

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
MINUTES – TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT**

March 26, 2015

The Seven Devils Town Council met for their annual Retreat and Planning Workshop on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 9:00a.m. at the Foscoe/Grandfather Community Center. Present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Council Members Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig, and David Hooper. Also present was Town Manager Ed Evans, who recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order from Recess at 9:09 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and Manager Evans recited the Pledge of Allegiance. No citizens were present.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

GOALS AND GOAL SETTING

The Town Council discussed goals that had been accomplished or partially accomplished since the last Town Council Retreat.

- 1) Peregrine Well was completed and is online for use.
- 2) The Snowcloud Water infrastructure project was completed. Water infrastructure pipes were replaced with six-inch ductile iron and new services, meters, and prvs were installed at each house.
- 3) The first phase of the Otter Falls Trails was completed including a parking lot and other improvements at the Otter Falls property.
- 4) The goal to procure a blower for use on the roads by Public Works was accomplished.
- 5) A solution was found for a law enforcement officer arrangement for the High Country Municipal ABC board.
- 6) The Town purchased a 4WD fire truck from Foscoe Fire Department.

New goals for the upcoming year were discussed and agreed upon. The new or renewed goals were as follows:

- 1) Continue to upgrade the infrastructure of the Town by replacing old existing plastic water pipe with ductile iron. It was noted that David Poore, our Town Engineer, is conducting a study to determine what projects remain and their priorities.
- 2) Continue the pursuit of a grant or grants to improve the Otter Falls property development as a recreation area.
- 3) Pursue the purchase of a RTV vehicle through grants for the Otter Falls property, to be used for emergency extraction of any individual that may be injured there. Also pursue a litter to carry individuals out of the property, and pursue various grant sources to help with this goal.
- 4) Pursue practical methods to provide some additional measures of fire protection to the Four Diamond/Windy Knob Trail sections of Town.
- 5) Begin a plan to replace Town Hall, and consider funding in the Capital Improvement Plan if the budget allows for funding.
- 6) Search for grants to construct a new fire department and Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Reviewed Town Finances, current financial position, and all loans and maturity dates.
- 2) Discussion of tax collection and sending letters to owners of delinquent accounts.
- 3) Manager charged with responsibility to discuss Performance Bonds and potential resolution of bonds being held by the Town with Rob Angle, Town Attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Council discussed the land purchase loan balance of \$60,000 plus interest for Otter Falls. Member Ehmig made a motion to pay off the balance of the loan from The Conservation Fund. Mayor Fontaine seconded the motion. Members agreed unanimously.
- 2) Council discussed HB107 that allows distilleries to sell liquor outside of the ABC system. The Council made a decision to mail letters of opposition to our Legislators regarding the sale of liquor outside of the ABC system.
- 3) Council discussed the desire to possibly play music at the upcoming Otter Falls dedication ceremony and the SafetyFest event in July. Manager Evans presented information about why the licensing was needed and the pricing of licenses from ASCAP and BMI. After discussion, Member Ehmig made a motion to purchase one or both licenses (if both are needed). Member Hooper seconded the motion. All members agreed unanimously.

- 4) Council discussed the potential purchase of a RTV type vehicle to rescue injured persons from the Otter Falls Trail area. Manager Evans stated that the Town has applied for a grant and we will hopefully have a decision of the award of the grant in April. If the Town does not receive a grant, the Council charged Manager Evans with seeking other grant opportunities.
- 5) Council discussed the recently introduced Sales Tax Distribution bill, SB 369 and decided that letters should be sent to legislators. Manager Evans stated he would get a letter and/or resolution together for Council review and consideration.
- 6) Council discussed the Public Works initiative regarding water distribution to the Four Diamond Drive and Windy Knob Trail area.
- 7) Mayor Fontaine discussed the upcoming Municipal Elections and asked Manager Evans to provide details about the filing deadline at the next Council meeting.
- 8) Finance Officer appointment – A motion was made by David Hooper to appoint Scott McKinney as the Interim Finance Officer for the Town of Seven Devils. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.
- 9) The Council discussed preliminary numbers for personnel salary and wage increases for the upcoming fiscal year. A decision was made to use a 3% increase as a preliminary working number.

CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), Personnel Issues

Member Hooper made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) at 1:32 PM. Member Ehmig seconded the motion and members agreed unanimously. The Manager and Council discussed overall employee performance. Member Ehmig made a motion to return to Open Session at 1:40 PM. Member Hooper seconded the motion, and the Council unanimously returned to Open Session. No action was taken during the Closed Session.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Hooper said that the Manager and Council are doing a good job in his opinion. Members briefly discussed a successful Retreat. Mayor Fontaine thanked everyone for his or her attendance.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn at 1:48 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion, and all agreed unanimously.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Ed Evans, Town Manager