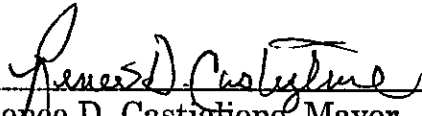



the salt. Vice Mayor Kaufman asked if the town was going to weigh dollars against our visitors and against our safety. Vice Mayor Kaufman asked Council to consider vacationers that come to the mountain to rent and cannot get to their rental. These individuals probably do not return to the mountain. Vice Mayor Kaufman stated that he was in favor of continuing the salting program. Councilman Abernethy stated that the benefit outweighs the expense. Councilman Abernethy asked Attorney Eggers if the town is liable for its road conditions. Attorney Eggers stated that anyone can sue at any time. Councilman Sauer motioned to maintain the current salt aggregate mix for the salting program through the end of the Resort's season. Councilman Abernethy seconded the motion. Mayor Castiglione questioned the safety of motorists in a snow event after the end of the Resort's season. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Castiglione called the vote, the vote passed 4 to 1 with Vice Mayor Kaufman, Mayor Castiglione, Councilman Abernethy, and Councilman Sauer voting in favor and Councilman Marquadt voting nay. Comment from the public raised concern about the safety of motorists in a snow event after the Resort's season had closed. After further Council discussion Councilman Sauer motioned to have the salting program run through the end of the snow events this season. Mayor Castiglione seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion Mayor Castiglione called the vote, the vote passed 4 to 1 with Vice Mayor Kaufman, Mayor Castiglione, Councilman Abernethy, and Councilman Sauer voting in favor and Councilman Marquadt voting nay.

VIII. Adjourn – At 3:12 p.m., Councilman Sauer moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Abernethy. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on February 13, 2018.


Renee D. Castiglione, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer L. Broderick, MMC
Town Clerk



Motorists Roads that are being treated with Salt is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as if fully set out within these minutes. Mayor Castiglione asked how the Police Officers felt about the salting program. Police Chief Barnett stated that staff has found the use of salt to be of great assistance. Councilman Sauer asked if motorists assisted in weather events were primarily tourists or year round residents. Police Chief Barnett stated that they were primarily tourists. Councilman Sauer stated that this was good for the community's economic growth. Director of Infrastructure Robert Heaton stated that the trial program has accomplished what staff believed it would do. Mr. Heaton stated that the program has been very lucky with the weather that has come in-between the snow events. Mr. Heaton stated that better communication has been coordinated with the contractor that has been handling the salting program. Mr. Heaton stated that in the long run salting the roads will be a good thing. Mr. Heaton stated that staff implements the decisions made by Council. Councilman Marquardt stated that he believed that it will be the will of Council to implement a salting program. Councilman Marquardt stated that the town has already spent approximately \$33,000 on this trial program. Councilman Marquardt stated that the town did not need to continue to spend that kind of money for the balance of this year. The town has learned what we needed to learn. Councilman Marquardt recommended improving on what is there and budgeting to prepare to implement the salting program next winter in house. Councilman Abernethy stated that the program needed to continue to operate. Councilman Abernethy stated that for some time the public had been informed that the town could not do this program. Councilman Abernethy did not dispute that the \$33,000 is expensive. Mayor Castiglione clarified that the cost was \$36,000 for the twelve miles the town has contracted. Councilman Abernethy questioned if the town's Road Maintenance Department could run the program more cost effectively. Mr. Heaton stated that staff has looked into purchasing salt this year but cannot buy the salt any cheaper right now. Should Council fund the program in the future then the salt would be ordered in advance resulting in a cost savings. Supply is an issue with purchasing at Lowe's right now. They will sell a pallet at a time. Councilman Abernethy stated that the Lowe's in Hickory has plenty of palates. Mr. Heaton stated that the town's spreader is wider and spreads more than the contractors equipment. Councilman Sauer stated that in the past they have been informed that staff cannot take care of salting. Councilman Marquardt questioned town storage and equipment. Mr. Heaton stated that the town's DoAll will work fine with this program. Staff would need storage facility. Councilman Marquardt stated that this is a pilot program to learn what we need to learn. The town needs to put this knowledge and their money towards hitting the ground running. Councilman Sauer stated his stance is to continue the program. Mayor Castiglione stated that it is now less expensive due to the contractor receiving a cheaper deal for

Barry asked Council create a road program that was effective. Susie O'Connell, of 132 Grassy Gap Loop, stated her concern about driveways being blocked when roads are plowed. Robert Barry, of 100 Squirrel Lane, asked about having the Beech Mountain Parkway striped, stating that visibility was low. Vice Mayor Kaufman stated that people who live up north have their driveways blocked every time it snows and that this is inevitable. Sandy Carr, of 505 Pine Ridge, stated concerns about the environmental impacts of salting the roads. Mrs. Carr stated that research shows that using salt assists the chat and that the opinions of several scientists that have studied the issue of salt vs chat and found salt to not be as harmful as chat. Salt is able to dissolve. Chat kills the environment and damages aquatic life due to poor drainage. Ms. Carr stated that it was her understanding that the town uses approximately 22,000 pounds of chat on the road annually.

- VI. Closed Session – Pursuant to NC GS 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel Matters** – At 2:22 p.m., Councilman Sauer moved to reconvene in closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat §143-318.11 (a)(6) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Councilman Abernethy and passed unanimously. Upon motion by Councilman Abernethy, seconded by Councilman Sauer, the Council voted passed unanimously to exit closed session at 2:45 p.m.

Councilman Sauer motioned to approve an increase in pay for the Town Manger in the amount of \$1,250 monthly to assist with housing expenses effective immediately. Vice Mayor Kaufman seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion Mayor Castiglione called the vote, the vote passed unanimously.

- VII. Discussion in Regards to the Pilot Program of Salting/Sanding Continuing through the 2018 Snow Season** – Councilman Abernethy requested to hear from Fire Chief Bob Pudney, Police Chief Tim Barnett, and Director of Infrastructure Robert Heaton concerning the salting program. Fire Chief Pudney stated that the program has made a dramatic difference by significantly shortening the time ice stays on the road. Emergency responders do not have the opportunity to decide when we respond. Fire Chief Pudney stated that Pine Ridge Road is shaded, leaving snow on the road for many consecutive days. Since the use of salt this road has been dramatically better. Overall emergency responders have been able to respond quicker on the roadways. Police Chief Tim Barnett stated that the department has seen a positive increase in road conditions due to the use of the salt. Accidents on the roadways have decreased dramatically. Police Chief Barnett provided data on motor vehicle accidents / assist motorists for the timeframe of December 8, 2017 thru January 31, 2018. The Beech Mountain Police Department Report: *Moto Vehicle Accidents / Assist*

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting – January 31, 2018

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Renee Castiglione called the special meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 in the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 403 Beech Mountain Parkway Beech Mountain North Carolina 28604. Other Council Members present were Barry Kaufman, Carl Marquardt, Weidner Abernethy, and Wendel Sauer. A quorum was present. Town Attorney Stacy C. Eggers, IV was present. Staff members present included Town Clerk Jennifer Broderick, Police Chief Tim Barnett, Director of Infrastructure Robert Heaton, Public Works Superintendent Mathew Clawson, Parks and Recreation Director Sean Royall, and Director of Tourism and Economic Development Kate Gavenus.
- II. Invocation**– Mayor Castiglione provided the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance** – All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda** – Vice Mayor Kaufman motioned to approve the agenda. Councilman Abernethy seconded the motion, the vote carried unanimously.
- V. Public Comment** – Max Riley, of 204 Pinnacle Ridge Road, stated that one of the bigger hills on Pinnacle Ridge Road is right outside his house. Mr. Riley stated that through the years he has observed many cars slide down the road and not get up the road. People are not able to traverse the roads even after the town has scrapped and chatted. This road treatment system is ineffective. Mr. Riley stated that he is a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and a first responder. Public safety is an issue when roads are not cleared. Not maintaining the roads properly is a choice to put the public in danger. The state road is clear while our town roads are not. Thankfully, the salt program has been effective. After less than a day following two snowstorms, pavement was visible on Pinnacle Ridge Road. Emergency response time is improved for responders on the way to a call and responders transporting patients. Frank Steele, of 107 Christy Way stated his agreement with Max Riley's statements about the roads and how many times he has provided assistance to motorists. Therese Barry, of 100 Squirrel Lane, stated that the salt does not work at certain temperatures. Mrs. Barry stated that the salt on the roads does not work and that magnesium chloride has to be added at certain temperatures to the salt to make the roads safe. Mrs.