

Public Works Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
February 20, 2018

The Seven Devils Public Works Committee met in regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at Town Hall. Present were Chairman Brad Lambert, Vice Chairman George Ehlinger, Members Jack Byrnes, Larry Fontaine, Brady Sasse. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Aldridge, Town Engineer David Poore and Town Manager Debbie Powers. The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

CALL TO ORDER

Manager Powers called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Manager Powers opened the floor for nomination of Officers.

Member Fontaine nominated Brad Lambert for re-election to Chairman and Member Ehlinger seconded. The members agreed unanimously.

Member Fontaine nominated George Ehlinger as Vice Chairman and Member Sasse seconded. The members agreed unanimously.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Fontaine made a motion to adopt the agenda and Vice Chairman Ehlinger seconded. The members agreed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES – March 21, 2017

Member Fontaine made a motion to adopt the minutes and Member Sasse seconded. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - NONE

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. State of Public Works in Seven Devils

- 1. Effects of Winter** - Director Aldridge reports the current winter season has been typical of a normal winter compared to the previous 2 years. The chat supply is sufficient and is dry since it has been stored inside. Although the temperatures in the next several days are forecast to be above average, the long-term prediction is winter weather will return. At the end of March, the Public Works department will clean/blow the chat off the Town roads.

Inquiries of road conditions and driving challenges within in the Town are encountered by visitors/tourists, and not by residents.

To date, the roads within the Woodwinds II community are private. They will be evaluated by Public Works for meeting the criteria of Town standards for dedication.

- 2. Status of Maintenance Equipment & Facilities** – The buildings are in decent shape and the mower is paid off. In FY19, Public Works requests a truck replacement; the funds are allocated in the CIP fund.
- 3. State of Roads and Water Lines** – Member Fontaine reports the edge of at the Skiview Road and Skyland Drive a hole needs attention, such as a grate. Discussion occurred among the Public Works committee that our options are limited since this road is maintained by NCDOT. Previous attempts to resolve this issue with NCDOT have been nonproductive. The Town will consider the installation of a delineator as warning to motorists.
Several committee members mentioned water lines leaks have been few, with repairs minimal. Town Engineer Poore, said because of the quality of recent improvements and the Town being proactive in their approach to water loss, this contributes to the positive outcome.
- 4. Impact of Expanded Parks Program** – Chairman Lambert reports the Town is reviewing options to expand the current parking lot at Otter Falls, which will provide double the parking spaces. Town Manager has contacted a land surveyor to mark the western side of the property to mark boundaries. Member Fontaine will follow up about additional land purchase to increase the footprint of projected parking expansion. Although considered, another option for additional parking space that has been discussed is area at the ascent/descent corkscrew of Chalet Drive. Because of obstacles/costs associated with NCDOT, this is unlikely to occur as a solution. The Town acknowledges they cannot prevent motorists from parking on the State road, and efforts are underway to address the issue of adequate parking for Otter Falls.
Discussion occurred about the expected increase of manpower, overtime, equipment when the Peak Mountain Trail opens. It is unknown, how much the increase might be, however, with the trail being new, it will not occur in the initial months. A professional trail builder will be utilized for construction and features will include ADA compliant, path to accommodate 1st Responders and access for all levels of hikers to enjoy. The RTP and PARTF grant application process has begun and updates will occur on the process in upcoming months.

B. Blind Road Analysis and Recommendations

Keven Aldridge and David Poore will go out today and begin the Analysis. The Recommendations report will be ready next month for Public Works review.

Overall, the roads are good, according to David Poore.

C. Water Line Projects

There are not any big projects on the horizon, only routine maintenance. Consideration to delay water projects to save money in the budget. Town Engineer spoke briefly about the hydrant map and the coverage within the Town. Additional hydrants on the upper areas are not possible without an elevated well, which is cost prohibitive.

Chairman Lambert asked for confirmation that the Town might not have a major water project this year. Kevin Aldridge confirms likely not, but money should still be put away for unforeseen circumstances.

D. Road Shoulder & Ditch Maintenance

Public Works will be working on clean up in the upcoming future.

E. Comments & Recommendations for 2018-2019 PW Projects

Member Fontaine gives positive remarks on the repairs that have been made by Potholes USA.

Member Fontaine asked for the percentage of new radio meter replacements to date. Manager Powers estimates about half completed.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Member Fontaine added he recently visited the Banner Elk park and was impressed with the walking trails, dog park and plans for playground upgrades.

Perhaps the Town of Seven Devils could create a similar setting in the future, but private donors are pivotal to the success of this endeavor.

Chairman Lambert said it is his vision that the Town will have more green trails and connectivity; but two parts of this equation include additional land and funds. Member Fontaine reports hiking trails contribute to the increase of property values.

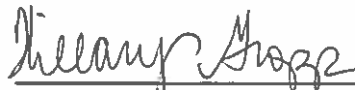
Town Engineer David Poore appreciates the Town allocating funds for repairs and furthermore, the repairs are superior, especially compared to surrounding towns. This course of action contributes to an impressive 8% water loss, which is outstanding.

ADJOURN

Chairman Lambert made a motion to adjourn and Member Fontaine seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.



Brad Lambert, Chairman



Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk