

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

December 12, 2011

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 2011, at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Copley, Council Members Richard DeMott, Kay Ehlinger and David Ehmig. Also present were Town Manager Ed Evans, Town Attorney Rob Angle, and new Council Members Larry Fontaine & Brad Lambert. The minutes were recorded by Beth Taylor, Town Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Manager Evans called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Member Ehmig suggested re-arranging the order of some of the items on the agenda, to which the members agreed unanimously.

INSTALLING NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS – ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Town Clerk Beth Taylor administered the oath of office to Kathy Copley, Larry Fontaine and Brad Lambert.

MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM ELECTION - TOWN MANAGER

Manager Evans opened the floor for nominations of the new Mayor. Member Ehmig nominated Larry Fontaine as Mayor. Member Lambert seconded the motion. Member Lambert made a motion to close the nominations and vote. The votes were as follows:

4 Ayes- Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig, Brad Lambert and Larry Fontaine
1 Nay- Kathy Copley

Manager Evans opened the floor for nominations of the new Mayor Pro Tem. Member Ehlinger nominated Brad Lambert as Mayor Pro Tem. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. Member Ehmig made a motion to close the nominations and vote. The votes were as follows:

4 Ayes- Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig, Larry Fontaine and Brad Lambert
1 Nay- Kathy Copley

Town Clerk Beth Taylor administered the oath of office to Larry Fontaine and Brad Lambert.

Manager Evans turned over the meeting to Mayor Fontaine. *~CLOSED~*

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS – KATHY COPLEY

Member Copley read the following resolution to recognize Bob Dodson for his service to the Town. A plaque and blanket with the Town Seal were presented to him along with a framed copy of the resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE
BOB DODSON**

WHEREAS, Mayor Bob Dodson has served the citizens of his community as an elected official from 2001 to 2011 and as Mayor from 2002 to 2011, and throughout his years of public service, he has been a public servant of unquestionable integrity, always supporting that which he believed to be in the best interest of the citizens of his community; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dodson has shown dedication to providing outstanding fiscal responsibility while leading the Councils that reduced taxes for citizens twice during his tenure, has worked to ensure public facilities and infrastructure that directly benefitted the safety and welfare of citizens including the provision of water infrastructure and fire truck purchases that improved the fire rating in Seven Devils, has led Councils that undertook large water and road projects, has worked to provide 24/7 police coverage, has initiated the Capital Improvement Plan, and has established the Tourism Development Authority, Appearance Commission, and Recreation Commission, and has served as an advocate for orderly development through sound land use standards, thoughtful planning practices, and a commitment to excellence in his charged duties; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dodson has always demonstrated a vision for his community, while motivating and encouraging others to participate in the process of developing their own vision for the future of Seven Devils; and

WHEREAS, every citizen has reaped the benefits of Bob Dodson's dedication to what is right and good for Seven Devils, and the results will be evidenced in this community for years into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council for the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that it expresses to you, Bob Dodson, on behalf of itself and other citizens and officials, appreciation for your unselfish and invaluable service and contributions rendered as Mayor and Council member, and urges all citizens to join in extending appreciation for your service to the people of Seven Devils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer you our very best wishes for success, happiness and good health in all your future endeavors.

Approved this the 12th day of December 2011.

Kathy Copley, Mayor Pro Tem

Richard DeMott, Council

Kay Ehlinger, Council

David Ehmig, Council

Member Ehmig read the following resolution to recognize Richard DeMott for his service to the Town. A plaque and blanket with the Town Seal were presented to him along with a framed copy of the resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE
RICHARD DEMOTT**

WHEREAS, Richard DeMott has served the citizens of Seven Devils as an elected official from 2002 to 2011 and as Mayor Pro Tem from 2002 to 2009, and throughout his years of public service, he has been a public servant of integrity, supporting that which he believed to be in the best interest of the citizens of his community; and

WHEREAS, Richard DeMott has shown special interest in protecting Seven Devils and the citizens therein by focusing on the environmental preservation of the Town, in part, by initiating a water resource study to help evaluate the adequacy of the domestic water supply and initiating a steep slope development study focused on protecting the land from erosion, has served on committees within the High Country Region that have worked to provide adequate transportation and clean water streams and rivers, has been a proponent of and motivating factor in the success of Operation Medicine Cabinet in Seven Devils and regionally, has served on Councils that undertook large water and road projects, and has served as an advocate for planned development through sound land use; and

WHEREAS, Richard DeMott has demonstrated a vision for his community, through his ideals and work on the Vision Statement for Seven Devils; and

WHEREAS, citizen's have benefited from Richard DeMott's dedication to Seven Devils, and his dedication will benefit this community into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council for the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that it expresses to you, Richard DeMott, on behalf of itself and other citizens and officials, appreciation for your dedication and contributions rendered as Mayor Pro Tem and Council member, and urges all citizens to join in extending appreciation for your service to the people of Seven Devils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer you our very best wishes for success, happiness and good health in all your future endeavors.

Approved this the 12th day of December 2011.

Bob Dodson, Mayor

Kathy Copley, Mayor Pro Tem

Kay Ehlinger, Council

David Ehmig

After the resolutions and plaques were given, both Bob Dodson & Richard DeMott spoke briefly thanking the Town Council & citizens. Member Copley asked Mayor Fontaine if she could read a statement. Member Copley proceeded to read her letter of resignation as a member of the Town Council: "The people of Seven Devils deserve 5 effective Council members. Some things have occurred recently that have convinced me that I will not be an effective Council member. To make room for someone who can serve you as you deserve to be served, I am resigning effective immediately. I want to express appreciation for your past support and hopes for a positive future. Thank You."

COUNCIL MEMBER RECEPTION

Mayor Fontaine called for a brief recess.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Member Ehmig made a motion to approve the November 12, 2011 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Buzzy Wolf, 299 Highcliff Circle, wanted to congratulate the new Council members. Mr. Wolf continued by stating he feels the town needs to consider the possibility of another access road into and out of Seven Devils. He also feels the town needs to look into the utilization of land currently owned.

Kay Lambert, 430 Wildcat Rocks Road, wanted to thank the TDA for the beautiful Christmas decorations. Mrs. Lambert stated that the first town lighting ceremony turned out great.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE & CALENDAR

Manager Evans stated that the water project, including the shouldering of the roads and installation of a french drain in front of the fire bay doors, is completed in full. Everything is paid out and completed.

Member Ehlinger wanted to congratulate Manager Evans on passing his Certified Zoning Official exam.

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas bonuses for employees

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to increase the bonuses by \$50 bringing the grand total for Christmas bonuses for employees this year to \$350, the same as was given last year. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

NEW BUSINESS

Ethics Policy – Town Council

Member Lambert made a motion to accept the Ethics Policy as presented. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. It was put to a vote with the following results:

4 Ayes- Mayor Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, Member Ehlinger, Member Ehmig
0 Nays

The Ethics Policy was signed by each member. *~CLOSED~*

Committee and Board Appointments and Reappointments

Planning Board – three terms expiring- There was some discussion on how best to precede, considering the fact the Planning Board had not been able to give the Council their recommendation for new members. Member Ehmig made a motion to extend the three expiring Planning Board members terms until March 2012 to allow them to reach a recommendation for the Council. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~OPEN~*

Board of Adjustment – two terms expiring- Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to re-appoint George Ehlinger & Bobbye Hurlbrink to the Board of Adjustment. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

Public Works – four terms expiring (pending Council decision on membership configuration)- After some discussion regarding the number of Council members that should serve on the Public Works Committee, Member Ehlinger made a motion to limit the number of Council members on the same committee to no more than two. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. After coming to the conclusion that there was not enough information at this time to appoint (or re-appoint) members to the Public Works Committee, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to postpone this decision until the next Council meeting when there would be time to gather more applications for consideration. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~OPEN~*

Municipal Tree Protection – Recommendations

Mayor Fontaine recommended tabling this topic for another time. *~OPEN~*

Proposed Town Holiday Schedule, 2012

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the proposed 2012 Holiday schedule. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

UDO Draft – Recommendation from the Planning Board

Mayor Fontaine recommended tabling this topic for another time. *~OPEN~*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board

Public Works

Public Safety Committee – No meeting

Recreation Commission – No meeting

ABC Board

TDA

Public Safety Department

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

Mayor Fontaine asked Manager Evans to look into whether or not the Council needs to approve the financial report at each meeting. *~OPEN~*

Member Ehmig made a motion to approve the financial report. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Fontaine wanted to thank the citizens for coming to this meeting. He continued to say how unfortunate it was that Kathy Copley resigned, but he wanted to thank the previous Council members for all they have done.

ADJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Beth Taylor, Town Clerk