

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2016

6:00 PM

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Coleman, Alderman Cearley, Alderman Huggins, Alderwoman Morrow, Alderwoman Malaker-Thomas, and Alderman Withers.

The following staff members were present: Jim Palenick, Interim Town Manager; Maria Stroupe, Administrative Services Director; Town Attorney, Tom Hunn; Gary Buckner, Police Chief; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Anne Martin, Recreation Director; and Jack Kiser, Development Services Director. Steve Lambert, Fire Chief, was absent.

Mayor Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Coleman opened with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Coleman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Alderman Withers asked that a Closed Session be added. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the agenda, including the added Closed Session, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Malaker-Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8th Regular Meeting, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Item 5A was presentation of the FY 2014-15 Comprehensive Financial Report (Audit) by Lowdermilk Church & Company. Carol Avery, CPA, presented an overview of the financial highlights from the audit. (Exhibit A) Upon completion of the presentation, Alderman Withers made a motion to formally accept the audit presented by Lowdermilk Church & Company; seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously.

Recognition of Citizens:

Ms. Kim Withers, 425 S. Gaston St., stated that on October 20, 2015 her household experienced an interruption in their water service and had to replace the water service line from the meter to the residence. This event cost approximately \$1800. She stated that she knew of several other residences had experienced similar issues around that time and also, the Dallas Fire Department had responded to three calls concerning this type of issue. She believes these events happened near the time the Town pressurized water lines. She asked that the Board look into these events to determine liability.

Mr. Curtis Wilson, 438 S. Gaston St., prayed for our country, Town Leaders, Town Staff, the agenda, and the meeting.

Employee Recognition:

None

Special Events & Requests for In-Kind Services:

None

Public Hearings:

Item 9A was a Public Hearing that was continued from December 8, 2015. On that date, the Board conducted a very detailed quasi-judicial hearing in response to the SCI Towers application for a Special Use permit to erect a cellular communications tower on property within the Town of Dallas near East Webb and South College Streets. The Board felt it needed additional

time to fully digest and consider all of the information received at the Hearing prior to making its final decision, so the hearing was continued to this meeting for any final wrap-up discussion, further input, and final decision. Federal Law does set certain timing requirements for local jurisdictions to act on such requests, and based on this application's first submission date, the Board must take final action on the request at this meeting. Mayor Coleman swore in possible new witnesses. Attorney Tom Hunn stated that anyone sworn in at the previous public hearing would not need to be sworn in again tonight. Mayor Coleman then asked the Board of Aldermen the following questions to determine if any of their answers had changed since the public hearing was opened in December: 1) Has anyone visited the site? Alderman Cearley and Alderwoman Malke Thomas live near the proposed site. The other three Board members answered no. 2) Has anyone had any ex parte communication concerning this proposal? Alderman Withers stated he had been asked about the topic in the grocery store, but had informed the citizen that he could not discuss the matter. The other Board members answered no. 3) Does anyone have any specialized knowledge of the case? All answered no. 4) Does anyone have a personal opinion about the proposal that is not subject to change? All answered no. 5) Is anyone a family member or have close business relationships with any of the applicants? All answered no. 6) Does anyone have a financial interest in the outcome of the case? All answered no. 7) Does anyone have any type of conflict of interest? All answered no.

Mr. Louie Dean, 123 Stonecrest Dr., spoke in support of the cell tower. He owns a residential property next to the proposed site and has no problem with the site. He also owns a business in Town and has terrible Verizon service in that building. He supports the tower and believes it will be an improvement for his business lines.

Mayor Coleman asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Alderman Withers made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Frank Longest, Attorney for SCI Towers, objected to the closure of the public hearing, as he wanted to present additional testimony and had new witnesses in attendance. Mayor Coleman stated that ample time had been allowed last month. Mr. Longest continued to object. Mayor Coleman stated that all additional information was to have been submitted one week prior to this meeting and none had been presented. Mr. Longest continued to object to the closure. Mayor Coleman informed Mr. Longest that he was out of order, as the public is not allowed to speak once a public hearing has been closed. Mr. Longest asked that the public hearing be re-opened and Mayor Coleman declined. Mr. Longest again requested that additional information be allowed and Mayor Coleman again informed him that he was out of order and stated that if Mr. Longest interrupted the meeting again, he would be removed. Mayor Coleman stated that the Board and the Planning Board has spent numerous hours on hearing testimony and reading provided material, which has enabled them to render a decision. Attorney Hunn asked that supplemental information provided by CityScape on December 23rd be removed from the agenda and from consideration in light of the decision not to allow any additional information tonight, even though it was submitted in advance. With no additional testimony allowed, CityScape cannot offer any commentary or explanation of the material, and the information was not sworn to. Mr. Longest again addressed Mayor Coleman, who warned him if he interrupted again, he would be removed from the meeting. Mr. Longest continued to speak. Mayor Coleman had Chief Buckner escort Mr. Longest from the meeting room.

Mayor Coleman asked for a motion to deny the issuance of the requested special use permit because the applicant has failed to prove by substantial competent and relevant evidence that locating antennas on the Town of Dallas Water Tank is unfeasible due to technical constraints. There was no motion.

Alderman Cearley stated that his main concern has been for the health of the surrounding residents. If that is not an issue, he sees no other problems with the proposed site. There has been no information submitted suggesting possible health risks. Alderman Cearley made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow. Attorney Hunn reiterated that the only item in question under the ordinance is the feasibility of locating on the Water Tank. The applicant has the responsibility to prove that due to technical constraints, they cannot locate on the Town's Water Tank. The applicant has met the other six criteria of the ordinance, so this one item is the only one in question. Mayor Coleman reiterated the Town's current zoning ordinance relating to cell towers.

Attorney Hunn asked each Board member if they could render a decision without considering the information provided in the agenda packet by CityScape on December 23rd. Each Board member stated that they could render a decision without considering the information provided by CityScape.

Mayor Coleman asked the Board to be aware of the ordinance and to be careful not to violate the Town's ordinance.

Alderman Withers asked why Mr. Kiser had given SCI Towers this location as a possible site, when the original site applied for was rejected by the NC SHPO. Attorney Hunn reminded the Board that Mr. Kiser could not respond with additional testimony. They must rely on Mr. Kiser's testimony from December 8th.

The motion on the floor was restated for the record; to grant the application because the applicant has proven by substantial competent evidence that locating on the Town's Water Tank is not feasible due to technical constraints. The motion was approved by the following vote: Yays – Alderman Cearley, Alderman Huggins, Alderwoman Morrow, and Alderman Withers. Nays – Alderwoman Malaker Thomas.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Item 11A was a request to declare as surplus and offer for public sale a 350Kw, Detroit diesel electric stand-by generator formerly installed at the Water Treatment Plant. For over 20 years, the Town of Dallas has maintained and operated this generator. The unit has been replaced in this year's budget, so the old unit can be declared as surplus and offered for sale to the highest bidder on GovDeals. Proceeds from the sale will returned to the Water/Sewer Fund as revenue from sale of surplus property. Alderman Huggins made a motion to declare the 350Kw, Detroit diesel electric stand-by generator from the Water Treatment Plant as surplus and to offer it for public sale to the highest bidder on GovDeals, seconded by Alderwoman Malaker-Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Item 11B was a request to award a contract for Civic Building roof and awning improvements and to approve a budget amendment to the FY 2015-16 budget to fund this unbudgeted repair. Staff had planned to budget for this improvement in the FY2016-17 budget, but the roof has begun to leak and in order to protect the building, the time-table has been moved up. The roof, as well as the fabric awnings, will match the dark forest green color scheme consistent with the Courthouse roof and the picnic shelters at Jagers Park and Cloninger Park. After soliciting bids for the complete replacement of the roof, along with the replacement of the exterior fabric awnings and electrical upgrades under the roof required to bring the structure up to current building code; the low-bid results are:

• Standing-seam metal roof (50-year warranty) – CMC Homes, Dallas, NC	\$18,496.12
• Electrical upgrades to meet code (under roof) – Dallas Electric & Plumbing, Gastonia, NC	\$ 3,500.00
• Exterior fabric awnings – Alpha Canvas & Tent, Charlotte, NC	<u>\$ 1,890.00</u>
	\$23,886.12

A budget amendment, budgeting funds from the General Fund Fund Balance, will cover the cost of the project. (Exhibit B) Alderman Huggins made a motion to approve the bids and the budget amendment for the replacement of the Civic Building roof, awnings, and electrical upgrades; seconded by Alderman Cearley; and carried unanimously.

Item 11C was a request from the Gaston Arts Council for financial support for the "ARTS in the Park" festival. The Gaston Arts Council has been successfully conducting a summer art & music event in the Dallas Park for over a decade, which has come to be known as "ARTS in the Park". Each year the event has grown and expanded, which has in turn caused the expenses to increase. Revenues from sponsors and vendors have not kept pace. The 2016 event is budgeted to cost approximately \$14,500, with identified revenues of only \$4,500. This leaves a net loss of \$10,000. For this reason, the Gaston Arts Council is asking the Town of Dallas to consider providing some level of financial support to assist with this year's festival. (Exhibit C) Also, Jason Luker, Program Coordinator of Gaston County Museum of Art & History, was present to request financial support for the upcoming concert events scheduled by the Museum. (Exhibit D) The FY 2015-16 budget allocates \$30,000 for "Town Sponsored Events", of which approximately \$13,000 has been spent. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve \$2500 in financial support to the Gaston Arts Council for "ARTS in the Park" and \$2500 in financial support to the Gaston County Museum for MerleFest, seconded by Alderwoman Malaker-Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Item 11D was a request by Alderwoman Morrow to formally recommend to the Gaston County Board of Elections that the precinct location recently moved to the Citizens Resource Center from the Dallas Civic Building be returned to the Dallas Civic Building. Alderwoman Morrow believes that the traffic pattern on the Dallas Cherryville Highway is too dangerous for older people driving to the Citizens Resource Center. The Board was in agreement with the request. Alderwoman Morrow made a motion to direct the Town Manager to write a formal letter to the Board of Elections requesting the precinct location be moved back to the Dallas Civic Building, seconded by Alderwoman Walker-Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Item 11E was a request by Alderman Withers to discuss possible amendments to the Election Campaign Signage Ordinance. Many local jurisdictions restrict the placement of election campaign signage within public rights-of-way to a period of only 30 days preceding the election. Then usually, those signs are required to be removed within three-to-seven days following the election. Federal law would tend to prohibit the restriction (by local ordinance) of campaign signs placed exclusively on private property, as this would be seen as Constitutionally-protected Free Speech. Alderman Withers would like to set October 1st as the time to allow signs on public right-of-ways. The Board asked Mr. Kiser to research other local government ordinances and bring back a proposed ordinance to the Board for review.

Item 11F was appointment of the Mayor Pro-Tem. Following each local Town election, the Board appoints a Mayor Pro-Tem to serve for the following two-year period until the next election. The Mayor Pro-Tem functions in the place of the Mayor whenever the Mayor is otherwise unavailable. Alderman Huggins made a motion to appoint Alderman Withers as the Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Alderman Cearley, and carried unanimously.

Manager's Report

Mr. Palenick gave an update on various Town projects. A tour of the Town-owned property at 130 W. Trade St. is scheduled for Monday, January 18th at 9:00 am for anyone interested in walking through the building.

Closed Session:

Alderwoman Morrow made a motion to enter into a public hearing, as provided for by G.S. §143-318.11 to discuss a personnel matter; seconded by Alderwoman Walker Thomas, and carried unanimously. (7:31) Alderman Withers made a motion to exit the public hearing, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously. (9:04) No action was taken.

Alderman Huggins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Withers, and carried unanimously. (9:05)

Rick Coleman, Mayor

Maria Stroupe, Town Clerk

Town of Dallas
Financial Highlights
 Years Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Cash and investments	\$ 1,534,202	\$ 1,644,656
Total assets	\$ 1,968,886	\$ 2,035,632
Fund balance	\$ 1,782,509	\$ 1,875,887
Total revenue	\$ 2,926,369	\$ 2,841,096
Total expenditures	\$ 3,839,576	\$ 3,897,513
Transfers (to) from	\$ 819,826	\$ 555,286
Change in fund balance	\$ (93,381)	\$ 102,303
Ad valorem taxes collected	\$ 1,138,903	\$ 1,082,878
Percent of taxes collected	98.80%	97.45%
Investment income	\$ 3,549	\$ 4,298

<u>CDBG Grant Fund</u>		
Cash and investments	\$ 40,920	\$ 37,200
Total assets	\$ 290,257	\$ 282,164
Fund balance	\$ -	\$ -

Enterprise Funds:

Water and Sewer Fund

Cash and investments (including restricted cash)	\$ 617,109	\$ 2,187,370
Total assets	\$ 11,078,217	\$ 10,633,538
Net Position	\$ 7,350,051	\$ 6,795,924
Operating revenue	\$ 2,345,131	\$ 2,121,425
Operating expenses	\$ 2,413,597	\$ 2,195,839
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	\$ 75,410	\$ 122,393
Capital contributed from (to)/Grant revenues	\$ 632,537	\$ 117,462
Transfers in (out)	\$ -	\$ (35,735)
Change in net position	\$ 554,127	\$ 69,706
Accounts receivable	\$ 323,450	\$ 284,652
Investment income	\$ 27	\$ 707
Days sales in accounts receivable	52.5	51.4

Electric Fund

Cash and investments (including restricted cash)	\$ 2,524,938	\$ 3,752,590
Total assets	\$ 9,634,686	\$ 8,349,554
Net Position	\$ 8,781,810	\$ 7,652,147
Operating revenue	\$ 8,767,109	\$ 7,181,077
Operating expenses	\$ 6,735,545	\$ 6,383,681
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	\$ (880)	\$ (54,801)
Capital contributed from (to)/Grant revenues	\$ -	\$ (502,939)
Transfers in (out)	\$ (1,194,197)	\$ (492,727)
Change in net position	\$ 1,129,663	\$ (253,072)
Accounts receivable	\$ 2,076,008	\$ 1,094,592
Investment income	\$ 27	\$ 15
Days sales in accounts receivable	87.9	56.4

<u>Other Funds:</u>	Fund					Change in
	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Fund Balance</u>
LESA Fund	\$ 136,195	\$ 136,195	\$ 23	\$ -	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,023
Storm Water Fund	\$ 77,126	\$ 82,429	\$ 90,046	\$ 82,039	\$ (30,000)	\$ (21,992)
Capital Project Fund	\$ 90,929	\$ 90,929	\$ 14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14
Jagers Park Capital Project	\$ (69,021)	\$ (8,741)	\$ 63,858	\$ 193,299	\$ 123,200	\$ (6,241)
T.O.P. T.I.E.R. Program	\$ 265,171	\$ 265,171	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 270,171	\$ 265,171

Town of Dallas
Budget Amendment

Date: January 12, 2016

Action: Building & Grounds Amendment

Purpose: To Fund Roof, Electric, and Awning Improvements to Civic Building

Number: BG-001

Fund	Dept	Line Item	Item Description	Original Amount	Amended Amount	Difference
10	3999	0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$263,690	\$287,577	\$23,887
10	4200	7502	Capital Outlay: Building	\$0	\$23,887	\$23,887

Totals	\$263,690	\$311,464	\$47,774
--------	-----------	-----------	----------

Approval Signature
(Town Manager or Administrative Services Director)



Name of the Organization: Gaston Arts Council
Address: P.O. Box 242, Gastonia, NC 28053
Telephone: (704) 853-2787 Email: Director@gastonarts.org
Contact Person: Kim George, Executive Director
Board Chair: June Jones

Subject: Gaston Arts Council Request for Support

Gaston Arts Council is requesting support from the Town of Dallas to help with the costs associated with presenting the ARTS in the Park festival.

Location and time of the Festival

Dallas Park, Dallas, NC from 5pm – 9pm on Saturday, June 4, 2016

Festival Description

“ARTS in the Park”, Gaston Arts Council’s annual signature festival, has been held, in June, at the amphitheater, in Dallas Park for over a decade and provides a platform to share the arts with the community in a fun family friendly environment. Gaston Dance Theatre, Gaston Choral Society, Gaston Symphonic Band and Gaston County Art Guild are our county’s leading groups who performed over the years. For the 2016, ARTS in the Park, the student “art walk” will be added to showcase the visual art talent of our students, North Gaston High School and Gaston Early College students will be among the participants. W.C. Friday Middle School students as well as Carr and Costner Elementary Schools will be invited to participate in the art activity station, which will be located under a large tent at the park.

Benefit

The arts have proven to be an intricate part of the growth and cultural vitality of our communities and the residents of Gaston County have expressed their desire to be exposed to the multidisciplinary facets of the arts. Programs like ARTS in the Park create a place where families can learn and experience the arts, right at home, in their own beautiful parks and historic sites.

Purpose

Gaston Arts Council desires to provide an outlet for the visual, performing and literary arts to be showcased and exhibited to the community. The Arts Council aspires to create an experience for parents, children, students and seniors to see quality dance, choral, classical band performances and visual art as well as the opportunity to engage with artists. Many students have interest in pursuing careers in the arts as educators, administrators or performers and with ARTS in the Park, Gaston Arts Council aims to share a firsthand encounter to aid them in their journey.

About Gaston Arts Council

Gaston Arts Council: "Your Connection to Arts & Culture in Gaston County"

Our mission is to develop, advance, enhance, promote, and sustain arts and culture in the Gaston County community through the visual, literary and performing arts.

Some of our programs include: Arts in Education, Arts in the Community, Artist Exposure and Advocating for our Arts Service Organizations. The organizations accomplishments are directly tied to many of the activities; we host activities and events where emerging and established artists seeking opportunities can attend and receive information.

	Gaston Arts Council	
	P.O. Box 242, Gastonia, NC 28053	
	704.853.2787	
	www.GastonArts.org	
	Create ~ Encourage ~ Believe	
	ARTS in the Park 2016 Budget	
Income		
	Sponsorships	\$ 3,000.00
	Vendors	\$ 1,500.00
	Total Income	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>
Expenses		
	Stage & Sound	\$ (3,500.00)
	Performing artist fees	\$ (5,000.00)
	M.C./Host	\$ (250.00)
	Insurance	\$ (1,000.00)
	Marketing	\$ (2,500.00)
	Supplies	\$ (1,000.00)
	Hospitality	\$ (1,000.00)
	Postage	\$ (250.00)
	Total Expenses	<u>\$ (14,500.00)</u>
	Net profit (loss)	<u>\$ (10,000.00)</u>

Jim Palenick

From: Rick Coleman <rcdc18@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 11:08 PM
To: Jim Palenick
Subject: FW: Concerts @ the Courthouse and Summer Concert Series

From: Jason E. Luker [mailto:Jason.Luker@gastongov.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 12:10 PM
To: Rick Coleman - Town of Dallas (rcdc18@charter.net)
Subject: Concerts @ the Courthouse and Summer Concert Series

Rick,

I would like to touch base with you about the concerts we have coming together for this winter and summer and see if we want to bring a proposal to the Alderman's at next weeks meeting. Here is a quick description of what we have at present:

Concerts @ the Courthouse Town Sponsorship (March 11, 2016 at 7:00 to 9:30pm)

This would be the Road to MerleFest 2016 Tour Show featuring three bands that would be performing at MerleFest in the spring. The bands would be:

Tellico: www.tellicoband.com

High Plains Jamboree: www.highplainsjamboree.com

Zoe & Cloyd: www.zoeandcloyd.com

This program would get the publicity support from MerleFest and they would send information out about the concert to their 25,000 personal email lets and social media contacts as well as posting it on their website that receive 45,000 likes. They would treat this concert as part of their early publicity for the MerleFest line up and announcement of up and coming bands (like the three that will be performing that night).

Cost: \$2,500 (this would be the total payment for all three performances). We will also seek to find discounts for their traveling expenses (hotel rooms).

Summer Concert Series Sponsorship

June 10th: TBN

I have been in contact with the Carolina Chocolate Drops and they are checking on their tour schedule to see if they might be in the area. They are touring with grammy winner Rhiannon Giddens and if they could perform in June the show would include her as well (former founding member of the CCD that is doing solo work now). A back up band if CCD can not come would be The Steel Wheels (up and coming band that is very popular in the Carolinas) Their website is www.thesteelwheels.com. Another possibility would be Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues. Mac plays Chicago style blues and performed with many legends including Muddy Waters. His band is based out of Anderson, SC and has a good following. His performance cost would be \$2,500.

Cost: \$5,000 to \$7,000 (This is the cost to have the Steel Wheels perform. CCD would be more, but at this time I do not have a number).

July 8th: David Holt with Josh Goforth

I have spoken with their booking agent and they are penciled in for this date, but I need to make the final confirmation that we will have them perform on the 8th.

Cost: \$4,000 (this will be for both performers. If we want only David to perform, the cost would be \$3,500)

August 12th: Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen and Band

This was the big hit last year and there has been a demand to have her back. I have confirmed with her and she is scheduled to come.

Cost: \$1,500

Please let me know when would be a good time to talk about these performances and when we would like to bring them before the Alderman's. I will be out of the office tomorrow and Friday, but Thursday is available if you would like to get together and discuss the line up in person.

Sincerely,

Jason Luker

Programs Coordinator

Gaston County Museum of Art & History

131 West Main Street

Dallas, NC 28034

704-922-7681 ext.105

Jason.Luker@gastongov.com

www.gastoncountymuseum.org

This message may contain confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete it from your system. Emails that do not contain confidential medical information are subject to North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 132 and may be considered a matter of public record.

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2015.0.6176 / Virus Database: 4489/11334 - Release Date: 01/06/16

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2015.0.6176 / Virus Database: 4489/11335 - Release Date: 01/06/16



Concert Proposal: *Road to MerleFest 2016*

For the March 11th slot for the Concerts @ the Courthouse series, the Gaston County Museum, in support from the Town of Dallas, seeks to include the *Road to MerleFest 2016* concert tour.

MerleFest, considered one of the premier music festivals in the country, serves as an annual homecoming for musicians and music fans. *MerleFest* is a celebration of 'traditional plus' music, a unique mix of music based on the traditional, roots-oriented sounds of the Appalachian region, including bluegrass and old-time music, and expanded to include Americana, country, blues, rock and many other styles. The *Road to MerleFest* is a multi-state ensemble tour showcasing the bands selected to represent the festival's mission of celebrating "traditional plus" music. The lineup this year will feature three groups: *Tellico*, *High Plains Jamboree* and *Zoe & Cloyd*.

The Lineup



Zoe & Cloyd

Award winning songwriters and multi-instrumentalists, Zoe & Cloyd perform a mix of original and traditional material on fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin featuring lovely vocal harmonies and timeless melodies.

Tellico

Firmly planted in Asheville NC's thriving roots music scene, Tellico is well schooled in bluegrass but with an unbridled organic "Appalachiacana" sound, combining some of the finest voices, songs and instrumental prowess in western North Carolina and beyond.



High Plains Jamboree



With roots in northern bluegrass and southern troubadour country, Brennen Leigh, Beth Chrisman and Noel McKay each come to this new string band with a distinct flavor to their writing and singing. Simon Flory anchors the band on bass and is more country than all the 100 people who move to Austin every day combined.

Logistics

The *Tour* lineup is two four-piece bands and one duo for a total of 10 musicians which will play an extended, by-reservation-only set on Friday, March 11th. The cost is \$2,500 plus hotel rooms for the musicians. The Museum plans to discuss with the Gaston County Department of Travel & Tourism as to the possibility of getting the hotel rooms either donated, or for a reduced rate.

The Museum has already been in contact with the *Tour* booking agent John Laird and the Artistic Director of MerleFest, Steve Johnson. Provided the above conditions are met, the *Tour* is good to confirm the tour date in Dallas. The Museum will continue to perform as liaison for the *Tour* and the musicians themselves, as well as handle reservations and logistics for the event. Museum Marketing will also coordinate with the MerleFest Marketing department so that the Dallas event will be broadcast in all *Tour* press, including but not limited to their 45,000 Facebook followers and 12,300 Twitter followers. Additionally, the Museum has contracted with Old Dallas Brewery to establish them as the house brewery for all series events.

Due to the popularity of the MerleFest brand, this will be a reservations-only event and is easily expected to draw a full house with waiting list. While night-specific traffic for local businesses will probably be small due to the limited number of seating at the Courthouse, the potential of this in putting the Courthouse series brand in front of a massive number of people and allowing for the growth of the series is enormous. Further, it is hoped that with the success of this evening, Dallas will be placed on the roster as a permanent *Tour* stop in the future.