

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

April 7, 2014

The Seven Devils Town Council met for their annual Retreat and Planning Workshop on Monday, April 7, 2014, 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 9:42 AM.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Hooper made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Member Ehmig 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 in the year and is now online for use. 2) Water infrastructure goals were discussed and plans were reiterated to complete a water infrastructure project in the Snowcloud area of Town. 3) Procurement of recreational properties was also discussed, and the successful acquisition of the Otter Falls property was a result of this goal.

New goals for the upcoming year were also discussed and set. Among the new or renewed goals were the following:

- 1) Continue to upgrade the infrastructure of the Town by replacing old existing plastic water pipe with ductile iron. The desire to move forward with a total upgrade of water supply and water services in Snowcloud was set as both a short-term and long-term goal.
- 2) Improve the shoulders of Town roads to prevent the breaking of road edges. Emphasize repairing eroded areas and smoothing and seeding of shoulders.
- 3) Rework and improve ditches along Town roads to handle storm water runoff.
- 4) Develop and implement a trail system, parking area, and trailhead recognition plan for the Otter Falls property.
- 5) Continue to make efforts to improve openness of Town government.
- 6) Bring all properties in Seven Devils into compliance with the E-911 requirements. It was noted that many houses still do not have proper identification, which could be disastrous in the event of a true emergency at one of those houses.

OTTER FALLS TRAILS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Manager Evans made a presentation to the Council regarding the Otter Falls property. The actual trail plan devised by Tim Johnson, the trails specialist with NC DENR, was displayed and discussed. Evans stated that the Town has made contact with a trail builder and received a quote of \$5,000 to develop the first portion of the trail. The contractor would build the basic trail with volunteer workers providing the finish work. The trails plan for the remainder of the property was also shown and Evans stated that a quote for the remainder of the property trails system was also requested and should arrive soon.

Following the presentation and questions, Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve and adopt the trail plan as presented. Member Hooper seconded the motion. Members agreed unanimously and members stated their desire to schedule a public hearing. A hearing was tentatively set for April 22, 2014.

ABC LAW ENFORCEMENT DISCUSSION

After a discussion of the ABC Boards proposal to have local law enforcement members trained to take over ABC law enforcement for their area, the Council decided to defer any decision about how to proceed until they knew the specific directives from the State about the matter. Clarification on what the Town is being asked to do is needed to proceed.

POLICY – ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY DONATIONS – DISCUSSION

The Council discussed the matter of accepting donations of real property from property owners who want to donate their property rather than pay real property taxes on the property. A decision was made to “not” allow this as a means of property disposal by owners as a matter of policy. However, this was qualified to allow, on a case-by-case basis, such donation to the Town if it was deemed by the Town Manager to be in the best interest of the Town to accept such donation due to potential for Town use or for potential sale at a price that would directly benefit the Town.

POTENTIAL FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE – DISCUSSION

The availability of a fire truck being sold by the Foscoe Fire Department was discussed. It was noted that the fire truck has less than ten thousand miles, is four-wheel drive, and is a 1,250 gallon tanker. The truck meets all the desired features for a new truck, is affordable at the price established by Foscoe, and would be a great addition to the Town's ability to serve its citizens. Additionally, it was noted that a new truck is in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan and that the price is much less than that set several years ago. It was also noted that the Fire Chief, the Public Works Director, the Town Manager, and others inspected the truck and were satisfied that it does meet our needs well.

Following discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to allow the manager to purchase the truck at up to \$65,000, and asked to try to negotiate it to some amount less (for instance, offer \$60,000). Member Ehmig seconded the motion and the members agreed unanimously.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION—Manager Evans gave a Preliminary Budget to the Town Council. No action was taken. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert asked about Privilege Licenses and whether the Town could use a different method from that we currently use. Manager Evans stated that the Town could use the “gross receipts” method, but stated that he would have to research the method and report back to the Council.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) at 1:22 PM. Member Hooper seconded the motion and members agreed unanimously. Member Hooper made a motion to return to Open Session at 2:14 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion, and the Council returned to Open Session unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Members briefly discussed a successful Retreat and the actions taken and the good lunch and Mayor Fontaine thanked everyone for their attendance.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn at 2:15 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion, and all agreed unanimously.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Ed Evans, Town Manager