

Public Works Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
April 20, 2021 10:00am

The Seven Devils Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and the format of the meeting was dual Electronic – Go To Meeting #900601597 and In-Person at Town Hall. Attendance In-Person were Brad Lambert, Jack Byrnes, Larry Fontaine, Robert Michaud & Barrie Winn. Attending remotely, with visible video display was Mark Williams. Also present were Public Works Director Kevin Aldridge, Town Engineer David Poore and Town Manager Debbie Powers. The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call

Chair Lambert called the Public Works meeting to order at 10:00am.

Committee members stated their name & announced their presence for Roll Call.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Michaud made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Byrnes seconded. All members agreed.

APPROVE MINUTES – March 16, 2021

Vice Chair Fontaine made a motion to approve the minutes; Member Michaud seconded. All members agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Trouble Areas – Salt

Public Works Director Aldridge reported salt is cost prohibitive due to the quantity required to order and lack of storage facility. When considering the limited trouble spots & unknown future winter conditions, his recommendation is to use a larger 7/8 chat only. Committee members agreed.

B. DOT Letter – Seven Devils Road

A letter dated March 17, 2021, signed by Mayor Fontaine was mailed to Travis Chrisawn, NCDOT-Watauga County addressing the concerns of the problem areas on Seven Devils Road, including deteriorating culverts and previous sinkhole repair. Public Works Director Aldridge is to meet with Travis Chrisawn, on Wednesday – April 21st to review all areas of concern and discuss options/expected timelines for repair. NCDOT has confirmed the Town is on the list for paving, however due to delays work will not begin until 2022. Per Public Works Director Aldridge, NCDOT states no available funds for culvert repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Blind Road Analysis and Recommendations

The Roads Assessment-April 2021 was provided by Town Engineer David Poore, after the Blind Road Analysis was performed in April. Overall, the Town roads are in good shape due to previous maintenance.

After discussion among Committee members, the recommended projects to be completed in FY22, and not to exceed \$50,000 are as follows:

- 1) Wayside Ct to Rock Cove Ct (end) - Resurface & pave ditch line – Estimate \$18,600
- 2) 146 Deepwood Ct to intersection of Skyland Dr – Pave ditch line – Estimate \$8,200
- 3) Alpine Dr to Edgecliff Ln – Hot patch/Crack fill – As needed – Estimate – *see below*
- 4) Miscellaneous gravel on Town roads – As needed – Estimate – *see below*

Above items #3 & #4, costs are not to exceed \$23,200

FY22 Proposed budget is \$90,000.

Public Works Committee recommends to rollover \$40,000 to FY23 for future projects.

Discussion of future projects include the waterline replacement at Chestnut Ridge Trail – Edgecliff Lane, as well as Windy Knob Trail – Moonlight Trail. These are both major CIP projects, to include changeover from PVC to ductile iron lines. These projects will require major funding/possible loan. Waterline replacement at Chestnut Ridge Trail should occur before any future paving projects at this location. Town Engineer Poore to obtain cost estimates for waterline repair at Chestnut Ridge for projected CIP in future FY's.

Public Works Director Aldridge reports the NCRWA located a leak at Windy Knob – Moonlight Trail. The leak has been repaired, but will cause the Town's water loss % to increase substantially.

B. Ditches

Public Works Department is currently performing spring clean up of ditches. Clearing out debris, leaves and chat will improve drainage. However, as noted by Town Manager Powers the depth of ditches cannot be altered due to the narrow ROW's & infrastructure of roads. When a heavy rainfall happens, it will always challenge the current drainage conditions, but for typical rains, the ditches are functional as built.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Vice Chair Fontaine attended the recent HCCOG meeting, and provided updates on two reports of concern to municipalities.

- Any requests for funding increases of the Powell Bill will require legislature action.
- A 2 year study of NC towns, with population less than 5000, showed a rating of "C" for infrastructure, which is not acceptable. The goal is to increase the rating to a "B",

which will attract industry. \$20 billion needs to be gained in the next 10 years. This can be attributed to budget shortfall of NCDOT funds. Of concern is the decreased collection of gas tax, due to Covid. Options to increase funding include elimination of trade in tax at dealerships, but tax on entire purchase cost, charging a fee for electric/hybrid vehicles, taxing Ecommerce, adding a weight base fee that will impact the trucking industry, transition from the gas tax to adding mileage based user fee, and increasing the NC sales tax.

ADJOURN

Member Michaud made a motion to adjourn; Member Winn seconded. All agreed. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

The Public Works Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 18, 2020 at 10:00am.

Brad Lambert
Brad Lambert, Chairman

Hillary Gropp
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

