

## TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS

Town Council Annual Workshop

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

10:00am – 12:00pm

Electronic Meeting

***In order to maintain the safety of Town residents, Staff and Council Members, the Town Council Meeting will be conducted electronically.***

***Public Comments can be emailed to [townclerk@sevendevels.net](mailto:townclerk@sevendevels.net) by 5:00pm on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.***

***To connect to the meeting, details are provided below:***

### Workshop Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
  - 2) Prayer/Invocation
  - 3) Pledge of Allegiance
  - 4) Adopt Agenda
  - 5) Approve Minutes of Public Hearing/Town Council Meeting – March 10, 2020
  - 6) Board Application – Leigh Sasse
  - 7) Citizens Comments
  - 8) Discussion of Preliminary Budget FY21
  - 9) Closed Session – N.C. G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)
  - 10) Council Comments
  - 11) Adjourn
- 

Town Council Budget Workshop

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EDT)

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/537816805>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

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**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
March 10, 2020**

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a Public Hearing for PARTF Grant on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 5:00pm and in a Regular Meeting at 5:30pm at Town Hall. Present at the Public Hearing were Mayor Larry Fontaine and Council Members: Wayne Bonomo, Kay Ehlinger and Jeffrey Williams. Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert was absent; a quorum was met. Also present were Eric Hiegl-Blue Ridge Conservancy, Charlie Brady-Blue Ridge Conservancy. Town Staff present were Town Manager Debbie Powers, Parks & Rec Tech Jewel McKinney; Town Attorney Rob Angle joined at the Regular Meeting; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Fontaine gave the Invocation for tonight's meeting. Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fontaine called the Public Hearing to Order at 5:00pm.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Fontaine explained the Public Hearing is a presentation of the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant opportunity. Citizens attending who want to speak during the Public Comment session will need to sign up to speak. Comment time is limited to three (3) minutes for each citizen speaker. The Town Clerk will control the timer.

Member Ehlinger made a motion to open the Public Hearing; Member Williams seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION**

Manager Powers provided a summary on the PARTF; the grant provides dollar for dollar matching grants to local governments for projects to serve the public. There is a nine (9) member authority that allocates money from the Trust Fund; three (3) members appointed by the Governor, three (3) members appointed by President Pro Tem of the Senate, and three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House and are appointed for three (3) year terms. The Town of Seven Devils has been a recipient of PARTF funds twice before in the creation of Otter Falls, phases I & II. This project will cost approximately \$190,000. If awarded, the grant would provide \$95,000 with the remaining \$95,000 paid from Town funds and in-kind labor and donations. The Town funds have been set aside in the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) for the last four (4) years at \$20,000 each year. An additional \$20,000 will be funded in 2020-2021. The grant application deadline is May 1, 2020. The Authority will meet in August to review all applications and determine awards.

If awarded this PARTF grant, the funds can be used as the portion required by the Town for the recently awarded RTP grant of \$100,000, which is a 75% - 25% matching grant.

Manager Powers introduced Eric Hiegl, Director of Land Protection & Stewardship at the Blue Ridge Conservancy, who is the owner of the property, to discuss this opportunity.

Eric Hiegl stated the Blue Ridge Conservancy is a private, non-profit land trust that partners with local communities and landowners to protect land with agricultural, cultural, ecological, recreational and scenic significance. Recently, Blue Ridge Conservancy acquired an additional 91 acres which includes Peak Mountain, above the Shoppes of Tynecastle. This new acquisition of land is adjacent to the Town of Seven Devils border.

In 2016, Blue Ridge Conservancy purchased a 265 acre tract on Peak Mountain, with an additional 40 acres was acquired in Avery County giving the trail over a 1 mile of ridgeline. In 2017, these parcels were annexed into the Town of Seven Devils, with a zoning designation of Parks. The Conservancy and the Town have a mutual interest in extending the Otter Falls Park trails into the Peak Mountain property. The trail would extend from Otter Falls Park across the ridge of the mountain and terminate at the end of Skiview Road. Blue Ridge Conservancy and the Town will partner to maintain the trails, and give a 25 year easement to the Town. Once the 2+ miles trail is complete along Peak Mountain Ridge, volunteer groups could be used to help keep the trail clean and litter free.

Charlie Brady, CEO of the Blue Ridge Conservancy stated he is appreciative of the good relationship with the Town, and the partnership in achieving the goal of building Peak Mountain Trail for citizens to enjoy.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Anne Fontaine, 127 W. Rocky Top, speaking as a resident, stated she is in favor this this trail. The trail will offer many recreational opportunities to our residents & visitors. It encourages people to get out in the fresh air, gives a sense of community, creates greater community connections, and promotes a healthy relationship. Speaking as Chair on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Committee, additional hiking trails are a goal, as featured in the recently adopted Town of Seven Devils Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan 2020-2030. Anne also spoke on behalf of TDA, as Chair is fully committed to allocating the funds to help support this trail.

Leigh Sasse, 245 Chestnut Ridge Trail, spoke in favor of the trail and asked that adequate parking be built, and to consider the citizens who live near the trailhead.

### **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to close the Public Hearing; Member Williams seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously.

## **RECESS**

Mayor Fontaine asked for a motion to recess. Member Ehlinger made a motion to recess; Member Williams seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously. The Town Council went into recess at 5:20pm.

## **CALL TO ORDER FROM RECESS**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to come out of recess; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously.

## **ADOPT AGENDA**

Member Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING on February 11, 2020.**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS - NONE**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Town Manager Powers provided the following update:

- RTP Grant (75/25) has been awarded for Peak Mountain Trail - \$100,000
- Mayor Fontaine & Town Manger Powers attended Banner Elk Kiwanis on 2/4 to present Peak Mountain Trail for PARTF Grant.
- Town Manager Powers met with Prudential NC 401 (K) on 2/12
- The Planning Board met on 2/18 for their Organizational meeting and reviewed additions/amendments to the Nuisance Ordinance.
- Town of Boone vs. Watauga County Summons to Appear in court regarding Sales Tax Allocation
- HCCOG is organizing an Interlocal Government meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>; two council members will need to attend.
- Town Manager Powers attended the NCLM Risk Management administrative online training webinar on 2/25 for future webinar trainings for employees.
- Police Chief Harris has earned the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate (1000 hours of LE Training) from State of NC on 2/21.
- Town Hall is closed on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday/Easter holiday.
- Echo Newsletter – Spring Edition is now available and posted to 7D website.
- Town Council Retreat to be held on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at FGCC- 10am -2pm.
- The Planning Board meeting scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> is now cancelled.

Updates for: Tree Permits, Projects, Fence Permits, Complaints, Violation Letters, Stop Work Orders, & Real Estate Closings

## **OLD BUSINESS - NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution #2020-02**



**RESOLUTION  
#2020-02  
PART F**

**IN SUPPORT OF TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND PARKS AND RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN  
THE TOWN LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS**

**WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils recognizes the desire of residents and visitors alike to enjoy parks and recreational services and green spaces; and**

**WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils endeavors to create and preserve natural resources for the enjoyment of citizens for future generations; and**

**WHEREAS, In order to address recreational needs in the future, the Town of Seven Devils has allocated financial resources to expand trails, parks, and recreational green spaces; and**

**WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils has adopted the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan 2020-2030, dated February 11, 2020 to serve as a guide for the Town to make informed decisions relating to the development of recreation facilities & assets, seeking out new opportunities and meeting the needs of citizens throughout the next decade;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Town of Seven Devils Town Council firmly resolves to accept and support the administration of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for \$95,000 for Peak Mountain Trail, with a \$95,000 match in funding, and completion within three (3) years.**

**ADOPTED, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.**

**ATTEST:**



*Larry Fontaine*  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor

*Hillary Gropp*  
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

Member Bonomo made the motion to approve Resolution #2020-02; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

**B. Audit Contract FY20**

Member Williams made a motion to approve the Audit Contract FY20 with S. Gillespie, P.A.- Certified Public Accountant. Member Bonomo seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

**C. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE NUISANCE ORDINANCE**

**(i) Added Article 12 - Damage to Town Roads and Right of Ways**

Member Williams made a motion to adopt Nuisance Ordinance, Article 12; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

**(ii) Firearms – Amended Language**

Member Bonomo made the motion to amend the existing Firearms Nuisance Ordinance; Member Williams seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

**(iii) Holiday Construction – Added Language**

Member Williams made a motion to adopt the language to the Nuisance Ordinance- Prohibited Noises; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

**D. PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION**

Joan Streightiff submitted an application for the Planning Board, to serve in the future if a seat is vacated by a member. Term expiration TBD if circumstances occur.

Member Ehlinger made a motion to accept the appointment for the future appointment to the Planning Board; Member Williams seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Board of Adjustment – No meeting**

**Planning Board – February minutes**

**Public Works – No meeting**

**Public Safety Committee – Letter from Chairman**

**Parks & Recreation Committee – February meeting**

**TDA – No meeting**

**ABC Board – January meeting**

**Tree Committee – February meeting**

**Public Safety Department**

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Financial Report**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Member Ehlinger provided an update on Mayor Pro Tem Lambert’s wellbeing and recovery, and possible return date to his duties.

**ADJOURN**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn; Member Williams seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

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Larry Fontaine, Mayor

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Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT  
FOR: BOARD OR COMMITTEE

**PLEASE NOTE:** In accordance with North Carolina law, this application is a public record and will be disclosed upon request without notice. If there is any information you do not want released to the public, please do not include it.

FULL NAME: Leigh Jones Sasse

LOCAL ADDRESS: 245 Chestnut Ridge Trl, Seven Devils NC

EMAIL ADDRESS: leighsasse@gmail.com TELEPHONE: 828-963-2806

FULL-TIME RESIDENT of the Town of Seven Devils  YES  NO

If part-time, approximately how many months in a year do you live in Seven Devils? \_\_\_\_\_

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A RESIDENT OF SEVEN DEVILS? Since Jan. 2011

NAME OF BOARD OR COMMITTEE FOR WHICH APPOINTMENT IS SOUGHT:

- Board of Adjustment
- Public Works Committee
- TDA-Tourism Development Authority
- Planning Board
- Recreation Commission
- ABC Board
- Town Council

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THIS BOARD/COMMITTEE?

Civic Duty + the desire to keep our town the wonderful place it is.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN AND THE VISION STATEMENT OF THE TOWN CONTAINED THEREIN? (It can be accessed at [www.sevendevils.net](http://www.sevendevils.net))

Yes

RATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE VISION STATEMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN (with "1" signifying no support and "10" signifying great support): 10

WHAT SKILLS, EDUCATION, TRAINING, EXPERIENCE OR AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE WOULD YOU BRING TO THIS APPOINTMENT?

I have been involved in several town boards/committees since moving to Seven Devils. I love our town and will do what I can to make sure the CLUP and vision of our town is realized.

HAVE YOU TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND ANY PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE NOTICE OF THIS VACANCY?  YES  NO

DESCRIBE EXTENT AND MEETINGS ATTENDED: I attend the Town Council Mtgs. regularly and have since I moved here in 2011.

IF APPOINTED, DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST?  YES  NO

IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY CURRENT OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND ANY SPECIAL TALENTS:

BOARDS/CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS/TALENTS:	DATE FROM:	DATE TO:
<u>Public Safety</u>	_____	_____
<u>TDA</u>	_____	_____
<u>Recreation</u>	_____	_____

ABC Board

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS WHY YOU SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THIS BOARD/COMMITTEE:

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***I certify this information is correct. I understand that this is an application to be considered for appointment to a Town Board or Committee and that final appointment is made by the Town Council of Seven Devils. I also understand that any service, if appointed, would be without compensation. This application will remain on file for a period of 12 months form the date of application.***

Gender: Female

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: 3/5/2020

*Please fill out the form completely and return it to the Town Clerk at Town Hall.*

*If you have any questions, call 828-963-5343*






FY21 Budget Presentation Highlights:

- Revenues:


 Property Taxes – remains steady - **NO TAX INCREASE!**

 Sales tax – 30% decrease

 ABC Revenues steady

 Utility/Franchise Tax – remains steady

 Grant Revenues steady

 Water Sales – remains steady

 Powell Bill Allocation - remains steady

- Expenditures:

 Paving/gravel/hot patch - \$30,000

 Replace #4 of 7 Water PRV Valves @ \$36,500

 Well house/booster station roof repairs - \$15,000

 \$139,700 payments for New Town Hall facility

 Personnel – 2% increase

 Parks & Rec Tech position – funded by TDA

 Reduce Debt Load: \$41,371 payoff BAB loan  
\$31,472 reduction Snowcloud loan

## Executive Summary

REVENUE SUMMARY			EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	
General Fund	\$ 1,640,529		General Fund	\$ 1,640,529
Enterprise Fund	\$ 246,921		Enterprise Fund	\$ 246,921
Total	\$ 1,887,450		Total	\$ 1,887,450
<b>Section 1. General Fund</b>				
<b>Anticipated Revenues By Category-</b>				
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 806,000		Authorized Expenditures By Department-	
State Shared Revenue	\$ 112,360		Governing Board	\$ 16,250
ABC Distribution	\$ 100,000		Administrative	\$ 460,604
Powell Bill Allocation	\$ 30,000		Public Safety	\$ 459,818
Permits, Fees, and Licenses	\$ 1,000		Fire Protection	\$ 111,598
Sales Tax	\$ 120,000		Zoning	\$ 1,500
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 75,800		Public Works	\$ 358,758
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 184,369		Powell Bill	\$ 30,000
Government Grants	\$ 60,000		Tourism Development Authority	\$ 150,000
Sale of Assets	\$ 1,000		Parks & Recreation	\$ 52,001
From Capital Reserve Fund	\$ -			
Occupancy Tax	\$ 150,000			
Total	\$ 1,640,529		Total	\$ 1,640,529
<b>Section 2. Enterprise Fund</b>				
<b>Anticipated Revenues By Category-</b>				
Water Operating Revenues	\$ 244,500		Authorized Expenditures By Department-	
Water Taps and Connections	\$ -		Water-Operating	\$ 119,571
Non Operating Revenues	\$ 754		Non Operating	\$ 75,850
From Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 1,667		Capital Outlay	\$ 51,500
Total	\$ 246,921		Total	\$ 246,921