional information about the project is available online at www.boilingspringsnc.net/projects and questions about the project should be directed to Town Manager Tom Hart at 704-434-2357.

