



MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Council Chambers

The Regular Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Renee Castiglione
Vice-Mayor Barry Kaufman
Councilman Carl Marquardt
Councilman Weidner Abernethy
Councilman Wendel Sauer

COUNCIL EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Tim Holloman
Attorney Stacy Eggers, IV
Town Clerk Tamara Mercer
Director of Tourism and Economic Development Kate Gavenus
Building Inspector John Merritt
Parks and Rec Director Sean Royall
Finance Officer Steve Smith
Chief of Police Tim Barnett
Fire Chief Robert Pudney
Director of Infrastructure Robert Heaton
Director of Special Projects Riley Hatch
Police Captain Renee Carpenter
Public Works Superintendent Matthew Clawson

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 2.1. Councilman Abernethy inquired into the agenda and Mayor Castiglione noted that the Council could discuss his question at 6. Consent Agenda to which he said he would address it at that discussion.

Motion

Wendel Sauer made a motion to adopt the agenda Barry Kaufman seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION

- 3.1. Town Manager, Tim Holloman gave the Invocation and asked for everyone to hold Planning Commission Chairman, Pete Chamberlain's family in prayers and thoughts as he dedicated the blessing to Mrs. Shirley Chamberlain, a great member and loving contributor of Beech Mountain's community, who made her transition.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 5.1. Ms. Terese Barry of 100 Squirrel Lane, stated that the History Museum opens for the season. The Museum promotes, supports and provides the history of Beech Mountain and is supported by volunteers. Ms. Barry requested public support and donations of the public's time and ideas and anyone who wishes to volunteer may contact the Museum. They have a new room addition, which was donated by Jim Brooks, so please sign up for volunteering and the staff will supply you with the new pamphlet hand-outs.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1. Consent Agenda items were read by Mayor Castiglione.

Councilman Abernethy questioned the contents of the minutes and stated he did not remember Landing Zone Approach plan was changed to the increased width footage, the clerk corrected the March 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes to omit the sentence 'the road width increased from 10-feet to 24-feet' on page 7.

The Buckeye Creek Landing Zone Approach agenda item was questioned by Councilman Abernethy and he asked when the vote had taken place: *(Clerk's note: the Buckeye Creek Landing Zone Approach had been placed on the Monday, February 25, 2019 Special Town Council meeting agenda and Town Council voted to approve the scope of the Landing Zone Approach project to include the specs as submitted by Special Projects Director, Riley Hatch.)*

Councilman Abernethy inquired into the \$391,000 being spent for the Buckeye Lake Dam repair and why there is only one quote. Mr. Robert Heaton, Director of Infrastructure said there is only one quote because there is no other company who performs this work and that is our contractor Defiant Marine. The original divers who we have been working with is the only company to submit the quote. Mr. Heaton added that the only other alternative to fixing and repairing the dam would be to drain the lake and then we would need to add another 16 days onto the timeline in order to drain the lake for repairing of the dam.

Mr. Heaton asked other contractors, but no other company will perform this work. This work will allow us to keep the level up, and he further explained the preventative maintenance scheduled to be performed. The failure is that the shaft rotated out of the concrete block. The repairs must be conducted as

per the Army Core of Engineers. We will now conduct checks on an annual basis.

Councilman Abernethy requested to see the inspection reports to which Mr. Heaton said we are required to keep records for three years. He was unsure how far the records go back since the Public Works Facility moved. Mr. Heaton said he does not think the records go back further. He said it has not been inspected since it was installed, we commenced the first inspection last year. Mr. Heaton said it has taken him nine years to find the divers at this company who would perform this work and the only other way to fix and repair this problem is to drain the lake.

In response to Vice mayor Kaufman's question regarding the loss of water and the timeline for the dam repairs, Mr. Heaton said after we actuate the dam and replace the shaft, we will lose some level of water and we hope to have the work completed by May 10, 2019. The sections and repairs will be prefabbed so we don't know, this is an approximation. The plan is to have the dam actuate every day, we plan to open and close it every day and the inspections; as per the Army Corps of Engineers, will be yearly.

- 6.2. Adoption of Minutes- Closed session minutes February 11, 2019, Closed session minutes March 12, 2019 and Regular meeting minutes March 12, 2019
- 6.3. General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies
- 6.4. USDA Budget Amendments #8 and #9 Water Utilities
- 6.5. Sanitation Department Budget Amendment #2019-10

In response to Councilman Marquardt's question, Mr. Holloman said that the Sanitation Department Budget amendment request was for over-time employee hours.

- 6.6. 2019-11 Budget Amendment for Dam Repairs

Motion

Carl Marquardt made a motion to accept the consent agenda and to open the consent agenda with the aforementioned correction to the March 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes and Barry Kaufman seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1. Department of Infrastructure State of Utility Report 2019 Update-

Director of Infrastructure, Mr. Robert Heaton reviewed the report. He noted that Mr. Daniel Davis had prepared the PowerPoint but was unable to attend the meeting. Project updates and the accounting for unaccounted for water was explained by Mr. Heaton. He noted that in 2009, the system was found to have had major issues and an analysis was performed through a grant study which showed the needed repairs and water system upgrades necessary for better performance within the water and sewer system.

System project work included: leak detectors, altitude valve replacements installed, hydrant flushers, pre-meters, residential meter replacement, backwash stations rebuilt, fire hydrant upgrades and replacements, service pump WTP replacements and generator installations were completed from 2010 through 2013, as well as meter reads went from quarterly to monthly reads throughout the town. The Town Council looked at rates and fees, also unaccounted water loss was being calculated. Mr. Heaton said we were making water and probably lost 85% of the product. He explained that all the study and analysis, helped to find where the problems were in our systematic functions and to address those issues.

Mr. Heaton discussed the band-aids applied throughout the history of the system as well as hydrant flushers and water age, we modeled the system based on tank age. He said they made a hydrant flusher which helps the water age. He explained how the system is now controlled and the prior methods used to control system surge. He detailed the various projects installed and areas of upgrades through-out the years. He noted where the largest problems exist and the problems with the previous galvanized piping in the system.

He reviewed the new water plant and treatment systems and also the Thanksgiving Buckeye Lake water incident as well as summed up the on-going and future improvement projects. The reduction in water loss throughout the system was highlighted and Council thanked Mr. Heaton for the favorable report.

7.2. Health Insurance

Mr. Holloman reviewed the submitted health insurance quotes from various providers as noted in the cover letter submitted to Town Council. For review: the Town changed the method of providing health benefits last year to referenced base pricing and had significant problems with the promised available network. It was addressed, but there was a need to get employees involved in their choice of health care offerings.

A Town Health Insurance committee was formed with a representative from all departments in November of 2018. They have met several times and are recommending the North Carolina League of Municipalities 700 plan. HR and the Town Manager also looked at two other third party providers. One proposed Blue Cross Blue Shield High Deductible, but that plan appeared to have high risk. This company also propose a plan similar to the Medcost 700 and it was \$698,777 which is approximately \$207,000 more than the Med 700. The other third party provider had multiple plans and the one that had a Health Savings component was \$535,524 approximately. This plan was Blue Cross Blue Shield and could be promising in the future. Tucker just sent the current plan renewals and there are very few options that approach the cost of the League Plan and they all have potential significant risks and also an increase in costs.

Mr. Rob Sheppard, Assistant Director of Membership Services with NCLM, (North Carolina League of Municipalities), reviewed the proposed health insurance plan as recommended by Staff. Mr. Sheppard said the plan is covered by Medcost which is based in Winston Salem, and they have a national network of providers. The League also provides COBRA, Workers Comp, Property and Casualty, as well as enhanced Health benefits to cities, towns and villages throughout North Carolina.

He elaborated on the Medcost plan and said employees and dependents will have health management nurses, case managers for claims and for more serious issues, nursing teams. Since the Town of Beech Mountain has more than 50 employees enrolled currently, we are considered a large group. The Town will receive quarterly claims reports and cost drivers' analysis as well as health and wellness programs. He pointed out that there are grants that are applied, monies for those that participate in the wellness programs. The management has put this in place to address and incentivize, clients to address better nutrition and wellness habits. He said there are dietitians and walking, exercise and biking programs and competitions. He said they purchased fit bits and held competitions between employees which helps the whole group stay healthy. Their staff works with our staff to hold educational meetings to address health and fitness lifestyle issues.

Mr. Sheppard reviewed the 700 Plan schedule of benefits and went over the deductibles, out-of-pocket costs, the features, the providers, the prescription drug card benefits and the wellness requirements. This was followed by a question and answer period. Mr. Sheppard discussed the billing, hospitalization, primary care and physicians, preventative care and those who do not participate in preventative care. Those that elect not to participate in prevention and wellness care will be assessed a 10% insurance premium on the next renewal period. He also added there is diabetic and nutritional counseling as well as alternative holistic approach to health such as massage therapy, acupuncture and chiropractic medicine and mental health and addiction counseling. Mental health and substance abuse programs do not have a co-pay.

In response to the Mayor's question regarding 3D and 4D mammograms, Mr. Sheppard said those are included as preventative services for patients. Mr. Sheppard stressed how the Teledoc service functions for those too sick to go to a doctor's office and that 24/7 nurses and doctors can work with patients and family members remotely. Mr. Holloman reviewed the timeline schedule for changing the insurance coverage which would be in place and ready for July 1, 2019.

Mayor Castiglione stated that this information would be discussed at the April 17 Budget meeting and Councilman Marquardt requested that Council be given the cost savings information as it benefits the employees to which Mr. Holloman pointed out page 98 in the packet, which provided the cost differences from the current plan with Tucker and the proposed health plan with the League.

- 7.3. Additional Plan provided by Parrot Insurance. Mr. Holloman pointed out that the Town received a quote for the insurance broker service at a cost of \$12,000. Parrot Insurance Broker can work for the League and would be an advocate for the Town and manages the plan and provides services such as ACA forms and reports to Human Resources. Councilman Marquardt said this is a duplication of services and asked if we would already be paying for this, to which Mr. Holloman added that the insurance broker simply found out that they can work for the League and the Town and so we included this service and quote for informational use.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1. Garbage Fine Report to Date

Mr. Heaton reviewed the garbage fines to date as it pertained to litter and the use of bear resistant containers to hinder bears getting into the public's garbage.

9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

- 9.1. Mr. Holloman reviewed the upcoming calendar and noted that the Kiwanis Club would hold Bark Park Day on April 27th and the Spring Clean-up Day on April 28th. The Town will observe Good Friday on April 19th and Town Hall would be closed. All this information is posted on the website. He mention the installation of new steps at the Convenience Center and the Landing Zone Approach was being constructed. The Mud Run event will take place on May 18th.
- 9.2. Tourism Development Authority Report
- 9.3. Department of Infrastructure Reports
- 9.4. Activity Yearly Summary Totals/Beech Mountain Police Dept.
- 9.5. Planning and Inspections Monthly Report 2019-03

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 10.1. Councilman Sauer warned citizens of increased robo calls and to be careful of scams by phone and computer.

Councilman Abernethy discussed the budget and he took issue with the format. He said the monthly financial statement and P&L statement is irrelevant, he wants to see the expenditures and expenses. The presentation is unacceptable, and he wants more details rather than an overview. He wants to be provided with more information for each line item and each departments' detailed expenditures, a total since last July. Councilman Abernethy was concerned with using staff's time by Council or with Council making specific requests of the police department.

Vice mayor Kaufman countered this statement and disagreed with Councilman Abernethy's description of the police department event. He said the police officer simply followed up with the information that Vice mayor Kaufman had given him and Mr. Kaufman thanked the police force for taking

initiative. Councilman Abernethy was also concerned with adhering to the open meetings law and said Council must meet in an open setting.

Councilman Marquardt said the budgets are projections and there are amendments to the line items when we find the need to purchase things such as the request for a new garbage truck. He urged the public to participate in letting the Golf Cart Committee know their opinions on golf cart usage on the mountain.

Mayor Castiglione discussed an upcoming bill in the State House. The proposed House bill would be detrimental to towns who have tree preservation ordinances as this bill will take away Beech Mountain's ability to regulate and preserve trees. She urged citizens to write or call their congressmen to oppose this bill.

11. CITIZENS' AGENDA COMMENTS

- 11.1. Maryann Johansson of 424 St. Andrews discussed the garbage report and added that she took pictures of bins and those that had bear resistant locks. She suggested more people use that method.

12. ADJOURNMENT

- 12.1. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Motion

Wendel Sauer made a motion to adjourn and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain