

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
July 9, 1996

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred Pfohl called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:00 PM. Other Council Members present were Shiela Fletcher, Reub Mooradian, Rick Owen and Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Town Attorney David Paletta, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Public Works Director Joe Perry, and Police Chief Jay Hefner. Present in the audience were a number of interested parties. Present in the audience were Ed Lotz, Bill Sposato, Kakii Handley and Cy Robbins.

1. *Adoption of Agenda.*

Mayor Pfohl indicated that item "b" under Old Business could be deleted, as an agreement had been reached with Mr. and Mrs. Klein. Shiela Fletcher moved the agenda be approved as amended. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. *Approval of Minutes, June 11, 1996.*

Ed Waligroski moved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 1996 be approved as submitted. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. *Committee Reports.*

Shiela Fletcher indicated she had summaries of happenings at Town Hall Day and lists of Legislators for whomever was interested.

4. *Old Business.*

- a. *Consider Adoption of Chapter 44 of Code of Ordinances, Terms of Office of Governing Body.* Mayor Pfohl referred to the proposed ordinance, indicating that the required public hearing had been held on June 11, 1996. He pointed out Frank Caputo's alternate proposal for staggered terms was included in the agenda packet, and thanked Mr. Caputo for his interest. Reub Mooradian moved Council adopt Chapter 44 of the Code of Ordinances as originally submitted. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. *New Business.*

- a. *Consider Amendment to Water and Sewer Use Ordinance, Minimum Usage.* Seth Lawless noted that when the budget was prepared the proposal was to increase revenue in the Water and Sewer Fund by lowering the minimum from 3,000 to 2,000 gallons, and keeping everything else the same. After the staff consulted with the computer specialists it appeared that the program was set up that sewer has to be charged the same as water. The easiest way to produce nearly the same results is to drop the minimum for both water and sewer, and have the first additional 1,000 gallons be at a cost of \$1.89 for both water and sewer. The difference between this rate and the originally-proposed rate would be some \$2,000 less annually. Mayor Pfohl asked how many people would be affected by this drop in the minimum, and Mr. Lawless replied it would vary from month to month, but it is estimated about 600 households per month will pay an additional

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\$3.78 per month. Shiela Fletcher moved the rate schedule for water and sewer be amended as proposed. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- b. ***Consider Offer to Purchase BHW-154, HH-264 and BHW-205.*** Mr. Lawless indicated that Mr. Doug Matthews had offered to purchase the three lots for \$1,500 and the Town has some \$1,938 invested in the group. After general discussion, Shiela Fletcher moved the offer be refused. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Reub Mooradian suggested the Town Manager check with some real estate agents about the possible value of HH-264 on the open market.
- c. ***Consider Agreement and Resolution of Intent with Beech Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.*** Mr. Lawless told Council that the proposed agreement was similar to that between the Town and the Department for a number of years, guaranteeing a contribution to the Fire Department of monies equal to the annual loan payments on the fire vehicles. Over the years the amount needed had been reduced, and the proposed agreement was more in line with today's figures. Ed Waligroski moved the agreement be approved. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- d. ***Consider Hydrant Maintenance Agreement with Beech Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.*** Mr. Lawless said the proposed maintenance agreement was identical with those which have been adopted twice in the past. It calls for regular maintenance of the Town's 300+ hydrants, for which the Town will pay the Department \$7.50 per hydrant. Ed Waligroski suggested this work be done by the Public Works Department. Joe Perry said that being asked to do the hydrant work would overload his Department, at least for this year. Mayor Pfohl expressed concern about who the Fire Department would find to do the work, as those who have done so in the past are now too busy to do it. Ed Lotz suggested that if the Public Works Department had any free time it be spent in looking for leaks in the water system. Kakii Handley suggested the new employees who will be hired for sanitation work be cross trained to do the hydrant work, and Reub Mooradian pointed out the work has to be accurate, required documentation and can't be given to "just anyone." Reub Mooradian moved the maintenance agreement be approved as submitted. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. ***Staff/Consultant Reports.***

- a. ***Town Engineer's Report.*** Mr. Powell reported that bids on the water tank painting will be opened the following Tuesday. They should be presented to the Council for selection at the August meeting. Mrs. Handley had been asked to select the color for the tanks, and had selected "Hampden Green" from Inemec. Seth Lawless asked if, should the bids be favorable, the painting of a third tank could be included, and Mr. Powell said this could be done in the form of a change order.

Mr. Powell said the paving of Skiloft Road is complete with the exception of a small punch list, and that the first layer of asphalt should be applied to Pinnacle Ridge Road by Thursday or Friday, barring rain.

Mr. Powell anticipates the Town will have a permit and a loan offer for expansion of the Grassy Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant in hand within thirty days and will then be able to advertise for bids. Some changes in the plans had been necessary due to going in the State loan direction as

opposed to other financing, but this has all been accomplished.

Reub Mooradian expressed concern about water runoff on the paved roads, and asked if paving did not increase the velocity of water running off the roadways. Mr. Powell admitted that it did, but that the road construction took that into consideration with ditching and larger culverts, inclusion of rip rap to absorb some of the energy of the runoff, and trying to direct the runoff to waterways where it has been going. He noted that there had been three 100-year storms within less than two years, so the recent erosion activity was not normal.

- b. **Public Works Director's Report.** Joe Perry had no report.
- c. **Town Attorney's Report.** David Paletta had no report. Mayor Pfohl asked about Watauga County's practice of listing the previous owner as the owner of record on properties even after recordation of a deed, and Mr. Paletta noted this was a statutory requirement.
- d. **Chief of Police's Report.** Chief Hefner had no report.
- e. **Town Manager's Report.** Mr. Lawless announced that the electric substation is not yet up and running, but it has been moved up in the priority list, since the winter is approaching. It is anticipated that it will be in operation in August.

Mr. Lawless said the Town had put in a preliminary application for a community development block grant, which would cover the gap between the actual expenses incurred due to Hurricane Opal and the reimbursement received from REMA. Included are some drainage problems individuals have suffered due to the flooding.

Mr. Lawless announced that Tony Barlage of Booth Communications has promised that WXII, the NCB station from Winston-Salem by January 1st, if not before. At that time Beech Mountain will receive all stations presently available in the Boone area, will get its character generator back so as to be able to use BeechVision again, and will have Beech Mountain's temperature and wind information on the weather channel "crawl" instead of Boone's. The satellite dishes set to be removed will have to remain on Beech Mountain until the end of 1997.

The offer to purchase CR-155 which the Council had approved at \$1,000, has gone through the upset bid process, and the ultimate purchase price is \$6,050.00. Mr. Lawless requested approval for a grouted or sand-blasted sign to be erected at Lake Coffey. He asked if all would be present for the August meeting for a group picture. Mr. Mooradian said he would not be present, so the group Council picture will be set for the September meeting.

Kakii Handley said she was concerned about the water meters only being read every three months, noting that any leak could go on for a long time before being discovered. Mayor Pfohl pointed out that every dwelling was supposed to have a owners' cutoff valve which was to be used any time the home was to be unoccupied for more than three days between October 1 and April 30. Consumers have been notified of this repeatedly, but it is obvious that some ignore the ordinance. Seth Lawless pointed out that the property owner could have the water turned off at the Town's meter if they desired. Mrs. Handley still felt that if the meters were being read monthly leaks could be more easily discovered. It was pointed out that this problem occurred last winter, when the meters could not be read due to snow depth, so the result was the same. Reub Mooradian

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asked when the quarterly reading began and Mr. Lawless said it began in January. This was something that the Public Works Department was trying for one year, mainly due to the extreme workload. Mayor Pfohl suggested that a letter be sent with all the water bills next month to remind all customers about the need for a cutoff valve and its required use.

- f. ***Financial Report, Tax Report and Building Inspections Report.*** Mr. Lawless announced that the final tax collection rate for the previous fiscal year was 98.7%, up from the previous year, and Mayor Pfohl commended Miss Norwood for her efforts. He noted that building permits for the previous fiscal year were up to 33 from 28 last year at the same time. The additional five permits equalled \$1,074,079 in additional values.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Ed Waligroski moved the meeting be adjourned. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

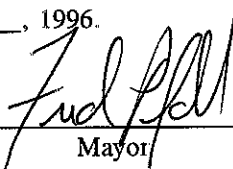
Respectfully submitted,



Barbara L. Mooradian
Town Clerk

BLM/hs

Minutes approved by Town Council on August 13, 1996.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk