

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
March 8, 2010**

The Town of Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 2010, at Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bob Dodson and Council Members Richard DeMott, David Ehmig and Kay Ehlinger. Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Copley was absent and excused. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans, Town Attorney Rob Angle, and Lois Evans, who recorded the minutes in the Town Clerk's absence.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

The following corrections were noted for the February 8, 2010 minutes:

1. On page 3, second line, insert the word "by" before "Member."
2. Indicate that all motions were approved unanimously.

Member Ehmig made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Member DeMott and approved unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kay Lambert expressed appreciation for the fine job done by Public Works and the Police Department this winter.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

The Town Manager announced that the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) has scheduled ethics training for March 25 from 4-6 p.m. in the HCCOG building on New Market Boulevard in Boone. Town Council members plan to attend.

Mayor Dodson distributed copies of the agenda for the Town Council retreat on March 18 at the Valle Crucis Conference Center.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on ice storm debris removal – FEMA Meetings. The Town Manager reported that he has met several times with a FEMA representative and that he is hopeful the Town will be reimbursed 100% for the expenses incurred from the ice storm. FEMA will require that bids be

submitted for the remaining work to be done on town-owned roads and rights-of-way. Residents will be permitted to haul their ice-storm debris to the curb for pick-up. Monitors may need to be hired to observe the work being done and to ensure that only ice-storm debris is hauled to the curb.

B. Discussion of Town Council Members serving on BOA. The Town Manager reported that he spoke with a representative at the School of Government and that the School has no problem with Town Council members serving on the Board of Adjustments. However, they do not recommend that Town Council members serve on the Planning Board. Citizens are encouraged to serve on committees and, ideally, a citizen would serve on one committee only.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation from Public Safety Committee – Town consider an Emergency Safety Shelter - American Red Cross - Sonny Sweet.** Member Ehlinger introduced Sonny Sweet, Executive Director of the American Red Cross for Watauga and Avery counties. Mr. Sweet reviewed the steps that would be necessary to have an emergency shelter designated at Seven Devils. He left a shelter survey and agreement with the Town Manager for review.
- B. Resolution – Appreciation to Hawksnest.** Mayor Dodson expressed appreciation to Hawksnest for their assistance with snow removal on Town roads this winter. Town Manager Evans read a resolution of appreciation on behalf of the Town. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Dodson, seconded by Member DeMott and approved unanimously.
- C. Resolution - budget meetings.** A motion to approve the resolution to adhere to the listed budget preparation schedule was made by Member DeMott, seconded by Member Ehlinger, and approved unanimously.
- D. Resolution - support of Operation Medicine Cabinet.** Member DeMott commented on the OMC project and reported that a location has not yet been determined. It was suggested that a location in Foscoe might generate a better turnout than Town Hall. Member DeMott made a motion to approve the resolution in support of Operation Medicine Cabinet, seconded by Member Ehlinger. The motion to approve was unanimous. Member DeMott then made a motion for the Town to donate \$200 to the project. However, Carol Isquith noted that this is something that the TDA may be willing to fund and would bring it up at the next TDA meeting.
- E. Resolution – ABC Control.** Mayor Dodson commented that the resolution supporting local control of local ABC boards and opposing privatization would be sent to Governor Perdue and others in State government. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Dodson, seconded by Member Ehlinger and approved unanimously.
- F. Recommendation – Changes to Personnel Policy / Employee Handbook.** The Town Manager said that he recently learned that the Town’s health insurance company provides the services of an attorney to review personnel and health insurance issues. The Town’s Handbook was reviewed, and changes were recommended to fit the needs of a small town. A motion to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy/Employee Handbook was made by Member DeMott, seconded by Member Ehmig, and approved unanimously.

G. Resolution – Designation of Applicant’s Agent – FEMA & NC. The Town Manager stated that this resolution is to designate him as agent for the town as required by FEMA and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Member DeMott, seconded by Member Ehlinger and approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Board** – no meeting held
- B. Public Works** - no meeting held
- C. Public Safety**
- D. Recreation Commission** – no meeting held
- E. ABC Board**
- F. TDA**
- G. Financial Report**

A motion was made by Member DeMott to accept the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Member Ehlinger and approved unanimously.

At 6:59 p.m., Member DeMott made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues. The motion was seconded by Member Ehlinger and approved unanimously. A motion to come out of closed session was made by Member Ehmig at 7:31 p.m., seconded by Member Ehlinger and approved unanimously. No action was taken in closed session.

TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

RECESS

At 7:35 p.m. Member Ehmig made a motion to recess until March 18 at 9:00 a.m. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUATION MEETING

Thursday, March 18th, 2010

The Seven Devils Town Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at the Valle Crucis Conference Center in Valle Crucis. Members of the Town Council present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Copley, and Council Members Richard DeMott, Kay Ehlinger, and David Ehmig. Finance Officer Debbie Powers and Town Manager Ed Evans were also present.

At 9:00 a.m., Mayor Dodson made a motion to come out of recess. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

Mayor Dodson reviewed the 2009-2010 Long and Short-term Goals and discussion ensued regarding progress on meeting the goals. Next, the Town Council discussed Long-term and Short-term goals for 2010-2011. Listed below are the goals established.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

- Finalize any changes to the tree ordinance
- Maximize the potential of the Recreation Commission
- Update committee minutes notebooks at town hall
- Ongoing and prompt update of ordinance amendments in paper and online
- Revise Zoning Ordinance re:
 - Building inspector
 - Outside ordinance review for conformance with General Statutes
 - Table of Permitted Uses
- Leverage more fire tax money from Avery and Watauga Counties (in person?)
- Move forward on one or more approved and unfunded water projects
- Provide Council with a monthly report of police activity
- Solve the leaf-collection problem at 10 – 15 trouble spots

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Monitor water loss from the town water system
- Ordinance re erosion control and storm water management
- Maintain a fund balance of 50%
- Revisit steep-slope issues
- Improve Occupancy Tax collection from individuals who rent their homes out themselves
- Do what is necessary to maintain fire rating
- Enhance the volunteer experience in Seven Devils. Ideas include an appreciation event possibly related to the Safety Fest volunteer event; increased volunteer recruitment via a booth at Safety Fest.
- Complete job descriptions
- Maintain excellent fund control. We currently have a cash control process and an internal control process. Consider a self-audit. Be transparent. Track “grants” the Partnership for a Better Seven Devils awards to town departments
- Communicate town expectations to renters (e.g., noise, trash disposal). Possibly, refer this to the TDA. How to notify renters?
- Inventory town property: possibly place inventory numbers on the property; record who has the items and purchase date and cost. Do this for all electronics and for non-electronic items costing \$2,500 or more.
- Consolidate and catalog maps and plats
- Upgrade snow removal equipment

The Finance Officer presented the Annual Operating Budget for fiscal year 2011 and the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 11- 15, prepared by Finance Officer Debbie Powers and Town Manager Ed Evans. Discussion followed concerning the 2011 Budget and CIP.

RECESS

Mayor Dodson made a motion to recess until 10:00 a.m., April 1, 2010 at Town Hall. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUATION MEETING APRIL 8, 2010

The Seven Devils Town Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at Town Hall. Members of the Town Council present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Copley, and Council Members Richard DeMott, Kay Ehlinger, and David Ehmig. Town Manager Ed Evans was also present.

At 9:03 a.m., Mayor Dodson made a motion to come out of recess. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The Council and Manager Evans discussed the FY-11 Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Spending Plan estimates for revenue and expenditures in the workshop.

ADJOURN

At 12:35 p.m. Mayor Dodson made a motion to adjourn. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

Bob Dodson, Mayor

Lois Evans, acting Town Clerk