

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION  
January 11, 2010**

The Town of Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2010, at Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bob Dodson and Council Members Richard DeMott, David Ehmig and Kathy Copley. Member Ehlinger was absent and excused. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans, Town Attorney Rob Angle, and Lois Evans, who recorded the minutes in the Town Clerk's absence.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dodson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Member DeMott made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE**

Members were in agreement to postpone the election until all Town Council members are present. Member DeMott offered to serve as interim Mayor Pro Tem until the election.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Member Copley made a motion to postpone approval of the December 14, 2009, minutes pending corrections that need to be made. The motion was seconded by Member DeMott and approved unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Dick Nelson distributed a handout prepared by Earl Pariseau identifying several needs they (Berkleys, Nelsons, and Pariseaus) would like to see addressed. These include: another entrance/exit to Seven Devils for emergency vehicles (other than Seven Devils Road), a traffic light or caution light at the entrance to Seven Devils Road, opening Town Hall as an emergency center, purchase of auxiliary power generators, access to additional snow removal equipment, and the publication of a pamphlet explaining what emergency help is available. Discussion followed. Mayor Dodson noted that the Public Safety Committee is responsible for investigating these issues.

David Hooper expressed thanks for the great job the maintenance staff have done with clean-up from the snow and the ice storm. The Town Manager reported that two generators have already been purchased for the wells for use during power outages and are awaiting electrical connection by Ben Ware.

**ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

The Town Manager reported that the Town is unable to read water meters due to ice and snow. Residents will be billed the minimum quarterly billing and bills adjusted at the end of the next quarter. The Town currently has a 96.3% collection rate for taxes. A meeting with Mike Myrick, President of the N.C. Association of the ABC Boards, is scheduled at Sugar Mountain on January 26 at 5:30 p.m. The Town Council is invited to attend.

Ed commended the Public Works staff for the hard work and long hours they have put in since Christmas Day. Member DeMott thanked Town Manager Evans for his hard work as well.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Resolution to Appoint Town Clerk as Tax Collector.** Member DeMott made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Member Ehmig and approved unanimously.
- B. **Christmas ice storm 2009 discussion regarding debris removal.** The Town Manager reported that Watauga County declared a state of emergency following the ice storm and that

the Town may be able to get some federal aid. He has completed the FEMA documentation and a meeting with the North Carolina Emergency Management is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13. He has just hired a fifth crew to help with debris removal beginning Tuesday, and the cost will be up to \$5832 per day. At this rate, the Town budget can pay for an additional twelve days. Expenses are being taken from the \$92,000 budgeted for transfer to the Enterprise Fund. The Town Manager estimates that the clean-up will be about 50% complete at the end of that period. He said that the Town Council will need to suspend clean-up operations after the twelve-day period until the budget is re-allocated.

There was discussion regarding damage and debris clean-up on homeowners' property. Member Copley suggested adding a sentence on the web site informing homeowners that they should contact their insurance companies. The Town will provide a list of available contractors for those who inquire. In the past, town policy has been to haul away one truckload of debris for residents who request it if the debris is hauled to the curb. If a contractor is hired, the contractor is responsible for hauling away the debris. There was discussion about chipping fallen tree limbs. Consensus was that the Public Works Department does not have the time or the staff to provide this service to residents. The Town Manager reported that one home was damaged at its ridgeline and he has been unable to contact the owner. Discussion followed and Member Ehmig suggested getting in touch with the mortgage company.

Member Copley expressed her concern that there was no way to contact Town Hall during the power outage. The Town Manager will post emergency numbers in *The Echo*. He has already posted these numbers on the Seven Devils web site. Member Copley expressed a need for the Town to have food and beverages available for the staff who are required to work during these weather-related situations.

Mayor Dodson suggested calling a recess until January 25 at 4:00 p.m. at which time the Council will discuss budget issues related to the clean-up.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Planning Board** – no meeting held
- B. Public Works**
- C. Public Safety** – no meeting held
- D. Recreation Commission** – no meeting held.
- E. ABC Board** – There were no additional comments.
- F. TDA**
- G. Financial Report**

A motion was made by Member DeMott to accept the financial report as provided. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dodson and approved unanimously.

## **TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Member Copley noted the need to schedule a retreat for the Town Council. The Town Manager shared information about upcoming municipal government workshops entitled Essentials of Municipal Government. Member Ehmig will plan to attend one of the sessions.

At 7:01 p.m. Mayor Dodson made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues. The motion was seconded by Mayor DeMott and approved unanimously.

A motion to come out of closed session was made by Member DeMott at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Member Ehmig and approved unanimously.

No action was taken during the Closed Session.

## **ADJOURN**

At 7:20 p.m. a motion to recess until 4:00 p.m. on January 25, 2010, was made by Member Copley, seconded by Mayor Dodson, and approved unanimously.

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Bob Dodson, Mayor

Lois Evans, representing Town Clerk