



MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 11, 2018
Council Chambers

The Regular Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 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
Public Utilities Superintendent Daniel Davis
Building Inspector John Merritt
Director of Tourism and Economic Development Kate Gavenus
Planning Board Chairman Pete Chamberlin
Town Planner Preston Yates
Tax Admin & Utility Billing Clerk Rebecca Ward
Director of Special Projects Riley Hatch
Director of Infrastructure Robert Heaton
Fire Chief Robert Pudney
Parks and Rec Director Sean Royall
Chief of Police Tim Barnett

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 2.1. Agenda item changes: Mayor Castiglione moved agenda items 6.1 and 6.2 to New Business and moved item 7.1 the adoption of regular meeting and closed session minutes of November 13, 2018 to the consent agenda.

Motion

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

3. INVOCATION BY TIM HOLLOWAN

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. BUCKEYE LAKE WATER INCIDENT

- 5.1. Water incident at Buckeye Lake question and answer period: Town Manager, Tim Holloman reviewed the incident which occurred on November 20, 2018. Mr. Holloman stated he had received an email from town resident, Mr. Urs Gsteiger and that he had responded to those questions and would review and read those answers. Mr. Holloman read the following report:

The Valve

1. When was the valve at issue installed? In 1984.
2. What is the valve's purpose? To provide mechanical control of water release for the Buckeye Lake Reservoir.
3. What state or federal regulatory agencies have any jurisdiction over the valve or its functioning? United States Army Corp of Engineers, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Dam Safety, North Carolina Division of Water Resources, North Carolina Wildlife, US Fish and Game, and North Carolina Public Water Supply.
4. When was the last time, prior to the day of the incident, that the valve had been opened and closed? October of 2016.
5. What correspondence has the Town had in the past three years with any state or federal agencies about the valve? Numerous, and the most recent after a meeting with State agencies on October 15, 2018 of this year. The Army Corp informed the Town that they needed stream flow data through the installation of gauges and that the valve would be required to be inspected and operational. This purpose of this meeting was to request a change in the minimum release for the Town's drinking water permit. Achieving a lower release would put the town in compliance with the existing permit and benefit the Town in the long run with the Watauga Intake project.

The Dive Contract

1. What prompted the Town to contract with a dive company to inspect the valve? Maintenance to meet requirements of USACE and minimum flow regulations required by said permit.
2. Was there a Request for Proposal issued by the Town? No, due to the specialized work and under the recommendations of the Town's Engineering group. This work is specialized. This type of contract is not subject to request for proposal.
3. If so, describe the scope of work in the RFP. The work was for inspection and operation in order to prepare an analysis report.
4. How many bidders were there for the contract? This was a specialized operation and no general bidding was done due to this fact.
5. What was the scope of work in the final signed contract? Same as above an inspection and operation to prepare analysis report.

6. Who selected the contractor? Director of Infrastructure, Robert Heaton
7. Was the contractor required to have general liability insurance? All contractors performing work for the town are required to have general liability insurance.
8. When was the contract to be performed? 11/19/18-through 11/21/18
9. Who was to supervise the scope of work? Robert Heaton
10. Was the contractor tasked to open and close the valve? Yes.
11. If so, was there any discussion about the possible adverse consequences to water levels at Buckeye Lake if the valve could not be closed? There was a great amount of discussion on this issue. The time of year, contractor availability and water recharge rates where primary factors.
12. Was there any discussion about using a coffer dam or other method to isolate the valve from the lake to facilitate inspection? No and there was no recommendation from the engineer that this would be a better alternative.

The Incident

1. What employees of the Town were present while the divers were at Buckeye Lake? Daniel Davis, Ronnie McKinney
2. Describe, using eyewitness accounts, what occurred at Buckeye Lake on November 20, 2018, starting from when the divers arrived until the diver was rescued.

Daniel Davis, Public Works Superintendent, checked in with the divers just after lunch on November 20th. Reports from the contractor were that work was proceeding as expected and completion was expected Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. The first indication there was a problem with the inspection was when Dispatch notified the Fire Department at approximately 6:53 p.m. that the company was having difficulties. The emergency call for utilities went out around the same time that evening. Robert Heaton, Daniel Davis and Ronnie McKinney were contacted and alerted to the incident of a trapped diver underwater at Buckeye Lake. The Fire Department requested mobilization of the following resources: 1) Linville VFD-inflatable boat, diver and rope; 2) Carter County Tennessee-diver rescue team; 3) Rotary wing aircrafts; 4) Watauga and Avery Emergency Management; 5) Eggers Construction-Heavy equipment and pumps; 6) Carolina Water-pump; 7) Beech Mountain Police Department and Avery Sheriff Department-escorts; and 8) a fishing boat with large engine from Roan Mountain. Arriving on the scene, the water plant was requested to start operation to begin lowering the water level as the diver was trapped in the bottom of the lake. Robert and Daniel began mobilizing manpower and equipment for expected needs in the rescue operation. Twenty-Three Fire Department members were present along with four BMVFD apparatus. The first rescue diver was in the water at 7:33 pm and delivery of warm water to the trapped diver began at 7:51 pm. The Carter County dive team arrived at 8:30 pm and pull rope was attached to the trapped diver at 8:45 pm. The trapped diver was removed from the release gate at 9:36 pm. He remained under water for a 22-minute decompression period and was removed from the Lake at 9:59 pm. From here the diver was transported to Watauga Medical Center. Ultimately, all parties on scene worked together, utilizing their equipment and Town resources to free the diver. Robert Heaton attempted to close the lake drain after the accident and was advised by contractor employees on-site that the valve actuator was not functioning

properly. Daniel Davis met with the owner of the contract dive firm on-site and planned further action regarding the lake drain.

3. What, if any, instructions did the divers receive from any Town employee on November 20, 2018, prior to the diver's leg becoming entangled? Nothing additional and continue with the work as planned.
4. Who decided to open the valve on November 20, 2018? Robert Heaton
5. Was there any discussion on November 20 about the possible adverse consequences to Buckeye Lake levels if the valve could not be closed? The valve had been functioning properly this day and the previous day. No adverse consequences were expected.
6. Was there an emergency plan in place in the event that the valve could not be closed? Extensive emergency response plans are in place across all systems and divisions of the Town's Department of Infrastructure.

Emergency Response

1. Did the Town have a written emergency plan to deal with a sudden loss of water at Buckeye Lake? Yes
2. If so, was that plan executed? Yes
3. If so, what were the parameters of that plan? Activate the water shortage response plan to inform the public about conservation needs and the low water level status. Activate the Beech Mountain Utilities Emergency Action Plan for direction to the Utility. Notify the NC Department of Environmental Health of the situation. Activate the Watauga Hazard Mitigation Plan and continue in a prudent manner to evaluate, effect and manage the situation.
4. What was the total cost to the Town to supply water by tanker and to supply bottled water? \$1,664 for the Bottled water and \$59,250 for the tankers. No charge by Banner Elk for the water supplied by the Town of Banner Elk.
5. Has there been an after-action meeting of Town employees about the incident and the response? Yes, it was held Monday, November 26th after the event.
6. If so, what opportunities for improvement were identified? Several procedural improvements. Make sure essential departments have gate codes to the water plant. Need additional water hauling company contacts. Although Police dispatch answered calls, having Town staff available to answer calls would improve dissemination of information. Review changes in staff and make sure staff and council are trained to the level required. Current Utilities, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Fire and Police Chiefs are (NIMS) certified. Make sure meter reading can take place or investigate charging a surcharge so that meter reading is not necessary. Hire a fourth water treatment plant operator to allow better rotation for key operations. Billing with other towns/agencies for water and establish a price ahead of time. Alert Fire and Police a week prior to routine maintenance work including diving. Make sure map to water distribution site is on social media. Add twitter notifications in addition to Town Website and Facebook.
7. If so, what changes, if any, were proposed to any Town policies or emergency plans? Refer to question 6 above.

Following the report which Mr. Holloman read; there was a lengthy question and answer period. In response to an audience members' question as to why schedule this maintenance work now and not during the summer or

spring; Director of Infrastructure, Mr. Robert Heaton explained the reasons for the scheduled contract work. Mr. Heaton said this work is scheduled for one time during the year and the only time to do this type of work is either October, November or December. He continued to explain the reasons for the October, November or December work time-frame as the water recharge rate is better at that time also it was scheduled for when the divers can do the work. The biggest factor is the recharge rate in the lake is better at this time. Mr. Heaton recalled when the Town lost the lake in June of 2010, during the draught of that year.

The Thanksgiving weekend and the timing of that was further discussed. Mr. Heaton added that the timing was determined by the last meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers on October 15, 2018 and the dive company's dictating their schedule to the Town.

Mr. Heaton described the valve in question and said the concern that something could go wrong with valve has been on-going for years. He said the valve has issues, and Public Works does not like opening and closing what is in fact, a sluice gate. There is a 132' stainless steel rod with a 4x4 gate on the bottom of the lake. There are 6 to 8 concrete crawlers, this is all at a depth of 37' underwater and the force of the dam is always a concern. Upon the diver's inspections it had bent and bowed inside the lake.

In response to an audience member's question as to how the diver got stuck, Mr. Heaton responded explaining that the diver may have gotten sucked in where the opening is about 6". It was speculated that, he slipped and somehow got trapped there. Mr. Heaton noted that on Wednesday morning after the diver rescue, the water level was about at 30' intake and in trying to close it, they succeeded in only making it bend more so Mr. Heaton made the decision to drain the Lake in order to do the repair. The gate is closed but not fixed. The diver was taking video, so we have the video that the engineers are studying. Mr. Heaton added that since we were losing water anyway, he made the decision to drain the Lake. He further explained the track, the gate and the apparatus and how it opens and closes, he added that at the time it was installed (in 1984) it was probably the most feasible solution as presented by the engineers. Mr. Heaton stated we are working with our current engineers to determine how to permanently fix it utilizing the video taken by the diver. He noted that the Army Corps of Engineers wanted the work to be done before spring, there was a small window of October, November and December when we have the best run-off and as per our permit we must keep the stream flows.

In response to Councilman Abernethy's question as to the timeline of this plan, Mr. Heaton explained that Town worked with the Army Corps regarding the plan. If we had waited till March to do this, we may not have had enough flow during that month because in the spring we lose the stream flows. He added that in the last 2 years we have had the best stream flows in years. It was Mr. Heaton's expert opinion that we do not open the gate during a dry spell.

In response to Councilman Abernethy's question as to when the plan began, Mr. Heaton said this ongoing project began in 2011 and once the Army

Corps. provided the minimum release numbers, Public Works contacted the dive company in October. Mr. Holloman stated that we met with the Army Corps of Engineers on Oct 15th, and if we did not do the work now we would have to wait until next November of 2019 to do this, which would have jeopardized the Watauga Intake Water Project.

In response to an audience member's question as to where we are now, Mr. Heaton said the gate will remain shut and we will redesign while the gate is closed, but we do not know what could happen, a tree could easily get stuck in it, and is one of the reasons why we have had issues. The Town follows the safety rules and guidelines as per the permit.

In response to an audience member's question as how we re-stabilize, Mr. Heaton said we must fix the gate. Mr. Heaton noted that in case the public citizens did not know, Buckeye Lake is categorized as a water source lake which means it is fed by the creeks. Our lake is a water source lake, but most lakes are off-stream. Buckeye Lake is a part of Buckeye Creek and is a flow-through lake for wildlife and small streams down-stream. We must maintain high stream standards as per the State permit, and there are only three-square miles that feed the streams which feed into the lake. We are required to minimum release 2.8 water flow per second and an additional amount of release during spawning season. All these requirements put a drain on the lake and once we go below the spillway at the dam, we are still releasing water as per State requirements. Mr. Heaton said we are not even saving water in a drought, the minimum release requirements are still being released all the time.

In response to an audience member's question regarding the Town's long term plan for water, Mr. Holloman answered that the Watauga Intake Water project is a 16-million-dollar project and is our proposed alternative to our single water source as well as the continuing of the other capital projects. The tankers of water were brought up for the two days during the incident only, we are not using that as a source, it is too expensive and not a viable option. The Town is pursuing the Watauga Intake. Increasing the size of our reservoir is not recommended by engineers as it is environmentally non-permittable to increase the lake by State standards. The Intake source alternative will take approximately 8 years and we would like to speed that up and are working towards that goal stated Mr. Holloman.

In response to an audience member's question asking if the TDA could contribute, Mayor Castiglione replied that the TDA is separate from the Town. The Town funds a portion of the Director's salary. The TDA is chartered by the State of North Carolina for tourism, and is funded by occupancy taxes. Mayor Castiglione added that the TDA control's its own budget.

In response to an audience member's question regarding Buckeye Lake, Mr. Heaton replied that we are still looking for ground water sources and are further studying the Lake but we still have issues of capacity.

Ms. Kelly Melang of 1032 Charter Hills inquired into the Watauga water source and our pipes and the aging infrastructure. Mr. Heaton

addressed those concerns of pumping the water from wells in addition to the Watauga Intake backup source. He explained the difference between ground water aquifers and having an Intake as a long term viable source. He added that the pipes are not in bad condition, it is the connections that are the problem. He noted that the reason the connections become such a problem is that we have to run such high pressures due to the mountain elevations. In order to pump the water up the elevation to a house, the residence has to put approximately 65 -70 lbs. of pressure in the lines but on the towns side; it is anywhere from 60 lbs. to 380 lbs. of pressure or psi (pounds per square inch). Mr. Heaton said the couplings blow up due to the pressures. He added that there are 2287 connections. He reviewed the various water and the capital projects currently being worked on and future projects such as the Charter Hills water improvement project.

In response to Ms. Melang's further inquiry regarding the feasibility of getting the Watauga water, Mr. Heaton said there are over 20 agencies involved in the project as well as the State. The State is in favor of Beech Mountain receiving the Watauga water, to which the Mayor added that we will meet with the Watauga commissioners in the springtime. In 2015 the request was put before the Watauga Commissioners and they did not approve the request. Mayor Castiglione further explained that we did not put it before the Commissioners this past year because it was an election year, in which case that was not a good time to present the request.

Mr. Joe Antonelle of 484 St. Andrews Road commended the actions and reactions in the short period of time which saved the diver's life. He added that the town quickly got water back up onto the mountain. Mr. Antonelle asked for a time frame for fixing the sluice valve and asked for clarity on the budget. Mr. Heaton replied that the sluice gate will stay as it still looks good but the valve and the new apparatus will need to be replaced and he was unsure of the cost. He believed it is not complicated for laying a new track with longer piers with grout it is all underwater. It is planned to be replaced next year as soon as engineers evaluate the video.

Mr. Heaton wanted to explain and clear up a rumor he had heard about the dive company which the Town had subcontracted to do the work in question. He said this dive company performs some of the best marine work around the world. Defiant Marine worked on rescues after Hurricane Sandy in the flooded subway system in New York City. They consist of former marines that have worked on oil rigs and capped the valve in the oil refinery accident. These professionals are good but had an accident. The company followed through till we got our water back and Mr. Heaton said he would hire them again.

In response to Councilman Abernethy's question regarding the video, Mr. Heaton reiterated the video was being reviewed by the engineers. Councilman Abernethy requested clarification on the events of the incident to which Mr. Daniel Davis, Public Works Superintendent said, employees were present with the divers in beginning of day, and later the water plant operator was on-site. Mr. Davis said he did not remain with the divers the whole day. He did a daily check and then left. Mr. Heaton said that is policy, when a

contractor lays pipe, we don't stay with them. Our employees do inspections then leave, contractors are in charge of their own safety.

There was further discussion of the notices given during the emergency water shortage to which Mr. Holloman stated, the Town's announcements and notifications ran on the website, were sent by email (to the sunshine list), businesses and rental agencies were contacted, the police code red calls went out, the general media were notified, (newspaper, radio, television and the postings on social media ran concurrently). Several audience members gave their input as to notifying the renters and tourists and to the water bottle which was distributed to citizens. Several citizens gave their input as to the handling of the events and suggested mandatory code red sign-up, fines and other compliance measures for water conservation. It was stated that the community responded by working together as well as the notification and passing out water. Mr. Holloman added that the Ski Resort pumps their own water from their own lake to make the snow on the slopes.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

6.1. Public Comment -

Mr. Frank Steele of 107 Christie Way read a statement for public record and stated he was not in favor of an unnecessary leash law restraining dogs. He believes it serves no purpose but creates conflicts and problems between dog owners and non-dog owners. Mr. Steele said the proposed ordinance would harm dogs and he requested data on the incidents of dogs harming citizens in the Town. He reiterated that Staff should produce the data on the historical incidents and share the information. He was strongly opposed to the leash ordinance.

Ms. Shelly Hull of 103 Wedling Weg Way read a letter drafted by herself, Ms. Harriet Chamberlain, and Ms. Jerri Layne addressing the policy for Town of Beech Mountain employee Christmas bonuses. Ms. Hull noted that the change on May 8, 2018 that an employee must be employed for at least a year, effected 7 employees and a sub-contractor who works to beautify the landscaping of the mountain. She announced that those who may be in favor of raising holiday donations for said employees who don't qualify for the Christmas bonus could reach her, or Harriet Chamberlain to address the issue.

Mr. Jimmie Accardi of 402 Beech Mountain Parkway thanked the road maintenance workers for clearing the mountain for safe passage during the storm and he announced that the Fire and Police Department fundraiser that they held at the Brick Oven called 'Friendsgiving' raised over \$2,000 for the Fire and Police Department.

Ms. Therese Barry of 100 Squirrel recounted that she worked the Holiday Market and checked in 486 people into the event. Ms. Barry further discussed the water crisis as well as that people are confused about how to dispose of their garbage because they are renters. She suggested how the

managers and rental industry can clarify how renters dispose of garbage.

Ms. Cindy Keller of 100 Village Creek Road said she agreed with Mr. Frank Steele and said she was not in favor of the proposed ordinance restraining dogs on leashes. Ms. Keller asked the audience how many people had problems with dogs and some 6 people raised their hands. She believes it is unfair to penalize the animals for a few bad dog behaviors. Ms. Keller is opposed to the leash law as it will pit neighbor against neighbor.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1. 2019 meeting calendar for Town Council, Boards and Committees
- 7.2. Budget Amendment- Water Plant
- 7.3. Closed Session meeting minutes and Regular meeting minutes for November 13, 2018
- 7.4. Tax Release and Refund

Motion

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1. Proclamation and Recognition presentation to Mr. Glenn Sweitzer, who donated his expertise and company resources for video content for the Parks and Recreation project at Shane Outpost Park and the Proclamation was read by Mayor Castiglione.
- 8.2. Recognition Rescue and Safety Certificates presented to Mr. Daniel Davis and Officer Wendy Bare by Fire Chief, Bob Pudney-

Chief Pudney recounted the November 20, 2018 incident at Buckeye Lake and gave a heartfelt thank you to all his team involved in the events as they unfolded. Chief Pudney arrived on-site to find the diver sucked into a pipe. Chief Pudney's tenure is over 45 years and he said he has been involved in dive rescue calls throughout his career and he can count on his one hand how many are successful. The mission of rescue unfortunately and too often becomes one of recovery but in this case this man was rescued alive. This operation and team went above and beyond and he shares this success and gave out Thank you Presentations last week with everyone involved from the Town's Volunteer Fire Department to the mutual aid given from the surrounding towns such as Carteret and Avery County as well as the expertise from the Linville Fire Department.

Chief Pudney wanted to formally recognize two town employees who should be singled out for their contributions, Mr. Daniel Davis and Dispatcher Wendy Bare. Chief Pudney noted how Daniel remained a constant throughout

the night and got the sump pump, for the hot water to the diver. Daniel was instrumental in securing the equipment such as the backhoe, the LP gas, and the turkey fryer. Daniel continued to provide what he could and when the rope was strung across the lake and connected to the backhoe being pulled, Daniel was one of the men helping to pull the rope. The 2nd rescue diver had at that time also gotten stuck and the two men are alive today due to Daniel's consistent efforts and actions.

Next Chief Pudney recounted all the efforts and help the Town's Telecommunicator and Dispatcher, Wendy Bare supported in the rescue effort. Officer Bare was on the other end of the radio in dispatch and Wendy provided every strange thing Chief Pudney could think of at the time. She sent any equipment he asked for as well as an inflatable boat, a Blackhawk helicopter, a hyperbaric chamber, she sent escorts and men from Tennessee, as well as a very large ski/bass boat, it all arrived at the dam at the lake. Plans that were never utilized were sent to the incident site by Wendy. He conclude that due to our team of 45 people who continued to work together that diver was rescued and is alive today due to this community and therefore, Chief Pudney presented Mr. Daniel Davis and Ms. Wendy Bare with the Town of Beech Mountain Fire Department Life Saving Certificate.

- 8.3. Boards and Committee Appointments postponed to January in order to allow more applicants to submit their applications with the deadline of December 31, 2018. Mayor Castiglione added that all members currently serving now on boards and committees will continue to serve.
- 8.4. Councilman Abernethy requested a partnership between the Town and Beech Mountain Resort and for Council to consider supporting a transportation plan.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to discuss financially supporting a bus shuttle with stops along the Parkway from the Pinnacle to Resort Parking Lot 3. seconded the motion. Failed for lack of second unanimously.

- 8.5. Councilman Abernethy requested to add an additional Public Comment section onto the agenda at the end of the meeting.

Councilman Marquardt said that he was in favor of the request because if the public needs to discuss or comment on an agenda item at the end of a meeting, Council can receive input from the citizens, to which there was general agreement from the Town Council. Mayor Castiglione added that it was not a back and forth conversation comment time and Council would not change their votes but wanted to hear citizens' thoughts and concerns. Once passed by Council the additional public comment section would begin immediately at this meeting and be added to the agenda.

Motion

Carl Marquardt made a motion to approve adding an additional Public Comment section at the end of the meeting for the public to give input regarding items on the agenda. Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion.

CARRIED. unanimously.

Motion

Barry Kaufman made a motion to open a discussion on the Animal Restraint topic Wendel Sauer seconded the motion. CARRIED unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1. Animal Restraint Ordinance-

Councilmen Marquardt and Abernethy stated that they were against such an ordinance. Vice mayor Kaufman noted he was in favor to which Mayor Castiglione stated that while most people walk their dogs on leashes on the mountain, she has seen dogs running loose. There are complaints from people that there are dogs roaming. The majority not doing this but a minority of people are causing the problem. She added that although it won't be popular, she is in favor of an animal restraint ordinance.

Councilman Sauer said a lot of people allow their dogs to wander loose. The current ordinance states voice command and dogs must be under an owner's control, but if no owner is around and the dogs are running, lost or roaming, that is not going to happen. The dog park is for allowing dogs to run. He discussed incidents of fighting dogs and roaming dogs and concluded that would be the reasons why he is in favor of a regulation.

Mayor Castiglione stated that she and her husband almost ran over a loose dog on Wild Daisy Trail, as a dog-lover that is not acceptable. There were questions and answers back-and-forth between the audience and Council. The Mayor noted that there are issues with the current ordinance and she reviewed an example where the Police cannot address an issue with a loose dog and citizens' complaints.

Attorney Eggers clarified the procedures for conducting a Public Hearing regarding the ordinance in question. He noted it is not a zoning ordinance and could either be voted on or Town Council could announce a Public Hearing.

Motion

Barry Kaufman made a motion to amend the request and to hold a public hearing on January 8, 2019. Wendel Sauer seconded the motion. CARRIED. 3-2 (opposed: Carl Marquardt and Weidner Abernethy).

10. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS- SUBMITTED

10.1. Fire Department Monthly Report

10.2. Fire Department Monthly Report- Police Department Agenda Report

- 10.3. November Recreation Report
- 10.4. Public Works Report
- 10.5. Utility Dept. Monthly Flow Reports
- 10.6. TDA Report
- 10.7. Planning and Inspections Report 2018-11
- 10.8. Mr. Holloman reviewed the upcoming schedule for Town Council and said on January 15 & 16, 2019, the Town Council retreat would be occurring and staff requested citizens to email in their comments and concerns regarding FY 2019-2020 and that input will be added to the agenda retreat. He reviewed that the Planning Board has been working on the Comprehensive Plan survey and the link is up on the website as well as posted in social media and newspaper and media publications and that link will be open till January 15, 2019. The survey encompasses a myriad of issues such as land development, tourism and growth etc.

Public Works has new hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He added that the Mayor had also sent out 'Thank you' letters for all those who helped the Town with the Buckeye Lake water incident. Mr. Holloman noted that this was the first live broadcast of the Town Council meeting on our YouTube channel and meeting are available for viewing in the archive just follow the links on our civic engagement portal on the website at townofbeechmountain.com.

11. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 11.1. Councilman Marquardt said he was disappointed in some people's lack of understanding regarding the water situation at Buckeye Lake. He noted that there are Federal and State agencies involved with our Public Works Department and the Town must adhere to all regulations for compliance. We are governed by their expertise and knowledge and the reactions and cooperation by Staff were commendable. Councilman Marquardt thanked all the staff workers and volunteers and he added shame on those who leaped to a conclusion of incompetence. The employees were professional and the response to the situation was lifesaving.

He added that his vote will be a hard no on the dog leash ordinance. He also said that most of the funding for the holiday ornament came from occupancy tax dollars and the other portion, \$11,000 came out of an existing holiday budget. We own it and from what the Town has previously spent on holiday decorations; with this ornament, we will present the mountain with a certain aesthetic appeal, stated Councilman Marquardt.

Vice mayor Kaufman said the public are always invited to attend all committees wherein they can give input and add their opinions and comments, such as the TDA and expenditures. He said he has seen more people enjoying the ornament and taking pictures which has tourist value and this is an investment. He thanked the employees who helped during the water incident and particularly wanted to commend Fire Chief Bob Putney, who gives

the credit to others but was instrumental in saving the divers' lives.

Councilman Abernethy noted that although he has requested the two agenda items be added, both the additional public comments section and the transportation issue and although the transportation issue was not discussed, he feels that the Town can still work with Beech Mountain Ski Resort towards a transportation plan. He noted that folks come to the mountain to ski with the additional 70% of taxes from tourism, and other ski resort activities; the transportation plan can be funded as a line item. He did not believe the ornament was a good investment but since we own it, we must maintain it.

Councilman Abernethy added that the recycle center should have larger containers but it does look better since adding the additional employee. He also thanked Chief Pudney for his leadership and said we are fortunate to have Chief Pudney. The Director of Infrastructure, Robert Heaton has maintained the salting of roads and over the snow storm, people have commented to Mr. Abernethy that they are happy about the good condition of the roads.

11.2. Additional Public Comments: (note -general comments were made as a conversation)

A citizen announced that the new shoot works great at Convenience Center but the door is difficult to open and Public Works employee, Mr. Charlie Frisbee should be recognized and is an asset to our mountain.

There was discussion about the public transportation idea and questions were answered as to the procedure for moving an item forward on the agenda. There was a lengthy discussion of the Tourism Development Authority's role as a partnership with the Town's businesses, budgeting and transportation planning. Staffing of a transportation shuttle was discussed. The Landing Zone at Buckeye was discussed and a strategy to further the LZ installation was discussed since no one bid on the project.

There was further input from the citizens regarding the animal restraint ordinance and Mayor Castiglione noted that Council can also consider strengthening the current ordinance.

12. ADJOURNMENT

12.1. Adjournment

Motion

Carl Marquardt made a motion to adjourn, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain