

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2018
5:30pm

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at Town Hall. Present were Larry Fontaine, Brad Lambert, Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig and Tina Bailey; A quorum was met. Also present were Town Attorney Rob Angle, Town Manager Debbie Powers; The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

PRAYER/INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave the Prayer/Invocation for tonight's meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the Agenda; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – September 11, 2018.

Member Ehmig made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENT – Kay Lambert, **430 Wildcat Rocks Road**, thanked the Public Works & Staff for the autumn decorations in the Town. Kay announced Operation Medicine Cabinet will be on Saturday, October 13th at Foscoe FD – 10:00am – 2:00pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provided the following update:

New Police Officer, Matthew Millsaps was introduced to Town Council; his oath was administered on October 5th.

The Connect 7D map was updated to include the Brownlow Park easement at the "S" curve.

The mid-term elections are Tuesday, November 6th; Voting locations for 7D residents will be at Banner Elk Town Hall (Avery) or Foscoe Fire Department (Watauga).

The State of Emergency signed on September 11, 2018 was rescinded on September 17th.

The Tree City USA application was submitted on September 20th.

AFIR (Annual Financial Information Report) was submitted on September 28th.

Finance Officer, Helga Sappington attended a Public Employment Law course at UNC SOG. It was cut short due to Hurricane Florence and will be available via webinar; Manager Powers will view the webinar too.

The Otter Falls parking expansion bid opening occurred on September 13th. Gilliam Construction has been awarded the contract.

Public Works - Kevin Aldridge & Brian Johnson attended training for Water Certification.

The 7D staff viewed a webinar on October 5th for BCBS open enrollment.

Mgr. Powers viewed a PARTF grant webinar 10/3; meeting with a Representative 10/11.

New Board/Committee applications are available; Email will be sent for expiring terms.

An update was provided on tree permits, projects, fence permits, complaints and real estate closings.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

9) A. ABC AUDIT REPORT - Sara Brewer, High Country ABC Board

Sara Brewer, ABC Manager provided the ABC Audit Report to the Town of Seven Devils.

The fiscal year ended 06/30/2018 with Gross Sales totaling \$3,426,182, which is an increase of \$206,435 (+10%) from the previous year total, with \$806,498 paid in taxes to the State. Gross profits are up about \$48,000 and expenses down about \$20,000.

Since the inception of the HC ABC Board in 1998, to date the ABC Board has given a total of \$4,257,502 to the towns of Banner Elk, Seven Devils & Sugar Mountain.

Sara Brewer spoke about functions of the ABC board, and recent contract renegotiations at the state level. Sara explained the monies from sales are paid to Law Enforcement and Alcohol Education, thus benefiting the community. With the possibility of privatization of liquor sales in the state, the ramifications to each town will result in less regulation and money returned to the Town will cease, should this occur. The political atmosphere is

changing with a push to privatize and Sara encouraged the Town Council to stay informed in the future months; Sara Brewer will keep the Town updated on developments. Recognition was given to Mike Tarlton & Sarah Manning for their commitment to the HC ABC board. They have been diligent, along with Sara Brewer to the success of the HC ABC. Mike Tarlton presented a \$15,000 bonus check at tonight's meeting and when added to \$85,000 accomplishes the goal of reaching a total of \$100,000 to the Town. ~CLOSED~

B. RESOLUTION #2018-07 – Pedestrian Planning Grant



RESOLUTION
#2018-07

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING AND EXECUTION OF A PEDESTRIAN PLANNING GRANT FOR THE TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Seven Devils is hereby applying to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for grant funds to develop a Pedestrian Planning Grant-Project Acceleration Plan for the Town of Seven Devils; and

WHEREAS, if the North Carolina Department of Transportation approves funding of the project as described in the grant application, the NCDOT will prepare a Grant Agreement for execution by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, the Grant is a 90% State Contribution with a 10% match from the Town of Seven Devils where the State's estimated consultant cost is \$25,000-\$35,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town's required 10% match of \$2,500-\$3,500 is allocated during FY18-19 from the Governing Body Department budget; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Agreement will require the Town of Seven Devils to perform certain functions and obligations in order to carry out the work described in this grant application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Seven Devils assures the North Carolina Department of Transportation that it understands the functions and obligations to which the Town of Seven Devils is committing itself in order to carry out the work described in this grant application, and further agrees that the Town of Seven Devils will proceed with diligence to perform those functions and obligations to accomplish the work described in this grant application.

Adopted this the 9th day of October,



Larry Fontaine, Mayor



ESTABLISHED 1911



Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve Resolution #2018-07; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~ Support letters are available for signature by Town Council & Citizens

C. FUEL CARD POLICY – 09/2018

Manager Powers reviewed the Fuel Card Policy, dated September 2018 with Town Council.
No Action Taken ~CLOSED~

D. EASEMENT REQUEST – Heidenreich

Manager Powers discussed the outcome of a meeting, along with a written request by James Heidenreich for an easement request on Town owned property to be used to acquire a septic permit for purchase of vacant property & future construction, which will benefit James Heidenreich. After discussion among Town Council and Town Attorney, it was decided that an offer to purchase from Heidenreich will be entertained, but an easement without compensation will not occur; Manager Powers to follow up.

Item tabled to a future date for further discussion.

E. 382 GREEN COVE – Steve Haston

Dialogue occurred about the deed request from owner Steve Haston. It was determined Haston is already the rightful owner, therefore no further discussion needed.

No Action Taken ~CLOSED~

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – No meeting

Public Works – No meeting

Public Safety Commission – No meeting

Recreation Commission – September minutes

TDA – September minutes

ABC Board – August minutes

Tree Committee – No meeting

Public Safety Department

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert gave presentation with background of PBSB and financials on the 2018 SafetyFest.

Mayor Fontaine spoke about the grant process and the recent setback of not being awarded a grant. The Town intends to focus on necessary efforts to successfully being awarded RTP and PARTF grants in the future.

Mayor Fontaine also spoke of the length of time for medical response from the county and the unreliability of using GPS to locate an address. Efforts will be made to supply and encourage use of step by step directions to 1st responders located outside of Town limits. Town Attorney Angle indicated the importance of limiting the Town's liability by bringing this issue to the attention of the county 1st responders.

Member Ehlinger spoke of the enjoyment and success of the Recreation Commission and the activities in recent months.

Member Ehlinger inquired about having the white traffic lines painted on Town roads to help with vehicle traffic and lane width.

ADJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk