

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**

**July 14, 2015**

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Council Members Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig and David Hooper. Also present were Town Attorney Rob Angle and Town Manager Ed Evans. The minutes were recorded by Sara Miller, Town Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA – MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Adopt minutes of Public Hearing—June 9, 2015**

**Adopt minutes of Town Council Meeting—June 9, 2015**

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

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Kay Lambert, 430 Wildcat Rocks Rd, wanted to thank everyone, workers and volunteers, for their hard work at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SafetyFest. Your efforts were greatly appreciated!

Mayor Fontaine wanted to especially thank Brad and Kay Lambert, and George and Kay Ehlinger for all of the extra hours they dedicate to the SafetyFest event.

**ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE & CALENDAR**

Manager Evans wanted to remind the Council that the filing period for the upcoming municipal elections in November would end on July 17 at 12:00PM. Manager Evans also stated that online payments were now set up on the Town website, accepting utility and property tax payments, via debit/credit cards and E-checks.

**OLD BUSINESS—NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION—STATE HEALTH INSURANCE**—Mayor Fontaine briefly stated that this Resolution was a requirement to even be considered for the State Health Insurance plan, if the Town wanted to pursue the option. Manager Evans stated that they were only taking 10,000 people, so space was limited. Mayor Fontaine read the Resolution to Join the State Health Plan out loud to those present at the meeting. Member Hooper made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Join the State Health Plan. Member Ehimg seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

~CLOSED~

**CELL TOWER/SERVICE PRESENTATION—INFORMATION—DISCUSSION—**

**CHRIS IVERSON**—Manager Evans stated that in the past several years, different companies such as Verizon, AT&T and Carolina West, have approached the Town to place cell towers on the highest ridges. He stated that this was not something that the Council or residents were interested in, so the proposals never went any further.

Manager Evans then introduced Chris Iverson with Coastal Wireless Resources, LLC, who was representing Carolina West Wireless. He stated that Mr. Iverson was at the meeting to present a plan for a cell tower in Seven Devils.

Mr. Iverson stated that the plan was to place a 30' x 60' compound behind the Maintenance shed on Chinkapin Rd. This tower would be a Carolina West tower, but would also enhance Verizon service. Mr. Iverson also stated that there were spaces for three other carriers on the pole, for future interested cell service providers. He stated that this would also enhance E-911 capabilities via cell phone service.

Member Ehlinger asked if other companies would be allowed to utilize the monopole. Mr. Iverson stated that three other companies can have candelabras installed on the same pole, 10 feet apart.

Mayor Fontaine stated that the new proposed location was in a much less obvious location than past proposals, and wondered why this location would work now instead of a ridgeline. Mr. Iverson stated that the need for higher numbers of towers for increased bandwidth was caused by the increased use of smart phones. Therefore, needing a ridgeline is not a necessity because of the higher number of towers needed to provide bandwidth.

Member Hooper asked Mr. Iverson if this would be a truly profitable venture for Carolina West. Mr. Iverson stated that Carolina West has approximately 75,000 customers, and are always looking to expand that customer base. If they can provide better coverage they hope to entice new customers from the Seven Devils area.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert asked Mr. Iverson for the reasoning behind the rental amounts changing in regards to the size of the compound. Mr. Iverson stated that it was based on Fair Market Value of the real estate. He also stated that normally, they desire 100' x 100' compounds

Manager Evans stated that a 100' x 100' compound would not logically fit into the location behind the Maintenance shed, without significant fill and a retaining wall.

Member Hooper asked Mr. Iverson about a situation where the tower would fall. Mr. Iverson stated that they are required by Federal regulations to make sure the tower has a safe fall zone for the location it is erected. Mr. Iverson stated that the tower proposed for the Seven Devils location also had an appropriate fall zone.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert stated that something should be done to compensate for the lack of service that would be created by the new cell tower at the maintenance shed. Manager Evans stated that a DAS system was discussed to be put in at the maintenance shed to help remedy this, and Mr. Iverson confirmed it was discussed, though not included in the contract presented. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert also asked that Mr. Iverson bring coverage before/after maps concentrated just to Seven Devils Town limits, if there is a public hearing.

Mayor Fontaine thanked Mr. Iverson for his presentation. Member Hooper made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the August 11, 2015 Town Council meeting to allow the public to comment on the proposed cell tower. Member Ehling seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~OPEN~

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Board—No meeting**

**Public Works—No meeting**

**Public Safety Committee –No minutes**

**Recreation Commission**

**TDA**

**ABC Board**

**Public Safety Department**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Financial Report**

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert commented that the Town website should list the fees for the new online payment system. Manager Evans stated that they would be listed soon.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert stated that he wanted the Council to consider the idea of the Town paying the Public Works employees that spent their Saturday working SafetyFest, like a normal payday. Manager Evans stated that he would research it and have it on the August 2015 Town Council agenda.

Member Hooper stated that SafetyFest was a great success this year, and thanked everyone that made it possible.

Member Ehmig stated that he heard many positive comments on the live music, a new feature at SafetyFest.

Mayor Fontaine commented that he read in the Fire report that two members of the Volunteer Fire Department retired, including Council Member Hooper, who dedicated 12 years and 9 months to the Department. He wished to express gratitude for that service.

**ADJOURN**

Member Ehmig made a motion adjourn. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting was recessed at 6:35PM.

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Larry Fontaine, Mayor

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Sara Miller, Town Clerk