

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL WORKSHOP
Wednesday, April 29, 2020
10:00am**

The Seven Devils Town Council met for the Annual Workshop, which was rescheduled from a previous cancelled date of March 25, 2020, due to COVID19. The format of this meeting was dual Electronic – Go To Meeting #537816805 and In-Person at Town Hall on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Attendance In-Person included Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Members Wayne Bonomo & Kay Ehlinger. Member Jeffrey Williams attended remotely and with visible video display. A quorum was met. Also, present were Additionally, In-Person included Town Manager Debbie Powers; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp. Leigh Sasse was seated in the audience for the Annual Workshop and departed prior to the Closed Session.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave Invocation for the Annual Workshop.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Bonomo made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. All members agreed.

ADOPT MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – March 10,2020

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed.

TOWN COUNCIL SEAT

Member Ehlinger submitted a resignation letter from the Town Council, effective Thursday, April 30, 2020, as she will be relocating outside of the Town limits. Member Ehlinger has been a long-standing Council member since 2004.

Citizen Leigh Sasse, who serves on the TDA & ABC Board, has submitted an application to serve on the Town Council.

CITIZENS COMMENTS- NONE

PRELIMINARY BUDGET FY21

Mayor Fontaine began the discussion with two questions for consideration:

What is needed?

What is to be put on hold?

Manager Powers provided a review of General Notes for FY21 Budget as follows:

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the previous expectations of anticipated Revenues have become an unknown, while Expenses are under review, with expected Revenue cuts of 30% as guidance provided by the NCLM.

Revenues:

Property Taxes to remains steady – No Tax increase

Sales Tax – 30% decrease

ABC Revenue to remains steady

Utility/Franchise Tax – remains steady

Grant Revenue remains steady

Water Sales remains steady

Powell Bill Allocation remains steady

Sales tax estimates have been reduced by 30% due to the pandemic shortfall and pending litigation between the Town of Boone and Watauga County. The TDA/Occupancy Tax remains steady at \$150,000; FY20 estimate for TDA was \$150,000 and to date of mid-April, \$175,000 has been collected. Expected ABC revenue is \$100,000 based on quarterly pmts.

Expenditures:

- Paving/gravel/hot patch = \$30,000
- Replace #4 of 7 Water PRV Valves = \$36,500
- Well house/booster station roof repairs = \$15,000
- New Town Hall payments = \$139,700
- Personnel = 2% increase
- Parks & Rec Tech position to be funded by TDA
- Reduce Debt load = \$41,371 payoff of BAB loan and \$31,472 payments on Snowcloud loan

Personnel salaries with 3 options of various % increases were provided to the Town Council for consideration. The Town will match 5% to the 401(K); the NC Retirement has increased 1.2%; the 4.98% penalty remains until June 2026. Health insurance increase 2.5% and Dental increase 2.5%

Expenses for the Peak Mountain Trail will be delayed 1 year, as the Town has a 3 year contract to complete.

At the conclusion of the Preliminary Budget FY21 presentation, the Town Manager & Town Council were in agreement to continue to monitor the Revenues with updates at future Town Council/Budget Workshops. The Town will adopt a Budget Ordinance by/before June 30, 2020.

Discussion occurred among Town Council members about the possible scenarios of reopening the State of NC and reaching the required benchmark for Phase I and the balance of Public Safety to Economic consequences. ~OPEN~

RECESS

Town Council took a Recess at 11:29am - 11:40am.

CLOSED SESSION

PERSONNEL

Member Bonomo made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 11:40am, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss Personnel; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. All agreed.

General Account:

Town Council members present In-Person included: Mayor Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, Members Bonomo & Ehlinger; Member Williams participated remotely. Town Clerk Gropp was dismissed and Town Manager Powers took notes of the Closed Session.

A discussion occurred by Town Council and Town Manager of FY21 and budget proposals for personnel, as well as general performance.

The Town Council took no action.

Member Ehlinger made a motion to end Closed Session at 12:05pm; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed ~OPEN~

TOWN COUNCIL SEAT

Mayor Fontaine made a motion to appoint Leigh Sasse to the seat that will be vacated by Member Kay Ehlinger; Member Jeffrey Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed.


The Oath of Office will be administered to Leigh Sasse at the next Town Council meeting.


COUNCIL COMMENTS

Several Council members commented the meeting was productive and good.

ADJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

