

**TOWN OF SEVEL DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
May 10, 2010**

The Town of Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Monday, May 10, 2010, at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Bob Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Copley, and Council Members Richard DeMott and David Ehmig. Member Ehlinger 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

Mayor Pro Tem Copley made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mayor Dodson suggested that one vote be taken for all meeting minutes being considered. A change in the April 12, 2010 minutes was recommended as follows:

On page 3, E, add "Mayor Pro Tem Copley moved that the Seven Devils TDA consider working with the Watauga County TDA and also consider making the Seven Devils Recreation Committee an ad hoc committee of the TDA." The motion was seconded by Member DeMott and approved unanimously."

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Member DeMott, seconded by Member Ehmig, and approved unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Town Manager Evans reported that Town Hall telephone and cable Internet has been rewired, which includes Internet wiring for the Public Safety Department, and that four analog lines were added for times of emergency when electricity is off at Town Hall. He expressed appreciation to David Hooper for volunteering to research Town Council minutes to insure that all ordinances are up to date. Member DeMott noted that the Town Manager has put in many early and late hours above and beyond the call of duty. He encouraged folks to participate in Operation Medicine Cabinet scheduled for May 22. The Town Manager gave an update on the resolution of the Regina Hall water bill. The Town Council agreed to cap her water bill at \$5,000. This cap of \$5,000 will now apply to all citizens with a verified leak, verified repair, and verification of water cut-off valve. He

reported that Seven Devils will be featured on “America’s Most Wanted” on May 29 at 9:00 p.m. in connection with the murder that took place at Seven Devils several months ago.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on ice storm debris removal – FEMA. The Town Manager reported that a contractor has been hired to clear the remaining hangers and remove some stumps and trees. The contractor is scheduled to begin work on May 14. FEMA has changed the deadlines as follows: Ice storm debris must be at the curb by the end of May and all work completed by June 25. Reimbursement from FEMA has not been finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to install a communication repeater and an antenna on a Seven Devils water tank – Tom Jackson – N.C. State Parks. Mr. Jackson explained the need for the repeater and stated that a specific water tank has not yet been identified. Following discussion, a motion to approve the request--pending FCC approval--was made by Member DeMott, seconded by Mayor Dodson, and approved unanimously.

B. Discussion – Water Ordinance/Fee Structure. The Town Council met and approved an increase in water bills by \$5 per month beginning July 1, 2010. This applies to metered users connected to the system and will provide funds for water projects approved in the budget. As a “trade-off” for the increase, the Council agreed to increase by 500 gallons per month the amount of water that citizens can use at the base rate. The Town Manager gave an update on the Four Diamond water project. Mayor Dodson noted that a fire hydrant for Snow Cloud has been approved. At the request of citizens, the Council looked into returning to monthly billing effective July 1, 2010. Mayor Pro Tem Copley noted that a new meter reader will be purchased which will make reading the meters much faster.

Mayor Dodson made a motion to change the water ordinance to reflect monthly billing and an increase in usage from 3,000 to 3,500 gallons per month. The motion was seconded by Member Ehmig and approved unanimously.

C. Balanced Budget Proposal. The Town Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation giving some highlights of the budget for 2011. He reported that the Town is working on loan options for Grandview and Four Diamond. He noted that the increase in water fees would enable the Town to make loan payments for these projects. He thanked the Town Council, staff, and citizens for their input on the budget.

D. Resolution to change to BB&T services for Seven Devils accounts. Town Manager Evans reported that town are encouraged to maintain public funds with an institution of a 4-star rating (out of 5 stars) or higher. BB&T has a 4-star rating and is the only bank located in the Town of Seven Devils. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Pro Tem Copley, seconded by Member DeMott, and approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Board** – Mayor Pro Tem Copley stated that she will provide water and road planning packets to David Hooper.
- B. Public Works**
- C. Public Safety Committee**
- D. Recreation Commission**
- E. ABC Board.** Sarah Manning will keep the Council updated on what is happening in the legislature on this issue.
- F. TDA.** Mayor Dodson commented on the note in the minutes about appointing an odd number of members. He said the number was originally five but was reduced to three due to difficulty in finding qualified people to serve.
- G. Public Safety – Police and Fire reports**
- H. Financial Report**

A motion to accept the Financial Report was made by Mayor Dodson, seconded by Member DeMott and approved unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Ehmig thanked Town Manager Evans for his work on the budget. Member DeMott expressed appreciation to the Town Manager for the long hours he has been working. It was noted that a budget hearing is scheduled for June 1 at 5:30 p.m. Town Manager Evans thanked Lois Evans for taking minutes at the Town Council meetings for the past seven months and stated that he hopes a new Town Clerk will be hired before the next Town Council meeting.

ADJOURN

At 6:49 p.m. Member DeMott made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Copley and approved unanimously.

Bob Dodson, Mayor

Lois Evans, representing Town Clerk