

**TOWN OF SEVEL DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
December 13, 2010**

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2010, at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Copley, Council Members Richard DeMott and Kay Ehlinger. Member Ehmig was absent and excused. Town Manager Ed Evans and Town Attorney Rob Angle were also present. The minutes were recorded by Beth Taylor, Town Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dodson called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

NOVEMBER 8, REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Copley pointed out a typo on page 2, first paragraph, the ninth line down. After changing the “...” to a “.” before the sentence beginning with “This loan will not exceed...”, a motion was made by Mayor Dodson to approve the November 8 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Member DeMott. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizen Bob Haugh of 788 Chestnut Trail, Seven Devils, made a request to the Council Members that the Town consider using salt on the road from Snowbird Lane to Chestnut Ridge Trail to Rocky Top Trail. Those roads become very treacherous when it snows. Mayor Dodson wanted to know if we could store salt based brine without purchasing a shed. Town Manager Evans replied that it can be stored in bags in small quantities. Mayor Pro Tem Copley posed the idea of authorizing Manager Evans and Public Works Director Kevin Aldridge to try salt those roads to see if it improves the situation. After further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Copley clarified that Member DeMott made a motion to authorize Manager Evans and Public Works Director Aldridge to implement a solution to the road situation between Snowbird Lane and Chestnut Ridge Trail and to 100 feet above the intersection of Chestnut Ridge Trail and East Rocky Top Trail. The motion was seconded by Member Ehlinger. The Members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE & CALENDAR

Manager Evans stated that Officer Roy Vance is back at Seven Devils and has been promoted to Sergeant. He also mentioned that we have a new police officer, Officer Brian Hicks who is currently in training.

Evans updated the Members that according to North Carolina Emergency Management, the delay in the FEMA funding is due to the Federal Government, not the State of North Carolina. The winter ice storm claims are unfunded at this time, and according to NC Emergency Management, that is not uncommon. Manager Evans spoke via telephone to Steve Suddereth with Watauga County Emergency Management who stated that Watauga County is still working on debris removal. Steve assures us that the Town will eventually get the funds. Mayor Pro Tem Copley wanted to know if the tree ribbons could come off yet to which Evans replied ‘No’ and further clarified that the tree inventory will be completed when weather permits. Member Ehlinger wanted to know if the Town had to pay extra to switch out the propane tank in order to accommodate the emergency shelter. Evans replied that we did not have to pay for them to make the switch.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution – Water Shortage Response Plan

(See comment below)

B. Water Use Ordinance Revision

(See comment below)

Mayor Pro Tem Copley made a motion to delay the discussion on the Old Business items A & B (the Resolution for the Water Shortage Response Plan, and the Water Use Ordinance Revision) until the February Council meeting. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

C. Recreation Committee – Request for Potential Playground Property

Manager Evans told the members that the Recreation Committee is not at a point to recommend a specific site at this time. A couple of options to consider are the south west side of the tennis court where the land is level, right behind Town Hall in the vacant yard area, and possibly the Peregrine lot if that opens up. Those three are the most suitable as they offer the most security and two are already cleared. Evans asked if the Members wanted the Recreation Committee to check into possible grants to help fund the project. Since safety is the biggest concern the Members have, the land around the tennis courts seem to be the best choice. Mayor Pro Tem Copley posed the question of whether or not the Recreation Committee wanted a motion from the Council Members. Evans agreed that it would be helpful for the Members to make a motion giving the Recreation Committee some parameters so they can proceed with gaining potential funding and have an idea of which possible pieces of playground equipment to use. Mayor Pro Tem Copley made a motion that the Recreation Committee develop a plan for layout and equipment needs and identify potential funders for a small park located on Town property possibly near the tennis courts. Member DeMott seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

D. Approval of LGC application for water projects

Manager Evans informed the members that we are scheduled to close on the loan on December 16th via a telephone conference. He also mentioned that the Town was fortunate to secure the Build America Bond when we did, since after December 31, 2010 the Bond will no longer be offered. *~CLOSED~*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Clerk school for Elizabeth in January – Durham

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Copley to approve Elizabeth Taylor's attendance of the UNCSOG's Clerks School. Member DeMott seconded the motion. The Members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

B. Travel request for Town Manager to attend NCLM Advocacy Goals Conference in Raleigh

Manager Evans requested permission to travel to and attend the NCLM Advocacy Goals Conference. A motion was made by Member DeMott to grant Evans the travel request (no lodging, just travel). It was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Copley. The Members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

C. Consideration of Christmas bonus for employees

Mayor Pro Tem Copley suggested the bonus amount to be \$350 for employees, with \$100 for those employed less than a year. Member Ehlinger voiced an opinion of giving the employees \$500 this year since last winter was so severe and she thought that would show the Town's appreciation of all the hard work. Mayor Dodson asked if other Towns were giving bonuses this year and if so, how much. Both Member Evans and Mayor Pro Tem Copley were unsure what other Towns were doing. After further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Copley made a motion to approve a \$350 bonus to all employees employed here over a year, a \$100 bonus to those employed less than a year. Mayor Dodson seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. *~CLOSED~*

D. Procedure for activation of Red Cross Emergency Shelter

Mayor Dodson asked Manager Evans what was needed in order to 'kick off' the Town's use of the emergency shelter. Manger Evans replied that any number of things can initiate the Town using the shelter. The Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem can declare an emergency; it can be a recommendation by the Police Chief/Town Manager, etc. Katie Sulfridge at the American Red Cross in Boone said that the Town of Seven Devils can declare an emergency without the County declaring one. If the Town declares an emergency, the Red Cross will respond. If the County declares an emergency, and it is

something that affects Seven Devils too, then it will be assumed that we are included in that emergency and we will not need to declare our own emergency as well. Evans further stated that the Red Cross is working on getting supplies here in case it is needed for the predicted freezing rain this weekend. People seeking shelter here can bring food, but only those certified by the Red Cross will be allowed to cook it. Evans informed the Members that Barbara Pariseau is the Red Cross Coordinator for the Town. Mayor Dodson wanted to know if an emergency has been declared is it our responsibility to notify residents? Manager Evans pointed out that we can post something on the website, but that short of going door to door there is little we can do after that. Member Ehlinger responded that once the emergency has been declared there are usually signs put up by the Red Cross to let people know. Mayor Dodson stated that he liked the idea of letting people know via radio, but is not sure how many people actually listen to the radio. Mayor Pro Tem stated that if we had e-mail addresses or phone numbers we could notify by an automated phone call or e-mail. Manager Evans informed her that we have tried to get residents to complete all that information on our security forms. As for the automated call, Evans stated that those systems are very expensive. Mayor Pro Tem Copley mentioned the possibility of using reverse 911 to alert residents. Manager Evans replied that he is not sure what that entails, but he can check into it. It was mentioned that there could be something printed in the next ECHO to let residents know there will be a shelter available in emergency situations. It was agreed that in doing so, that would put the responsibility on the residents, rather than the Town. *~OPEN~*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board (no meeting in November)

Public Works

Public Safety Committee (no meeting in November)

Recreation Commission (no Quorum)

ABC Board

TDA

Member Ehlinger mentioned that the new Christmas signs look good.

Public Safety Department

i. Police Report

ii. Fire Report

Financial Report

Mayor Dodson made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The Members agreed unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Copley mentioned that the Town should look into getting a real estate agent to list the properties that the Town has available to sell.

Member DeMott wanted to send his regrets that he would not be able to attend the Christmas Lunch here at the Town Hall, as he has other obligations.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Copley made a motion to adjourn. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.

Bob Dodson, Mayor

Beth Taylor, Town Clerk