

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

April 11, 2017

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 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 Debbie Powers. The minutes were recorded by Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ADOPT AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT – MARCH 9, 2017

ADOPT MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN COUNCIL MEETING-MARCH 16, 2017

Member Hooper made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kay Lambert, **430 Wildcat Rocks Rd.**, updated the progress of the plans for the 14th annual SafetyFest on July 1, 2017. Over \$100,000 has been raised to date.

Anne Fontaine, **127 West Rocky Top**, talked about the upcoming events planned by the Recreation Commission. These include Concert on the Lawn, Movie Night and the 7K Run.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers reports a positive email has been received by the NC Parks-Trails Committee for the RTP Grant. We have been invited to apply for part B, the next step of the application process.

Town Clerk Hillary Gropp attended the FMS Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

The Police Department have completed their 2017 In-Service Training.

The Otter Falls donation box has been broken and with damage to the locks. Future decisions will need to be made as to replacement or relocation to Town Hall. Photos of Otter Falls merchandise is now being displayed at the parking lot.

Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert attended the ASU Chancellor's Breakfast.

A letter was written & mailed to Verizon Executives by Mayor Larry Fontaine to request piggyback service off the existing cell tower. Discussion occurred about having the residents of Seven Devils send letters of request.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, Member Ehlinger and Manager Powers attended a Sales Tax Distribution meeting with Watauga County Commissioners about the percentage payback of taxes. Resolution #2017-02 was presented by the Town of Seven Devils, NC.

The Skyline Drive waterline project is continuing, with an expected completion by the end of April.

The next HCMA meeting will be April 20, 2017 at Banner Elk Town Hall.

Manager Powers will be attending class at UNC SOG for Zoning Certification.

Arbor Day Celebrations will be on Friday, April 28th at Town Hall with a ceremony at 11:30AM and lunch afterwards. Mayor Fontaine will read a proclamation.

Manager Powers provided an update on Tree Permits, Projects, Complaints, Real Estate Closings

Easter decorations have been planted in and around the Town...Enjoy the Holiday!

OLD BUSINESS

Sales Tax Distribution meeting - Discussion occurred as to when the Watauga County Commission will be taking a final vote on this issue. The statutes require a decision by April 30, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Below is the recommendation from the Public Works Committee for FY18:

At our March 21, 2017 meeting, we reviewed the Annual Blind Road Analysis, and after lengthy discussion, recommend the following projects for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

1. Paving of Knob Hill Lane, from Edgecliff to Wildcat Rocks @ \$31,747
2. Ditch line construction and driveway repairs at 166 Knob Hill @ \$14,850
3. Paving Woodwinds Drive, from WW Circle to WW Circle @ \$5,206
4. Paving Deerwood Trail, from Tangle Lane to the end of pavement @ \$6,774
5. Paving W. Rocky Top Trail, from end of pavement to the water tank @ \$16,785

Total Projects Cost: \$75,362

Estimated Powell Bill Funding: \$30,000

Net Cost to Town: \$ 45,362

Resident, Sarah Manning inquired why Deerwood Trail was included and Mayor Pro Tem Lambert explained the process for rating and determining the recommendation. **Resident, Bernice Byrnes** asked about paving gravel roads, such as Chestnut Ridge. Mayor Fontaine explained the extensive work and larger budget required for such roads.

Member Ehmgig made a motion to accept the Public Works recommendation. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

Member Hooper attended a Wireless Technology Forum in Greensboro, NC, sponsored by the NCLM. He provided a report from this forum and the future for municipalities. Discussion occurred among the Town Council to inquire at the HCMA and possible UDO amendments that will be needed. **~CLOSED~**

Manager Powers presented the preliminary budget for FY18.

FY18 Budget Presentation Highlights:

• Revenues:
↔ Property Taxes – remains steady - <i>NO TAX INCREASE!</i>
↓ Sales tax – Decrease \$20,000
↔ Utility/Franchise Tax – remains steady
↔ Cell Tower – remains steady
↔ Water Sales – remains steady
↔ Powell Bill Allocation - remains steady
• Expenditures:
↓ Paving priorities from Blind Road Analysis - \$75,362
↔ Replace #2 of 7 Water PRV Valves @ \$36,500
↑ PD Expedition @ \$35,000 + \$6,000 outfitting
↑ Water Meter Reader @ \$11,500
↔ \$50,000 towards new Town Hall facility
↑ Personnel – 2% COLA and 2% ment
↔ \$20,000 towards "Connect 7D"
↑ Pipe Locator for PW \$3,000
↓ Debt Load: \$90,061.55

A Budget Workshop for the Town Council is scheduled on Wednesday, April 28, 2017 at 10:00AM at Town Hall. **~CLOSED~**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board—No Meeting

Public Works—March Minutes

Public Safety Committee—No Meeting

Recreation Commission - No Meeting

TDA - No Meeting

ABC Board - March Minutes

Public Safety Department
Police Report
Fire Report
Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert shared the Town's Annual Water System Inspection indicates a 8% water loss, which is positive and a result of long term planning.

RECESS

Member Ehmig made a motion to recess until the Budget Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2017 a 10:00AM at Town Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting recessed at 6:35 PM.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp
Town Clerk