

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS**  
**TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020  
10:00am

The Seven Devils Town Council held a Budget Workshop with the format of this meeting being dual Electronic – Go To Meeting #324342085 and In-Person at Town Hall on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Attendance In-Person included Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert & Member Wayne Bonomo. Members Jeffrey Williams & Leigh Sasse attended remotely with visible video display. A quorum was met. Also, present In-Person were Town Manager Debbie Powers; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Fontaine gave Invocation for the Budget Workshop.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Mayor Fontaine requested to amend the agenda to include Closed Session after Item 7) Discussion of Budget Ordinance FY21; Member Bonomo made the motion to adopt the amended agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed.

**ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – June 9, 2020**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve & adopt the minutes; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed.

**BUDGET FY21/SPENDING PLAN - Discussion**

Prior to discussion Mayor Fontaine stated he was in favor of a 2% increase for employees. He wanted staff to know they are appreciated for their dedication and service to the Town.

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

**Revenues:**

Property Taxes to remains steady – No Tax increase

Sales Tax – 30% decrease

ABC Revenue to remain steady

Utility/Franchise Tax – remains steady

Grant Revenue remains steady

Water Sales remains steady – Late fees & disconnections decrease due to NC EO 142

Powell Bill Allocation – 25% decrease

**Expenditures:**

Paving/gravel/hot patch reduced to \$22,500 (Powell Bill)  
Replace #4 of 7 Water PRV Valves = \$38,000 – On Hold  
Well house/booster station roof repairs = \$15,000 – On Hold  
New Town Hall payments = \$139,700  
Personnel = 2% increase and to be reevaluated in Fall 2020  
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

**BUDGET ORDINANCE FY21**

Employees will be given a 2% increase at the beginning of the new FY21, with review for additional increase in the late fall. The Town will match up to 5% to the 401(K) of the employee's wage, and only applies to employees who contribute to the 401(K) plan.

The Fund Balance for the Town of Seven Devils is to strive to maintain a minimum fund balance of 50% of operating expenditures.

**FEES- Additions/Revisions**

**Water Account Fees – as specified in the Water Ordinance:**

Add – After hours re-call fee for Public Works crew = \$75.00

**Building Permits: (Collected by Watauga County)**

Add – Remodel Permit = \$75.00 per trade

Add – Compliance & Review = \$40.00/permit, \$100/site plan

**Sign Permits:**

Billboards = \$100.00 one-time

**Planning & Zoning:**

Revise – Variance, Waiver, and Administrative Review = \$250.00/action/lot

Revise – Petition for Annexation (Costs to advertise & Provide Notice, Additional) = \$250.00

**Administrative Fees**

Revise – Copier usage (Per Page) = \$.20 Color

The Town will hold a Public Hearing for the Budget FY21 on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and adopt FY21 Budget Ordinance on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Notification of both dates, with details are on the Town's website, as well all proper notices, per NC GS.

**RECESS**

Town Council took a Recess at 11:20am – 11:30am.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**PERSONNEL**

Member Bonomo made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 11:30am, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss Personnel; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All agreed.

*General Account:*

Town Council members present In-Person included: Mayor Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert & Member Bonomo. Members Sasse & Williams participated remotely. Town Manager Powers & Town Clerk Gropp were dismissed.

Town Council Member Bonomo requested Town Manager Powers come into the Closed Session.

Member Bonomo made a motion to end Closed Session at 12:02pm; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed. ~CLOSED~

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Member Williams thanked Town Manager Powers for her work on the FY21 Budget.

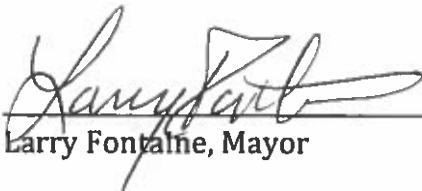
Member Sasse agreed, and also thanked Town Manager Powers for all her efforts. Member Sasse also commented the audio was much improved for her remote participation.

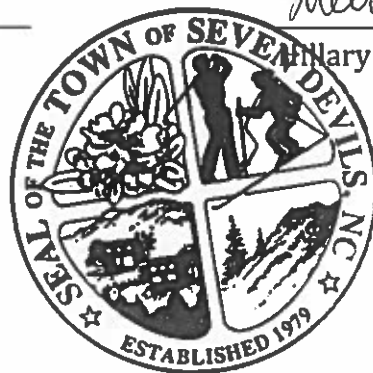
Mayor Fontaine commented that in regard to budgetary priorities, that replacement of the PRV#4 takes precedence over a new police vehicle. Member Williams agreed with the comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert suggested the Town Council meet for a mid-year FY21 Budget Review. Mayor Fontaine suggested meeting Tuesday – December 1<sup>st</sup>, the week before the regular scheduled Town Council meeting, all agreed. Details of time & place to be announced at a later date.

**ADIJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting adjourned at 12:13pm.

  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor



  
Hilary Gropp, Town Clerk