

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION  
August 10, 2009**

The Town of Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Richard DeMott and Council Members Kay Ehlinger, Bill Wilkinson and Kathy Copley. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans and Town Attorney Rob Angle. Town Clerk Karen Daniels recorded the minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dodson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Scrivener corrections were made to the July 13, 2009 regular meeting Town Council minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to approve the July 13, 2009 regular meeting minutes as amended. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Harold F. “Buzzy” Wolf, 299 High Cliff Circle requested the Town Council honor Barbara Robbins with a moment of silence. He told the Town Council and Citizens that Barbara Robbins was the longest serving Town Council member and she also served as president of the Resort Club for over thirty years. Mayor Dodson said Barbara Robbins was a well respected member of the community and requested a moment of silence from the Citizens and Council in memory of Barbara Robbins.

Mayor Dodson told the Council and Citizens that Barbara had listed Grandfather Home for Children as her favorite charity.

Member Copley made a motion to give a contribution of \$100.00 to Grandfather Home for Children in memory of Barbara Robbins. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

Laurel Wolf, 299 High Cliff Circle requested the Town Council consider the use of the enclosed plexiglass display cases in the parking lot of Town Hall to display important information such as memorials. She told the Council it was her understanding that this was one of the intended purposes for these boxes when they were originally constructed.

The Town Manager told the Council and Citizens that he is constantly updating the Seven Devils web site and this type of information can be obtained on the Seven Devils Web Site at: [www.sevendevils.net](http://www.sevendevils.net).

Mayor Dodson complimented Tom Bookstaver on his actions in the recent emergency events at Seven Devils and said he had received several positive complements regarding Tom from Seven Devils citizens.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

The Town Manager reviewed his Administrative Update with the Town Council. He explained to the Council that Moretz Paving had the lowest bid of \$82,320 and was awarded the bid. He said Moretz will begin paving in approximately three weeks. The Town Manager told the Council that Main and Main Paving had called and told him they made an error in their bid and had lowered their bid by \$4,000 which made their bid \$85,314 which was still higher than Moretz Paving bid.

The Town Manager told the Council and Citizens that the Town of Seven Devils is the recipient of a “2009 Police Overtime Grant” for 2009-2010 in the amount of \$14,967.76 which is a 75/25 matching fund from Federal Stimulus funds. He explained that the Stimulus Funding pays \$11,225.82 and the Town pays \$3,741.94. He also told the Council and Citizens that the Town of Seven Devils is the recipient of a N.C. State Volunteer Fire Department Fund Program grant. He said this is a 50/50 match fund with the State providing funds of \$28,817.60 and the Town providing an equal amount. He explained the Town must first spend the money to get the match. The Town Manager encouraged every one to personally thank Fire Chief Bobby Powell for all the hard work he did on behalf of the Town of Seven Devils to receive these grants.

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

**A. Budget Amendment to Expend Additional Funds for Paving** – The Town Manager reviewed the proposed budget amendment with the Town Council. He said the Town had received unexpected revenues in the amount of \$29,000.00 from the sale of assets (two properties to Bob Haugh and the sale of surplus equipment from GovDeals.com). He explained to the Council this will allow the Town of Seven Devils to increase expenditures to pave and gravel additional Seven Devils roads. The Town Manager told the Council that both of these projects could be completed for approximately \$20,000 with Seven Devils Public Works Department spreading the gravel for the graveled roads.

Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to accept the proposed budget amendment as presented. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to proceed with the paving of the two additional Seven Devils Roads (Skiview/Moonlight intersection to the end of pavement on Skiview and from the intersection of Wildcat Rocks/Thorncliff Drive - approximately 600’ on Thorncliff) and gravel a portion of (Chestnut Ridge Trail and Edgecliff Drive). Member Copley seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **CLOSED**

**B. Declaring Equipment Surplus** - The Town Council reviewed the following list presented by the Town Manager to declare equipment as “Surplus”.

- 1) “Body Guard” by Setina Manufacturing Co.
- 2) “Packer” Manufactured by Stone
- 3) Boring Machine – manufactured by Mighty Mole, Model M-1800
- 4) Jack Hammer – Manufactured by Wacker
- 5) Wooden Desk – Currently in use in the Finance Office / TDA has approved the purchase of a new desk for the Finance Office

Mayor Dodson made a motion to declare the above listed items as “Surplus”. Member Copley seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **CLOSED**

**C. Echo Advertising** – The Town Manager explained to the Council that as spokes person for the privately owned and operated Seven Devils Resort Club, Carol Sommer-Isquith has made a request on behalf of the Resort Club to place a one quarter page advertisement in a future Seven Devils Echo publications and the Seven Devils Resort Club will pay for the cost of the advertisement.

Member Copley made a motion to allow the Seven Devils Resort Club to place a one quarter page advertisement in a future Seven Devils Echo publication. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **CLOSED**

**D. Request for Travel/Employee Education** – The Town Manager told the Council the cost for the September 21-25, UNC School of Government “Public Employment Law” class for the Town Manager is \$400 plus expenses and the cost for the October 26-29, UNC School of Government “Property Tax Collection Administration is \$400 plus expenses.

Member Copley made a motion to approve the funding for the September 21-25 “Public Employment Law” class for the Town Manager and the October 26-29 “Property Tax Collection” class for the Finance Officer. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **CLOSED**

**E. Recreation Commission – Seven Devils Walking Routes** – The Council reviewed the proposal for walking routes presented by the Seven Devils Recreation Commission. Mayor Dodson complimented the Recreation Commission on all their hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to approve the proposal for Seven Devils Walking Routes presented by the Seven Devils Recreation Commission. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

The Council discussed concerns that Recreation Commission Member Mark Garrett has not been present for any Recreation Commission meetings. Discussion followed and the Council requested Mayor Pro Tem DeMott contact Mark Garrett and see what his intentions are regarding future Recreation Commission meetings. **OPEN**

**F. Consideration of Title Search for Peregrine Well**

Member Wilkinson made a motion to proceed with the title search for Peregrine Well. Mayor Dodson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **OPEN**

**G. Recommended Changes to Employee Handbook-Personnel Policy** – The Town Council reviewed the Seven Devils Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy. After a lengthy discussion the Council agreed there needed to be a more in depth review of the Seven Devils Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy. The Council agreed to schedule a workshop to review the Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy and the possibility of adding an additional employee for the Police Department. The Town Council requested the Town Manager email a copy of the proposed changes to all the Town Council members prior to the workshop.

The Town Council reviewed their individual calendars and agreed to have a workshop for discussion of the Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy on Wednesday, August 26th, 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall. **OPEN**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Planning Board** – There were no additional comments.

**B. Public Works** - There were no additional comments.

**C. Public Safety** – No meeting was held. Mayor Dodson reviewed the July 2009 Seven Devils Fire Department report.

**D. ABC Board** – There were no additional comments.

**E. TDA** – Bill Wilkinson reviewed the 2009-2010 TDA Budget with the Town Council. Member Copley asked Bill Wilkinson about the status of updating the Town of Seven Devils logo. After discussion, the consensus of the Council is the Town of Seven Devils logo is beautiful and does not need to be updated.

**F. Financial Report** – The Town Manager reviewed the July 2009 monthly finance report with the Town Council.

Mayor Dodson made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

#### **TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Dodson asked the Town Attorney about the status of the one half acre plot beside the Villas that the current owner wants to donate to the Town of Seven Devils because the current owner of the property does not want to pay the taxes. Mayor Dodson told the Council that Watauga County valued this piece of property at \$35,000 and that the property has potential and a beautiful view. Attorney Angle said it looks as if this piece of property will be deeded over to the Town. He suggested the Town Council consider a disclaimer regarding walking trails and other properties.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:48 p.m. Mayor Dodson requested a motion to go into Closed Session. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(6), Personnel Matters. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

No action was taken during closed session.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

At 7:37 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

The Town Council reviewed the Seven Devils Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy. After a lengthy discussion the Council agreed there needed to be a more in depth review of the Seven Devils Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy. The Council agreed to schedule a workshop to review the Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy and the possibility of adding an additional employee for the Police Department. The Town Council requested the Town Manager email a copy of the proposed changes to all the Town Council members prior to the workshop.

#### **RECESS**

At 7:40 p.m. Member Ehlinger made a motion to recess to 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Seven Devils Town Hall. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

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#### **TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUATION MEETING Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Seven Devils Town Council reconvened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at Seven Devils Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Richard DeMott and Council Members Kay Ehlinger, Bill Wilkinson and Kathy Copley.

At 10:02 a.m. Mayor Dodson made a motion to come out of recess. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Dodson complimented Watauga River Keeper Donna Lisenby on her presentation at the High Country Municipal Association Meeting on August 20, 2009 hosted by Seven Devils. The Town Council reviewed the following Resolution Supporting "Operation Medicine Cabinet":

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**Resolution Supporting “Operation Medicine Cabinet”  
A Pharmaceutical Take Back Project**

**WHEREAS**, mounting public concern about the increased presence of unregulated pharmaceuticals in our streams and rivers has prompted calls for immediate action,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Seven Devils is committed to providing safe water to its citizens with water that exceeds standards promulgated by Federal and State Agencies, and the Town is committed to being proactive in protecting the water supply and keeping water sources such as the Valley Creek and Watauga River pristine.

**WHEREAS**, U.S. scientists have identified over 160 contaminants in America’s rivers and streams that originate from residues of prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, personal care products, and animal hormones, contaminants that the U.S. Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) and N.C. Department of Water Quality have no strategies to test, treat, limit, or even warn the public about,

**WHEREAS**, pilot programs to pick up unused drugs and pharmaceuticals have worked in North Carolina towns, other states such as Maine, California, and Florida, and in Europe, and

**WHEREAS**, safe water is not only a public health and safety issue, but also an issue of national security.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, does endorse and support the River Rescue Committee’s “Operation Medicine Cabinet”, a public service project that will collect unused or expired medications for proper disposal. The goal of this October 2009 initiative is to reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals entering our streams and ground water.

Adopted by the Seven Devils Town Council during regular session on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

Attest:

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Bob Dodson, Mayor

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Karen E. Daniels, Town Clerk

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Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion for the Town Council to adopt the Resolution Supporting “Operation Medicine Cabinet”. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. **CLOSED**

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:08 a.m. Mayor Dodson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel Matter. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

At 12:06 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

No action was taken during Closed Session.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Town Council did an in depth review of the Seven Devils Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy. A lengthy discussion followed regarding changes and clarification to the Seven Devils Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy. The Council agreed to submit the changes and clarifications for ratification at the next Town Council regular scheduled meeting in September. **OPEN**

**ADJOURN**

At 1:09 pm Mayor Pro Tem DeMott made a motion to adjourn. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

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Bob Dodson, Mayor

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Karen E. Daniels, Town Clerk