

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

October 10, 2017

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 10, 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 Hooper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

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

OLD BUSINESS- NONE

NEW BUSINESS

6) A. AUDIT REPORT FY17 -The Town Audit Report FY17 was presented by Sharon Gillespie, CPA with Young, Miller & Gillespie, P.A.; hard copies of this audit were provided to the Town Council and a PDF version is available online at www.sevendevils.net.

The Town passed the audit with positive reviews and some of the highlights that Sharon pointed out were as follows:

Page 5 – Opinion paragraph, Page 8 – Management’s Discussion & Analysis (Financial Highlights)

Page 18 – Net Position/Total Net Position. Sharon explained some new lines (due to accounting pronouncement) for Law Enforcement Officers Separation Allowance, this liability on government is to accurately include the amount that might be owed in the future according to actuarial tables.

Page 19 – Statement of Activity/Net Position, Page 20 – Balance Sheet/Governmental Funds, Page 21-Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, Changes in Fund Balance, Page 25 – Proprietary Fund, Page 58 – Current Tax Levy.

Sharon offered praise to Helga Sappington, Finance Officer on her commendable tax collection rate of 99.15%, which is excellent for a small rural town. Everything looks great

with the Town Audit and working with the Town has been an easy process because of Administration's organization and preparedness. ~CLOSED~

B. ABC AUDIT REPORT – Sara Brewer, ABC Manager provided the ABC Audit Report to the Town of Seven Devils. The fiscal year ended with Gross Sales totaling \$3,219,747, which is an increase of \$280,874 from the previous year total, with \$757,168 paid in taxes to the State. Law Enforcement has received about \$21,000 total for Police Departments in the Towns: Banner Elk, Seven Devils, Sugar Mountain. This includes a portion paid to the part time ABC officer who performs inspections on restaurants and RASP training; Additionally, \$16,500 has been sent for alcohol education to the Avery county. Each Town has received \$85,000 however the ABC Board is presenting each town with a \$10,000 bonus. Since the inception of the HC ABC Board in 1998, to date the ABC Board has given a total of \$3,972,502 to the Towns of Banner Elk, Seven Devils, and Sugar Mountain. Sara Brewer spoke briefly about the threat of privatization for ABC and she is continuously educating on behalf of the ABC Association of North Carolina of how the monies are used locally. ~CLOSED~

C. BUDGET AMENDMENT #2FY18

Budget Amendment #2 - FY18

Purpose: Replace failed motor on pump on Well #2.....\$11,000.00

Well pump #2 failed on Sunday, October 1. Public Works had Trivette Electric come on Monday, October 2 to check the electrical components of the well & found no problems. We have contacted Appalachian Well Drilling to pull the pump. The motor and surge protection replacement cost is \$11,000.00.

Well # 1 is operational & serves the same area as Well #2.

From Capital Reserve...30-810-90.....\$11,000.00

To Capital Outlay.....30-810-74.....\$11,000.00

Debbie Powers

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2FY18; Member Hooper seconded the motion; the members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kay Lambert – **430 Wildcat Rocks Road**; Offered a sincere “Thank you” to the Town of Seven Devils and the TDA for the Autumn decorations & banners displayed within the town; she also reports the Operation Medicine Cabinet has been cancelled by Watauga County, however the Seven Devils Police Department is a drop off for unused prescriptions.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provide the following update:

The boardroom in Town Hall has an additional TV screen installed; this is provided with funds from State Fire Grant for the Seven Devils Fire Department training.

Debbie, along with Mayor Fontaine attended the grand opening of the Water Treatment Facility in Beech Mountain on Friday, October 6th.

Debbie will have a PARTF meeting for grant opportunities on October 11th; the Tree City USA application has been submitted on October 6th.

The Seven Devils Police Department has completed the annual firearms training on September 13th- 15th.

“The Hawk” 7K @ 7D was a success; photos of the participants are on the 7D website.

The new water meter reader/software has been installed; in-house training was provided on September 26th.

Town Clerk Hillary Gropp attended a regional Clerk Workshop in Ashe County on 9/29.

The Powell Bill ½ allocation of \$14, 653.78 has been received on October 1st.

The Public Works Department attended the NCRWA for annual training on 9/27.

The TDA has sponsored the seasonal autumn decorations within the Town.

Permits have been completed and new construction will occur at Lot 25 between Rocky Top/Chestnut Ridge Trail at the May Residence.

The Board of Adjustment will meet on October 24th to consider an application for a variance at 147 Deepwood Court at the Bridges Residence.

Letters of support are requested for the NCDOT Pedestrian Plan Grant; the template for a sample letter is on the Seven Devils website and available at Town Hall.

The updated Connect 7D Map is displayed in the Town Hall boardroom.

The HCMA meeting is Thursday, October 19th. The Village of Sugar Mountain is the host.

Municipal Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7th from 6:30am – 7:30pm. Avery voters will cast a vote at Banner Elk Town Hall; Watauga voters will cast a ballot at Seven Devils Town Hall. The Candidate Forum is on Wednesday, October 18th at 6:30pm-9:30pm.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board—No September Meeting

Public Works—No September Meeting

Public Safety Committee—No September Meeting

Recreation Commission - September Minutes

TDA - September Minutes

ABC Board - August Minutes

Tree Committee - No September Meeting

Public Safety Department

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Ehmig offered congratulations to Town Staff, especially Finance Officer Helga Sappington for the superb job of all the work throughout the year.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert met for the Community Leaders breakfast held at ASU.

ADIJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn. Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting recessed at 6:15 PM.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp
Town Clerk