

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday – April 9, 2024
5:30pm
AGENDA

- 1) Invocation
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Call to Order
- 4) Adopt Agenda
- 5) Consent Agenda *Motion*
 - A. Approve Minutes
 - (i) Town Council Meeting – March 12, 2024
- 6) Citizens Comments
- 7) Old Business
 - A. Property Tax Collection Update
 - (i) February 2024
 - (ii) April 2024
- 8) New Business
 - A. Eddie Barnes, Zoning Administrator – Updates
 - B. Bob Bridges Stage at The Park at Seven Devils – Parks & Recreation Committee *Motion*
 - C. Town Hall Forum - Discussion
- 9) Administrative Update
- 10) Committee Reports
 - A. Board of Adjustment – No meeting
 - B. Planning Board – No meeting
 - C. Public Works Committee – No meeting
 - D. Public Safety Committee – April minutes
 - E. Parks & Recreation Committee – March minutes
 - F. Tree Board – March minutes
 - G. TDA – March minutes
 - H. ABC Board – February minutes
 - I. Police Report
 - J. Fire Report
 - K. Financial Report
- 11) Council Comments
- 12) Adjourn

Meeting Live Stream
www.SevenDevilsNC.gov
Calendar -> YouTube

Town of Seven Devils
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Regular Meeting
5:30pm

AGENDA ITEM 5)A.(1)

The Seven Devils Town Council met on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Town Hall.

Attendance included: Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert and Council Members Wayne Bonomo and Leigh Sasse. A quorum was met.

One (1) vacant seat on Town Council, effective January 26, 2024.

Staff attendance: Town Manager Johnathan Harris, Town Attorney Jonathan Green; Town Clerk Hillary Gropp recorded the minutes.

INVOCATION

Larry Fontaine gave the Invocation for the Town Council meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANT SEAT – APPOINTMENT

Mayor Fontaine opened discussion with the Council Members about the qualifications of the Council Candidates who submitted letters requesting consideration for appointment to the vacant seat on the Town Council.

Member Sasse made a motion to appoint Brian Davies to the vacant seat; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. 4 yeas - motion passed.

OATH OF OFFICE

Town Clerk Gropp administered the oath of office to Brian Davies as a Member of the Town Council. Member Davies took his seat at the boardroom table.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed.

APPROVE MINUTES

Town Council minutes of February 13, 2024 – Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mary Ballinger – 526 Buckeye Lane – Spoke about suggestions for the improvements to the website; requests informal gatherings with council members & surveys for topics; protest of water billing rates

citing resources such as US Geological Survey, UNC SOG Rates Dashboard & UNC Environmental Finance Center to support the request for reduction in rates.

Tom Bookstaver – 231 Snowcloud Drive – Reminded citizens with daylight savings time to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY25 Budget Calendar

Town of Seven Devils Budget Calendar FY25		
March 15, 2024	Manager Meeting with Department Heads	
April 19, 2024	Town Council Annual Workshop	10:00am – 2:00pm
April 24, 2024	Manager Meeting with Department Heads - FINAL	
May 3, 2024	Town Council Budget Workshop	10:00am – Noon
May 14, 2024	Preliminary Budget to Town Council at Regular Meeting	
May 23, 2024	Town Council Budget Workshop	1:00pm – 3:00pm (If needed)
June 7, 2024	Town Council Budget Workshop	10:00am – Noon (If needed)
June 11, 2024	Public Hearing FY25 Budget	5:00pm
	Adopt FY25 Budget Ordinance	5:30pm
June 12, 2024	Publish FY25 Budget Ordinance Notice	
December 6, 2024	FY25 Mid-year Budget Review	10:00am – 2:00pm

Mayor Fontaine made a motion to approve the FY25 Budget Calendar; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. ~CLOSED~

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Town Manager Harris provided the administrative update:

- Construction on the Chestnut Ridge Waterline Replacement project is scheduled to begin this week.
- Notices of Advertisement of tax liens were mailed out in February.
- The 1st History Lecture was held on February 29th with 18 in attendance; Parks & Recreation Committee will plan more events in the future.
- Town Manager Harris attended the Essentials for Local Government Manager training in Winston-Salem.
- New elected/appointed Town Council members need to attend 2 hour Ethics course.

- The Fire Department has 3 members that will finish EMT training this month.
- Subscribe to the Town's website for text/email notifications.
- Parks & Recreation meeting scheduled for March 21st at 9:00am.
- TDA meeting scheduled for March 26th at 9:00am.
- Save the Date:
Arbor Day Celebration – April 26th at 11:30am – 1:00pm
Debris pickup dates to occur week of – April 21st, June 16th & October 6th
- Individual photos of Town Council members will be posted on the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – February minutes **See below*

Public Works – No meeting

Public Safety Committee – No meeting

Parks & Recreation Committee – No meeting

TDA – February minutes

ABC Board – None

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

Planning Board – Mayor Fontaine asked Planning Board Chair Jones to give brief updates on upcoming Planning Board items including the CLUP update & Short Term Rentals (STR) updates.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Sasse suggested the Town staff have photos posted on the website; Town Manager Harris to follow up.

Member Sasse thanked all citizens who sent qualification letters to be appointed to the vacant Town Council seat. Encouraged all citizens to be active on boards/committees.

ADIJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.

Larry Fontaine, Mayor

Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 7)A.(i)

2023 UNPAID TAXES		
NAME	2023 BALANCE DUE	BALANCE ON PRIOR YEARS
	AS OF 2.8.2024	
5 B LAND HOLDINGS, LLC	\$ 333.22	
ARNOLD, BEN -TRUSTEE	\$ 96.59	
ATKINSON, TAMAR	\$ 249.19	
ATKINSON, TAMAR	\$ 249.19	
ATKINSON, TAMAR	\$ 249.19	
BARNES, SUSAN	\$ 1,432.36	
BELL & ODOM LLC	\$ 99.00	
CASALINO, DINA	\$ 231.80	
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 1,492.73	
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 415.80	
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 251.61	
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 159.36	
CORLESS, GABRIELA AND ISABELA	\$ 54.57	
DANIELS, PRESTON & ET AL	\$ 222.14	YES
DBR HOLDINGS INC	\$ 156.47	
DUNLAP, JOHN C	\$ 58.92	YES
EFFIRD, MERRILL	\$ 70.50	YES
FOGLEMAN, CLIFTON AND CAROLYN	\$ 2,100.72	YES
FOPPIANO, CHARLES	\$ 75.82	
GAFFNEY TODD, ELLEN	\$ 141.95	
GRANT, WILLIAM JAMES	\$ 2,187.65	
HALL, STAN & ROBIN	\$ 45.86	
HAMILTON, CHERYL	\$ 96.10	YES
HARMAN, DAVID & JOANN	\$ 222.14	
HEIDENREICH, JAMES AND LOUISE	\$ 314.87	
HIGHAM, FRANCIS	\$ 785.23	
ICENHOUR, STEPHEN	\$ 54.57	YES
KNOWLES, KEITH & DEBORAH	\$ 658.22	
LE, PETER AND THUHUONG	\$ 38.16	
LINDSEY, ELIZABETH	\$ 9.66	YES
MACGREGOR, JAMES F	\$ 29.95	
MARICH HOLDINGS LLC	\$ 826.26	YES
MENDOZA, BRIAN & DAWN	\$ 29.85	
MERLA-RAMOS, MARY	\$ 75.82	
MILLER, THOMAS & VIRGINIA	\$ 193.17	
MOGAHED, YASMIN	\$ 2,295.34	
NAVITAS CREDIT CORP	\$ 22.37	
NC INVESTING PARTNERS, INC	\$ 19.32	YES
NC INVESTING PARTNERS, INC	\$ 105.76	YES
NC INVESTING PARTNERS, INC	\$ 62.29	YES
NEW WORLD VISION OF THE AMERICAS	\$ 193.17	YES
OSOGWIN, MICHAEL AND JENNIFER	\$ 100.17	
PALMER, JESSE AND JESSICA	\$ 115.91	
PALMER, JESSE AND JESSICA	\$ 78.23	

PALMER, JESSE AND JESSICA	\$ 77.75	
PALMER, JESSE AND JESSICA	\$ 68.57	
PALMER, JESSE AND JESSICA	\$ 73.89	
PALMER, JESSE AND JESSICA	\$ 104.31	
PARKER, DIANE MC GREGOR	\$ 193.17	YES
PARNELL, TAMARA	\$ 864.44	
PARNELL, TAMARA	\$ 277.20	YES
RIVERA, DANIEL AND IBETH OCHOA	\$ 193.17	YES
RUE, JAMES S	\$ 1,258.56	
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 222.14	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 72.92	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 56.99	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 72.92	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 75.82	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 93.68	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 94.17	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 97.07	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 102.38	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 103.34	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 56.50	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 90.31	YES
SHAMP, JORDAN AND MINDY	\$ 762.05	
STEWART, EDWIN & DONNA	\$ 741.74	
VESTPOCKET INVESTMENTS LLC	\$ 665.47	YES
VESTPOCKET INVESTMENTS LLC	\$ 159.85	YES
WABASHA LEASING LLC	\$ 19.49	
WHELAN, TERENCE	\$ 1,083.78	
WILKINSON	\$ 579.99	
	\$ 24,962.87	

AGENDA ITEM 7) A(ii)

2023 UNPAID TAXES		
NAME	2023 BALANCE DUE	BALANCE ON PRIOR YEARS
	AS OF 4.3.2024	
ATKINSON, TAMAR	\$ 249.19	
ATKINSON, TAMAR	\$ 249.19	
ATKINSON, TAMAR	\$ 249.19	
BELL & ODOM LLC	\$ 99.00	
CASALINO, DINA	\$ 231.80	
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 1,492.73	will pay by end of April
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 415.80	will pay by end of April
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 251.61	will pay by end of April
CLEVON WOODS ASSOC LLC	\$ 159.36	will pay by end of April
DANIELS, PRESTON & ET AL	\$ 222.14	YES
EFFIRD, MERRILL	\$ 70.50	YES
HALL, STAN & ROBIN	\$ 45.86	
HAMILTON, CHERYL	\$ 96.10	YES
LINDSEY, ELIZABETH	\$ 9.66	YES
MENDOZA, BRIAN & DAWN	\$ 29.85	
MERLA-RAMOS, MARY	\$ 75.82	
NAVITAS CREDIT CORP	\$ 22.37	
NC INVESTING PARTNERS, INC	\$ 19.32	YES
NC INVESTING PARTNERS, INC	\$ 105.76	YES
NC INVESTING PARTNERS, INC	\$ 62.29	YES
NEW WORLD VISION OF THE AMERICAS	\$ 193.17	YES
PARKER, DIANE MC GREGOR	\$ 193.17	YES
PARNELL, TAMARA	\$ 864.44	
PARNELL, TAMARA	\$ 277.20	YES
RUE, JAMES S	\$ 1,076.01	payment plan
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 222.14	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 72.92	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 56.99	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 72.92	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 75.82	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 93.68	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 94.17	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 97.07	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 102.38	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 103.34	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 56.50	YES
SEVEN DEVILS LLC	\$ 90.31	YES
VESTPOCKET INVESTMENTS LLC	\$ 665.47	YES
VESTPOCKET INVESTMENTS LLC	\$ 159.85	YES
WABASHA LEASING LLC	\$ 19.49	
WHELAN, TERENCE	\$ 1,083.78	
	\$ 9,828.36	

2024 Summary of Building Activity – Town of Seven Devils

7 Homes currently permitted or under construction:

1. Bell and Odom – New House at Devils Lake Dr. & Grandview (across from Resort Club) 6/2022
2. Michael & Dina Casalino – New House on E. Rocky Top Tr 7/2022
3. Robert Watkins – New House on Chestnut Ridge Tr 9/2022
4. Ron Cepulo – New House on Chestnut Ridge Tr 3/2023
5. Brandy Mercer – Wayside Ct. Permitted for construction 6/2023
6. Scott Hollis – permitted for construction 8/2023
7. Terry & Sheila Culler – grading and permits on Otter Ct. Lot 3 12/2023

3 Grading and Driveway permits for New House Construction

1. Larry and Ann Fontaine – Mountain Top Tr 12/2023
2. Jason Sherman – corner of Telemark and Devils Lake Drive 2/2024
3. Ron McDade - W. Rocky Top Tr. 2/2024

Proposed Construction

11 New Homes on Lots 114-121 on Snow Cloud Drive / Owner SP Properties

Snow Cloud is an existing subdivision recorded prior to the charter for the Town of Seven Devils, therefore there is no need for subdivision approval. The unopened section of Snowcloud Drive will not be a town street. The town will provide water once the developer installs a waterline to serve the homes. The developer will be required to follow all building permit requirements of Seven Devils.

3 New Homes on Stable Property owner Max Smith

1 New Home on property at far eastern edge of town limits at end of Alpine Drive

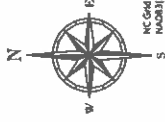
1 New Home on Lot 4 Ridge at Hawks Peak

Wastewater Treatment Plant – permit expires 6/2024 unless building starts prior to expiration of permit.

Alpine Coaster ?

Numerous remodel and deck projects scattered throughout the town.

Potential Property Tax increase of \$60,000 based on 26 homes at \$500,000 x 0.47

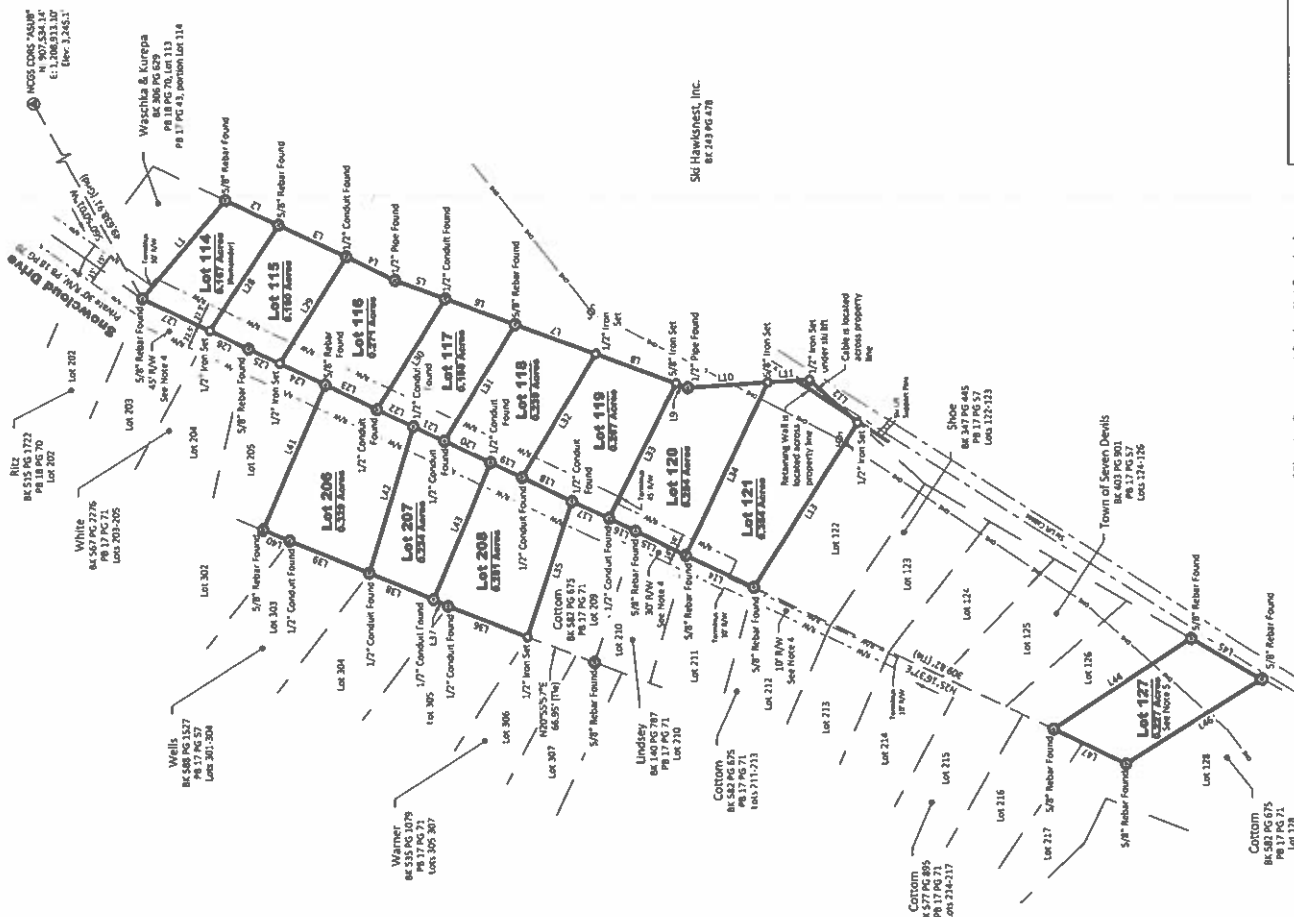


NC GCS
NAD83(2011)

Line Table		
Line #	Length	Direction
L1	110.85	S48° 47' 42"E
L2	54.75	S25° 08' 29"W
L3	69.93	S35° 02' 07"W
L4	50.26	S35° 32' 37"W
L5	50.24	S30° 01' 03"W
L6	69.73	S30° 19' 08"W
L7	80.21	S19° 55' 29"W
L8	80.00	S30° 05' 07"W
L9	11.72	S30° 05' 07"W
L10	75.00	S03° 43' 53"E
L11	39.11	S05° 45' 53"E
L12	60.00	S41° 55' 07"W
L13	182.76	N57° 45' 40"W
L14	70.14	N25° 09' 54"E
L15	52.21	N25° 41' 47"E
L16	27.57	N25° 38' 37"E
L17	38.21	N24° 36' 14"E
L18	51.55	N25° 55' 06"E
L19	32.63	N24° 45' 41"E
L20	47.84	N24° 47' 17"E
L21	32.11	N25° 05' 27"E
L22	37.57	N45° 48' 38"E
L23	53.38	N25° 41' 39"E
L24	46.97	N25° 07' 59"E
L25	32.12	N24° 46' 41"E
L26	39.88	N25° 25' 06"E
L27	68.95	N25° 08' 03"E
L28	117.80	N45° 57' 01"W
L29	117.66	N57° 57' 30"W
L30	122.26	N65° 14' 38"W
L31	128.10	N58° 31' 20"W
L32	134.52	N55° 09' 42"W
L33	141.78	N64° 33' 03"W
L34	179.27	N71° 49' 00"W
L35	133.42	N71° 49' 00"W
L36	88.00	N25° 55' 37"E
L37	14.99	N25° 10' 44"E
L38	65.02	N27° 10' 52"E
L39	80.09	N27° 17' 33"E
L40	26.79	N27° 17' 33"E
L41	147.98	S66° 43' 35"E
L42	143.31	S77° 07' 08"E
L43	138.90	S67° 09' 17"E
L44	154.19	S33° 36' 15"E
L45	75.09	S30° 16' 08"W
L46	148.78	N37° 14' 05"W
L47	74.96	N25° 28' 15"E

LEGEND

Property Line (Surveyed)
Tie Line (Surveyed)
Adjoiner Line (Not Surveyed)
Easement
Right-of-Way
Computed Point



*Planning Department Review Not Required
This plat depicts an existing parcel or parcels of
land and is exempt from Planning Department
and/or Review Officer certifications prior to
recording. See NC GS-47-90(1)(c)(1).

Boundary Survey for:

SP Properties of NC, LLC

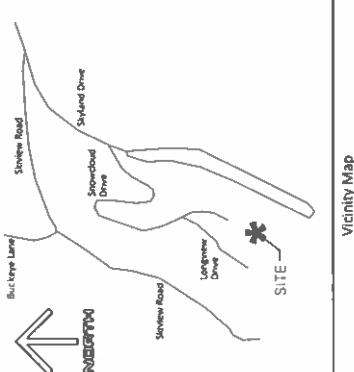
Property Location:
Snowcloud Drive, Seven Devils, NC 28604
Banner Elk Township, Avery County, North Carolina

www.NCSurveyPro.com



SurveyPro
(336) 667-5533

Survey Pro, PLLC
Firm Number: P-2218
924 Main Street, Suite 300
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
File Number: 23-203
Date: 1-26-2024



Vicinity Map

Surveyor's Certification
I certify that this plat was drawn under my supervision from an actual survey made under my supervision. I am a duly licensed Professional Surveyor in the State of North Carolina. I am not aware of any fraud, error, or omission in this plat. I have calculated the area of the land shown on this plat to be 110,000 square feet, and I have calculated the perimeter of the land shown on this plat to be 1,100,000 feet. I have prepared this plat in accordance with the standards of the Surveying and Mapping Board of the State of North Carolina. I further certify that this survey is of an existing parcel or parcels of land and does not create a new street or change an existing street.

Witness My Signature, Seal and Date.



L. Neil Shepherd
1/26/2024
C. Neil Shepherd, PLS #1-4746

SK: Hawkshorn, Inc.
87,243 PG 278

- Surveyor's Notes:**
- The property, which is the subject of this survey, is described in Deed Book 588, Page 346, Deed Book 588, Page 431, being the remainder of Lot 114 and all of lots 115 through 121, and Lot 127 of Snowcloud Condominium Subdivision shown in Plat Book 17, Page 43 and 57, Avery County Registry. The property owner shown in the deed at the time of survey was: SP Properties of North Carolina, LLC.
 - This plat reflects information discovered by the surveyor in the normal course of work and does not necessarily show every possible condition affecting the property. A complete title abstract was not performed by Survey Pro. The surveyor is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the deed, or for any rights-of-way, building ordinances, zoning, and other legal encumbrances may also exist. Adjoining property owner information was obtained from the local GIS.
 - The grid tie shown on this map was taken from an actual GPS survey made under my supervision. The GPS portion of this survey meets the classification requirements of the Standards of Practice for Land Surveying in North Carolina (21 NCAC 56.1607) for an Urban Line Survey (Class A) and that the accuracy of the GPS survey is 1:10,000. The static GPS survey was performed on January 23, 2024 with Trimble R8s receivers. National Geodetic Survey (NGS) CORS station "ASJ8" was used as the fixed control station having published NC Grid coordinates NAD83(2011) and orthometric height (elevation) MVD 88 as shown herein. Vectors were adjusted utilizing Trimble Geomatics Office Business Solutions software. The geoid model used was the 2011 NAVD 83. All distances shown are horizontal distances in U.S. Survey Feet unless otherwise noted. All areas shown were computed by coordinate computation.
 - For additional right of way information see Deed Book 430, Page 827.
 - A revised plat for Snowcloud Condominium recorded in Plat Book 17, Page 71, shows the location of the property shown on this plat. The plat is constructed and other recorded documents were found describing access to Lot 127.



ADMIN UPDATE for March 2024

- Construction on the Chestnut Ridge Waterline Replacement project has started.
- The federal reporting for the ARP funds was completed.
- Watauga County will be installing a new communication tower at the same location as the existing tower.
- The Fire Department has 3 members who have completed the EMT course.
- Representatives of the Town met with staff members from the UNC School of Government to access the Town's water infrastructure and billing rates.
- To stay up to date on Town news and weather, subscribe to email and text notifications on the Town website.
- Parks and Recreation meeting scheduled for April 11th at 9:00 am.
- Planning Board meeting scheduled for March 16th at 5:30 pm.
- TDA meeting scheduled for March 23rd at 9:00 am.
- Save the Date:
 - Annual Arbor Day Celebration scheduled for April 26th from 11:30am-1:00PM
 - Debris pick-up dates have been scheduled for:
 - April 21st
 - June 16th
 - October 6th

Seven Devils Public Safety Committee

Tuesday April 2, 2024

Members Present: Wayne Bonomo, Tom Bookstaver, Dick Nelson

Others Present: Town Manager Johnathan Harris, Fire Chief Matt Millsaps, Ed Beck

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 by Town Manager Johnathan Harris.

The first order of business is to nominate and elect a chairman.

Nomination of Wayne Bonomo by Tom Bookstaver and 2nd by Dick Nelson. No other nominations and won by acclamation.

Chairman Bonomo took over the meeting and opened the floor for a vice chairman.

Nomination of Tom Bookstaver by Wayne Bonomo and 2nd by Dick Nelson. No other nominations and won by acclamation.

Chairman Bonomo opened the floor for a secretary.

Nomination of Kay Lambert, who had an excused absent from the meeting, was nominated by Dick Nelson and 2nd by Wayne Bonomo. Due to her absent, the minutes were recorded by Tom Bookstaver.

The Agenda and November 7, 2023 Minutes were accepted and approved with a motion by Tom Bookstaver and 2nd by Dick Nelson.

Citizens Comments:

There were no citizens comments at this time but due to the less formal meeting rules during a public safety meeting, anyone present is welcome to ask questions or make comments/suggestions during a meeting of a subject that is being discussed.

Old Business:

Town Manager Harris said that the county and state are working on an emergency communication tower that maybe within the Seven Devils city limits but at this time there is nothing confirmed. The way the town ordinances are written along with the state's and/or county's emergency communications needs are, there is a chance of a police, fire, EMS, SHP, emergency management radio tower in or near Seven Devils – we'll keep the citizens aware of what the state and county decide.

Fire Chief Millsaps discussed the 'emergency plan' that is being worked on. Town Manager Harris did recommend that a 'preliminary' type emergency plan can be put on the webpage and

work on how it might be perceived and how to improve it with the help of town citizens. The safety committee also discussed how to help the citizens with an 'Echo – safety edition'. The current Echo edition has been written and will be with the soon mailed monthly water bills. The committee asked about putting a 'special edition' with the arbor day goodie bags and handouts. There was a large turnout last year and anticipate many people for this year's gathering. It will be a rush job but will try to get some 'basic' fire and health safety information together. We'll limit it to 1 page (front and back) that can be given to those at Arbor Day gathering Friday April 26th. Also, the 'special safety edition' can be available at town hall, town library and community center through the year and posted on the town's web page.

Chief Millsaps did talk about the Fire Wise Class that the town offered last Thursday, March 28th with the forest service. There was brief discussion about the low participation and that was an early evening time (6pm-8pm). There had been a Fire Wise Class in the afternoon last year and what can be done or how can we encourage more residents to participate with how to make things safer in the event of a brush fire or wildfire. During the talk about the forest service the discussion moved to how the 'fire awareness' sign by town hall is determined. That information comes from forest service but it's more than just 'dry weather'. It can jump from a 1 to a 3 or 4 in just a day. It's not just Seven Devils, the forest service has divisions or areas and we are part of 6 counties. We might not be extremely dry, but a neighboring county might be. What is the weather forecast, not just for us but neighboring counties? There are a lot of factors that were discussed at the Fire Wise Class and shared with the Safety Committee.

Air packs were discussed and the town had done paperwork for a matching grant. The town also has put funding of the grant in next fiscal year budget for the matching grant. Hoping to hear good news about the grant in August. The grant will not be 100% of air packs needed but it will be 2/3rds of the air packs. There was also brief talk about RIP packs (rapid intervention packs).

During the winter, the traffic went well with the help of TDA providing funds to have an extra officer; however, during some severe winter weather the fire department was also asked to help close the state road while town maintenance and DOT cleared snow.

Town Manager Harris discussed the water line project. This includes Chestnut Ridge Trail, Knob Hill Ln, Edgecliff Ln, and portions of Wildcat Rocks Rd. When the bid was accepted, the company said they were going to start in November but then they found out the weather on a mountain during winter months is different. They started the project late last month and the fire department and police department are aware of areas being worked on in case of an emergency.

New Business:

With several member of the fire department having passed the state EMT certification, the town will work with Watauga and Avery Counties to set forth protocols of what we are trained to do. There was brief discussion of one county in favor of I-gels and another with King airways. The EMTs will work on protocols and working with medical directors.

The town owns several AEDs (in fire trucks, town hall, community center and some fire fighters carry them) and they are checked once a year. There was brief discussion about a few 'privately owned' AEDs in town by some citizens. The conversation was that the town will encourage privately owned AEDs to be serviced by authorized technicians but the town will not offer to do it. The town will gladly assist any citizen in finding a trained technician or help them where to purchase defib pads or how to change batteries but will not be responsible in keeping a privately owned AED in service.

There had been a fire call with some confusion of Grande View Ct and Grandview Dr. These two roads are over a mile apart and what is said on the radio to where the emergency was became a major concern. Grande View Ct is a private road with 3 residences on it and Grandview Dr is a town road with many residences. Town manager Harris said that it is the county that is responsible for changing the name of the road and it is being work on. Also, during the discussion of road names, it was just a couple of weeks ago a new road in the Town of Seven Devils happened by the county which was unknown to the town. The new road is near the end of Alpine Dr. More information about the new road will be gathered and shared with LEO and fire department but believe its name is Black Bear Run and not sure if Dr, Ct or Ln.

There have been many donations to the Seven Devils Fire Department in remembering Bob Bridges along with other donations that have been given for the fire department. There will be a line item in the fire department's town budget for the donations. Exactly what to do with the funds will be the decision of the fire department and brought before their members in their meetings.

There was discussion about opening the community center two separate times during winter weather snow storms. The doors were open so people could get out of the cold and use the restroom while waiting for state DOT (and town maintenance) to make the roads safer. There had been emergency shelters opened around the county during the winter storms for stranded motorist. The town could had contacted the Red Cross for help with an 'emergency shelter' but since the community center was only opened for a few hours while the roads were being cleared – we didn't have to declare it as an emergency shelter. There will be more discussion about how to prepare for stranded motorist that need more than just than the use of a bathroom or get out of their cars to stretch their legs or get into a warm building while waiting for the roads to be cleared.

The Park and Recreation Committee had been talking about tee shirts and it passed into the TDA meeting about start up money for tee shirts which than passed to Public Safety Committee

about any funds that may be generated with the sale of tee shirts. This committee has some connections with a Partnership for a Better Seven Devils and they have tax exempt 501c3 status. The town manager had talked with accountants and 'those in the know' about any funds and it will be done through the town's budget.

The Arbor Day Celebration will be April 26. Those present (being active and retired fire members) talked about taking the fire trucks out of the bays and cleaning the fire department bays. The town maintenance and employees along with volunteers will set up tables to prepare the community center and fire department for the gathering. The fire trucks will be taken across the street and leave room for numerous cars that are expected during the day. The program starts at 11:30 and lunch will start at noon.

Member Comments:

Mr. Nelson briefly discuss the 'tank trap' on Seven Devils Rd just below the old inn. During the winter, the state road had to be closed due to the tank trap catching a truck. Perhaps the one warning/caution sign near the trap isn't in the right place or maybe a 2nd or 3rd indication is needed of the hazard. The state DOT put the caution sign near the 'tank trap' within their right of way and the town manager said he will ask town maintenance to look into it and talk with DOT. Due to the curve and proximity of the tank trap next to the road (and the slick road), a dozen warning signs could not prevent the truck from closing the road.



Being no other old or new business to discuss, a motion was made to close the meeting. The next meeting will be May 7, 2024 at 10 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16.

BE SAFE!

**Town of Seven Devils
Parks and Recreation Committee
Minutes - Regular Session
March 21, 2024**

The Town of Seven Devils Parks and Recreation Committee met at 9:00 AM in Town Hall on March 21, 2024. Members present were: Marino Fernandez, Freddie Blonshine, Joe Alphonso, Rebecca Ryan and Ed Beck. Also in attendance were Johnathan Harris, Town Manager and Jewel McKinney, Parks and Recreation Director. Citizens in attendance were Tom Bookstaver, Mary Ballinger, Wayne Bonomo, and Henry Williams. Sarah Brendle, Faye Brock, Theresa Lindgren and Kay Lambert were absent.

Freddie Blonshine moved to approve the Agenda, and Rebecca Ryan seconded. The motion was approved.

Ed Beck stated that the minutes needed to be amended to read 5 Ranger Workshop meetings. Ed Beck moved to approve the amended minutes. Freddie Blonshine seconded. The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. PARTF - Grant for the Park at Seven Devils** - Jewel McKinney reported that the Visionary Committee will meet in the near future to discuss the Dog Park and Playground. They will also discuss bid packages for the other venues.
- B. T-shirt Update** - Joe Alfonso brought proposed Seven Devils t-shirts for the Committee to approve to sell. The Committee approved the design of the t-shirts. Jewel McKinney will ask the TDA to approve funding for 288 t-shirts for a total of \$700. The committee suggests the t-shirts be donated to the Partnership for the Betterment of Seven Devils (PBSD) to sell for \$20.00 apiece. The PBSD would then receive the profits.
- C. Lecture Series** - Marino Fernandez reported on the recent lecture given by an Appalachian State professor. The event was a huge success. It was agreed to make the event into a lecture series. Mario will contact the professor to discuss the frequency of the lectures and compensation for the speakers.
- D. Donated Bench for Raffle** - Rebecca Ryan showed a picture of a wooden bench made by her husband, Stu Ryan, which will be donated as a prize for raffle sales at town events. The profits will be split between Feeding Avery and Hospitality House. Rebecca will handle the sale of raffle tickets. The Committee approved this event.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Summer 2024

- 1. Draft Rack Card with Confirmed Events - Jewel McKinney presented the Draft Rack Card for the upcoming summer events. Five events were omitted from the Card. The Moonlight Canoe Trip - preference will be given to first timers for this popular event. Two sessions of Tai Chi are not on the card as it is a commitment to attend classes for several weeks. Community Walks - dates have not been set. Summer Charcuterie - date has not been set. Multiple CPR classes and one general first aid class - dates have not been set. Judges are needed for Yard of the Month, Rebecca Ryan volunteered.
- 2. Independence Day BBQ/Dog Costume Contest - July 5, 2024. It was decided to hold the two events together this year to promote better attendance at the Dog Costume Contest.
- 3. Bear Decorating Contest - It was decided that the theme this year will be Summer Bear Olympics. The location for the bears for the contest will be in The Park at Seven Devils.
- 4. Art Visionary Committee - it was decided that the Art Visionary Committee for the Park will consist of Rebecca Ryan, Freddie Blonshine and Judy Cuppernull. Rebecca Ryan will be the Chairman.
- 5. Emcee for Summer Concerts - Marino Fernandez asked for volunteers for the introductions at the Summer Concerts. Jewel McKinney will write the script for each event.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Mary Ballinger asked who to email for Parks related issues. Jewel McKinney would be the person to contact, for any other issues e-mail Hillary. Mary also asked if new bears would be available, Jewel responded that they had been ordered.
- Henry Williams asked about storage and inventory for the Seven Devils t-shirts. The PBSD would oversee those items if TDA donates T-Shirts to them.

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Marino Fernandez inquired about ways to honor former Parks and Recreation Committee Member Bob Bridges. The Committee discussed several ideas. Freddie Blonshine made the motion to name the Bob Bridges Stage

at the Park at Seven Devils, and if this is not possible, to name the Bob Bridges Fitness Center at the Community Center. Marino Fernandez seconded. The motion passed.

- Jewel McKinney passed out a flyer regarding the Fire Wise Class on March 28.

Freddie Blonshine made the motion to adjourn, and Rebecca Ryan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Submitted by,

Freddie Blonshine
Parks and Recreation Committee Secretary

**Town of Seven Devils
Tree Board Meeting
Minutes - Regular Session
March 21, 2024**

The Town of Seven Devils Tree Board met at 10:00 AM in Town Hall on March 21, 2024.

Town Manager Johnathan Harris called the meeting to order.

Members present were Marino Fernandez, Freddie Blonshine, Rebecca Ryan and Joe Alfonso. Johnathan Harris, Town Manager and Jewel McKinney, Parks and Recreation Director also attended. Citizens Mary Ballinger, Henry Williams, Wayne Bonomo, and Tom Bookstaver also attended. Theresa Lindgren, Kay Lambert, Ed Beck, Sarah Brendle and Fay Brock were absent.

Town Manager Harris asked for nominations for Chair of the Committee. Rebecca Ryan nominated Joe Alfonso and Marino Fernandez seconded. The motions was approved.

Freddie Blonshine moved to approve the Agenda, and Rebecca Ryan seconded.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Arbor Day Celebration - April 26, 2024
 - 1. Program - Weather depending, the event will be outside.
 - 2. Lunch- there will be boxed lunches from Publix.
 - 3. More mature trees will be given away by raffle. Goodie bags will be given out to all attendees.
 - 4. Ceremonial tree for program - River Birch will be planted as the Ceremonial tree Red Buds will be given away.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - Henry Williams requested that the Meeting Packet for the Tree Board be posted online.

Freddie Blonshine moved that the meeting be adjourned and Rebecca Ryan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Submitted by,

Freddie Blonshine
Tree Committee Secretary

**Town of Seven Devils
Tourism Development Authority Meeting
March 26, 2024**

The Town of Seven Devils Tourism Development Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Town Hall. Chair Anne Fontaine, Member Alejandra Fernandez, Member Leigh Sasse, and Member Rick Blonshine attended in person. Town Manager Johnathan Harris, Finance Officer Helga Sappington, and Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney were present.

Call to Order

Chair Anne Fontaine called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Adopt Agenda and Approve Minutes

Member Leigh Sasse added an item to New Business (Photo Banners) to the agenda.

Member Leigh Sasse made a motion to adopt the amended agenda; motion was seconded by Member Rick Blonshine; the motion passed.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024, meeting was made by Member Rick Blonshine and seconded by Member Alejandra Fernandez; all approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney updated the TDA members on the additional Town Webcam process. The Webcam is up but not yet connected to the website.
- Town Manager Johnathan Harris and Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney updated the TDA Members on the PARTF Grant for The Park at Seven Devils. Bid packages are being prepared by the Town engineer. The Playground and Dog Park construction will be started soon, as they do not require bids.
- Town Manager Johnathan Harris recapped the benefits for an off-duty Police Officer's during the winter holiday season.
- Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney recapped the outcome for the off-season events. The events were well attended.
- Member Leigh Sasse made a motion to approve cocktail tables and linens for the Lite the Nite celebration (\$2,000.00). Motion was seconded by Member Alejandra Fernandez; the motion passed.
- Artist Rendering of Town Hall will be revisited at a future meeting.
- Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney presented a sample for a Town of Seven Devils T-Shirt. Member Alejandra Fernandez made a motion to approve the purchase of short and long sleeve T-shirts in various adult sizes to promote tourism in the Town of Seven Devils (\$2,500.00). Motion was seconded by Member Rick Blonshine; the motion passed. There was a discussion about donating the T-Shirts to PBS.
- Member Rick Blonshine made a motion to approve additional funding for Arbor Day Celebration on April 26, 2024 (up to \$3,500.00). Motion was seconded by Member Leigh Sasse; the motion passed.
- Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney presented an early draft of the 2024 summer events Rack Card to the TDA members.
- Member Leigh Sasse made a motion to approve funding for the History Talk Lecture Series (\$1,500.00) to promote tourism in the Town of Seven Devils. Motion was seconded by Member Rick Blonshine; the motion passed.

New Business

- Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney shared a save the date for Dog Costume Contest and Independence Day Celebration lunch on July 5, 2024.
- There was a discussion about a donation to Grandfather Mountain State Park. The TDA Members will revisit the discussion pending response from Grandfather Mountain State Park superintendent Andy Sicard.
- There was a discussion about purchasing banners that feature Town of Seven Devils photography. The TDA members will revisit this discussion at a future meeting. Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney will investigate current inventory, samples and cost to replace the existing banners.

Email Approvals

- None

Financial Statement

Member Alejandra Fernandez made a motion to approve the financial statements; Member Rick Blonshine; all approved. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments

Henry Williams asked for minutes to be posted to the website. It was advised that minutes are posted after approval.

Wayne Bonomo suggested purchasing T-Shirts in child sizes. The TDA members agreed and advised to start with a small quantity.

Board Comments

Member Leigh Sasse thanked Parks & Recreation Director Jewel McKinney for all her work.

There was a discussion at the February 27, 2024, meeting on how the TDA can help the Town to support tourism safety during peak hours throughout the winter holiday season. Tourism has spiked in the past few years in the Town of Seven Devils. The Public Works Director addressed the need for a second dump truck that can be used for snow removal. Town Manager Johnathan Harris revisited the discussion. A second dump truck would speed up snow removal and would keep the road conditions safer during peak hours throughout the winter holiday season.

Member Rick Blonshine made a motion to approve funding for an additional dump truck (\$85,000.00) Motion was seconded by Member Leigh Sasse; the motion passed. Town Manager Johnathan Harris will check with the auditor for guidance on this purchase.

Adjourn

At 10:00 am, Member Leigh Sasse made a motion to adjourn; Member Alejandra Fernandez seconded; all approved. Motion carried.

High Country ABC Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024 at 5:00 pm ABC Store

The High Country ABC Board (Board) held its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Board Chair Robin Dunn; Board Member Anne Fontaine; Board Member Winston Ammann; Alternate Board Member Rob Corn; Alternate Board Member Leigh Sasse; Alternate Board Member David Miller via ZOOM and General Manager Bonnie Betz were present.

In advance of the meeting, Board Chair Robin Dunn read the following conflict of interest statement: "In accordance with 18B-201, it is the duty of every Board Member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts. Does any Board Member have any conflicts of interests or appearances of conflicts with matters coming before the Board today?" Hearing none, the meeting commenced.

Upon a motion duly made by Anne Fontaine and seconded by Winston Ammann, it was voted to approve the February 22, 2024 agenda. Upon a motion duly made by Winston Ammann and seconded by Anne Fontaine, it was voted to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 Board meeting.

The General Manager reported that total sales for the month of January were \$466,213 which was up \$44,475 over last January total sales of \$421,738. Retail sales were \$295,627, again up \$15,771 over last year retail sales of \$279,856. Mixed beverage sales were \$170,586, up from last year sales of \$141,882 by \$28,704. Another great month for the High Country ABC store!

The General Manager reported that the available balance in the business checking account at Mountain Community Bank was \$507,797.

The available balance in the Mountain Community Bank money market account was \$103,327.

The First National Bank checking account has a remaining balance of \$26,986.

The General Manager informed the Board that the line items on the budget she would like to modify were as follow:

	Increase	New Amt	Decrease	New Amt
Legal & Prof			-\$7150	\$3008
Grounds Maint	+\$7150	\$10,536		
Office Supplies			-\$1,000	\$1,810
Postage	+\$1,000	\$1,070		
Dues & Subscr			-\$1,575	\$796
Maintenance-Bld	+\$1,575	\$0.00		

Old Business:

The General Manager reminded the Board that she and employee Brooke Jones will be at the General Manager's Conference in Greenville, NC on March 25-28. Assistant Manager Sean Ulmer will be available for any questions.

After several discussions, the Board decided not to fund the grant request of \$35,000 from Nicole LaVoie for the ABBA House program in Asheville. The Board feels we should continue to assist multiple agencies within our county. However, the Board will consider a donation if a future patient from Avery or Watauga County seeks assistance from ABBA House.

New Business:

The General Manager stated that she will begin working on the upcoming budget for FY2024/2025. The Board asked her to have a projected draft copy for the next board meeting.

The General Manager confirmed that all the board members received a copy from Mountain Alliance giving their quarterly reports for their School's Out After-School Program and their Alternative Spring Break Programs.

The General Manager announced to the Board that with the increased sales for the past few months and additional restaurants in the next few months, she would like to add a part-time position to the staff.

With the potential addition of the part-time position, our current employee, Samantha Schwebke, stated that she may want to step down from her full-time position and take on the role of the part-time position. She inquired of the Board if she would be able to remain at her same rate of pay of \$19/hr since she would be losing all her benefits. The Board asked the General Manager to give Samantha a week to finalize her decision since we need to move ahead with the hiring process. They suggested that Samantha be made aware of what the Board actually pays for her as a full-time employee (including all her benefits). Assistant Manager Sean Ulmer came before the Board to state that if Samantha did step down and take the part-time position, he too would like to step down and continue on as a full time employee with his 18 years of work experience here at the store. He understands that there would be a pay decrease and provided the Board with rates of pay he felt that both he and the Board would agree upon. If they could not reach an agreement regarding pay, then he would continue in his role as assistant manager. He has a couple of years until he retires and emphasized that he will continue to be a hard worker and share his knowledge and expertise on the floor. This has been a part of management's cross training and succession plan to ensure that the ABC store will continue to be well run and his desire to take on the role of mentor to the new assistant manager. Employees, Will Wilson and Kelsey Hayes have both stated that they would like to seek the Assistant Manager's role when Sean steps down. The Board suggested that the General Manager gather information from both potential candidates and we will discuss her decisions at the next board meeting.

There were no citizens in attendance.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

Anne Fontaine made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. It was seconded by Winston Ammann and approved by all in attendance.

Robin Dunn, Board Chair

Anne Fontaine, Board Member

Winston Ammann, Board Member

Date approved

Activity Log Event Summary (Cumulative Totals)

SEVEN DEVILS PUBLIC SAFETY

(03/01/2024 - 03/31/2024)

<No Event Type Specified>	1	Alarm Activation	4
Animal Complaint	1	Assist Avery Sheriffs Office	3
Assist Fire Department	1	Assist Other Department	5
Assist Resident	1	Assist Watuaga Sheriffs Office	1
Bank Deposit Escort	15	Business Check	432
Complaint	1	Direct Traffic	1
Domestic	3	Extra Patrol	1
Fire Department	1	Medical	3
Other	1	Patrol	99
Remove Debris from Roadway	1	Residence Check	24
Suspicious Activity	1	Unwanted Person	1
Vehicle Stop	17	Welfare Check	1

Total Number Of Events: 619



SEVEN DEVILS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**1356 SEVEN DEVILS RD
SEVEN DEVILS, NC 28604
FIRE CHIEF MATTHEW MILLSAPS**

March 2024

We have had a good month around the fire department here in Seven Devils. We had twenty-two members combined for over two hundred and thirty hours of training. We responded to three medical calls this month.

I would also like to congratulate Thomas Bookstaver and Matthew Hayes for successfully completing the EMT-Basic course through Mayland Community College and passing their state exam. These gentlemen have put in many hours of class work as well as at minimum forty-eight hours of riding on an ambulance getting firsthand experience. This brings the fire department to five certified Emergency Medical Responders and four Emergency Medical Technicians. I thank each one of these members for their hard work and dedication to the people of Seven Devils.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at
matthew.millsaps@sevendevilsnc.gov

Fire Chief

Matthew Millsaps

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT
MARCH 2024 - 75%

	Budget	Actual		%
	Total	Previous	March	
Section 1. General Fund				
Anticipated Revenues by Category				
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,127,412.00	1,113,180.27	7,259.35	99%
State Share Revenue	163,783.00	97,014.49	27,707.49	76%
ABC Distribution	180,000.00	97,000.00	45,500.00	79%
Powell Bill Allocation	33,000.00	36,204.80	-	110%
Permits and Fees	7,000.00	7,266.00	67.00	105%
Sales Tax	215,000.00	150,115.18	26,365.42	82%
Misc Revs, Govt Grants, Sale of Assets	164,020.00	131,002.66	17,531.96	91%
Capital Reserve Fund/FB	338,548.00	-	-	0%
Occupancy Tax	395,000.00	286,741.69	36,782.04	82%
Total	2,623,763.00	1,918,525.09	161,213.26	79%
Authorized Expenditures by Department				
Governing Board	43,160.00	33,608.54	840.72	80%
Administrative	403,995.00	308,272.50	29,407.77	84%
Public Safety	821,215.00	493,367.71	63,060.88	68%
Fire Protection	76,013.00	38,353.55	3,972.69	56%
Zoning	30,540.00	19,218.37	2,847.14	72%
Parks & Rec	201,658.00	48,214.76	7,078.43	27%
Public Works	637,182.00	294,741.27	36,444.29	52%
Powell Bill	15,000.00	5,295.00	-	35%
Tourism Development Authority Transfer	395,000.00	286,741.69	36,782.04	82%
Total	2,623,763.00	1,527,813.39	180,433.96	65%

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT
MARCH 2024 - 75%

	Budget		Actual		%
	Total	Previous	March	YTD	
Section 2. Enterprise Fund					
Anticipated Revenues by Category					
Water Operating Revenues	276,000.00	216,894.93	27,681.00	244,575.93	89%
Water Taps and Connections	6,000.00	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	100%
Non Operating Revenues	100.00	150.00	25.00	175.00	175%
Capital Reserve for Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	
Grant Project Ordinance (ARP)	700,000.00	-	-	-	0%
Total	982,100.00	223,044.93	27,706.00	250,750.93	26%
Authorized Expenditures by Department					
Water-Operating	236,705.00	146,920.39	26,895.81	173,816.20	73%
Non Operating	32,483.00	20,981.04	2,622.63	23,603.67	73%
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	
Capital Reserve	12,912.00	-	-	-	0%
Grant Project Ordinance (ARP)	700,000.00	-	-	-	0%
Total	982,100.00	167,901.43	29,518.44	197,419.87	20%