

MINUTES  
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL  
March 11, 1997

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, Public Works Director Joe Perry, Police Chief Jay Hefner, and Town Engineer Ed Powell. There were a number of interested persons in the audience.

*Invocation.* The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Hayst Harrold.

*Pledge of Allegiance.* Ed Waligroski led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*Public Hearing, Urgent Needs Community Development Block Grant.* Pursuant to due notice published in the February 27, 1997 edition of The Avery Journal and the March 3, 1997 edition of The Watauga Democrat, Mayor Pfohl called a public hearing on an Urgent Needs Community Block Grant to order at 6:02 PM. Seth Lawless explained that a block grant is available for damages suffered during the flooding of October 1995. The Town has identified four sites, and there are others which the staff has put together from other property owners. Ed Waligroski asked if the Council would receive notice of the various sites, and Mr. Lawless said this would be an item on the agenda at the planning retreat. There were no questions or comments from the audience. Shiela Fletcher moved the public hearing be closed. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:06 PM.

1. *Approval of Agenda.*

Mr. Lawless indicated there was a budget amendment which was included in the agenda packet, but which had been omitted from the agenda. Consideration of this budget amendment was placed as item "e" under New Business. Ed Waligroski moved the agenda be approved as amended. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. *Approval of Minutes.*

Rick Owen moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved as submitted. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. *Committee Reports.*

Kakii Handley reported that the Watauga County Recreation Committee is signing up men's softball, girls' low pitch, little league, swimming lessons, ballroom dancing, aerobics, etc. Interested parties would sign up in Boone.

4. *Old Business:*

- a. *Consider Resolution 97-03-01 to Accept State Revolving Loan.* Seth Lawless explained that the Council had, several months ago, passed a similar resolution with the loan amount was \$250,000. Since then the loan offer has been increased to \$400,000 a new resolution needed to be passed.

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Reub Mooradian moved the resolution be passed as presented. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- b. ***Consider Offers to Purchase Lots.*** Mr. Lawless noted that the Town had received an offer of \$600.00 for lot CR-155, on which the Council had delayed consideration until this meeting. In the meantime, an offer on three lots, one of which is CR-155, has been received from another party totalling \$2,400.00. The Town's total investment in the three lots is \$1,268.00. Reub Mooradian moved the Town accept the offer of \$2,400.00 for CR-155, HH-264 and RW-296, subject to the proposed sale being advertised for the statutory period with no upset bids. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. ***New Business:***

- a. ***Consider Resolution 97-03-02 to Request Funds from Urgent Needs Community Block Grant.*** Mr. Lawless explained that Region D will submit the Town's application for us, and that we have already been preapproved for the monies. Region D did nine applications and administered nine cases last year alone, so they seem to be the best entity to help the Town with this project. There was some concern that the proposed resolution mentioned two specific entities for funds, while there were others unmentioned. After general discussion it was decided to place this on the agenda for the retreat, before which the staff will find out if the resolution needs to be quite specific in mentioning every area where money is needed.
- b. ***Consider Transfer of Ownership of Cable System from Booth Communications to Hellicon.*** Mr. Lawless said the Council may wish to delay consideration of this subject, since an attorney has been engaged to look at financial statements of Hellicon for the Town of Boone. The sale cannot be consummated until all franchising agencies are in agreement, and Boone is delaying their decision until they hear from the attorney regarding Hellicon's health and capacities. Boone has indicated it will share the results of the attorney's research with the Town of Beech Mountain. Reub Mooradian moved the matter be held in abeyance until the April meeting. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- c. ***Consider Appointments to Unmet Needs Committee.*** Mayor Pfohl indicated three individuals had agreed to serve on the committee which will oversee the community block grant if received: Paul Piquet, Tom Fehl and Sherry Garris. Ed Waligroski volunteered to serve on the committee, as well. Shiela Fletcher moved Council appoint those four individuals. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- d. ***Call for Special Meeting, March 21, 9:00 AM, Glendale Springs Inn.*** Shiela Fletcher moved the Council call for a special meeting to hold a planning retreat at 9:00 AM on March 21, 1997 at the Glendale Springs Inn. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Pfohl said he would be at the Town Hall at 7:45 that day for anyone who wished to ride with him.
- e. ***Budget Amendment.*** Mr. Lawless reminded Council they had accepted a preliminary budget for the citizen survey which has been completed. The final figure on cost of the survey, including printing, postage and compilation of results by NCSU Center for Urban Affairs is \$6,780.00 which would be appropriated out of the Occupancy Tax reserve. Reub Mooradian moved the budget amendment be approved. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. *Staff/Consultant Reports.*

- a. *Town Engineer's Report.* Ed Powell reported that the preconstruction conference had been held with the contractor on the Grassy Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project. The project will commence upon delivery of the equipment, probably within 30 days. The field work on the Christie Way paving had been scheduled for April to allow for bad weather, but will be pushed forward and Mr. Powell anticipated having plans ready by the next Council meeting. He anticipates construction to be done in June.
- b. *Public Works Director's Report.* Mr. Perry had no report. Ed Waligroski mentioned a number of culverts have become clogged with silt and leaves, and Mr. Perry indicated the work was scheduled. Mr. Lawless asked Mr. Perry to give Council an update on fire hydrants. Mr. Perry said his staff had repaired 29, have ten 6" and 14 2" hydrants to repair. He said he felt all ten 6" hydrants can be repaired within the next month to month and a half. The 2" hydrants are quite old, and he felt a decision should be made whether they should be replaced with other 2" hydrants or wait until the roads are redone and the waterlines are upgraded to 6" pipe. Reub Mooradian said that, even though not much water can be gotten from the 2" hydrants, density might dictate replacement of some of those hydrants while awaiting upgrade to 6" lines. Joe Perry suggested he get together with the Fire Chief to see which ones he feels are critical. Mr. Mooradian asked how many new hydrants are awaiting installation, and Mr. Perry said when they are ordered there will be eight. Mr. Mooradian asked when Mr. Perry anticipated getting the new hydrants, and Mr. Perry replied "right away."
- c. *Town Attorney's Report.* Mr. Paletta reported on the recent tax foreclosure sale, at which all lots were bought by private parties.
- d. *Chief of Police's Report.* While Chief Hefner had no formal report, he did announce that one of the Town's dispatchers, Patti Pacifico, has announced her engagement and upcoming nuptials on September 6th.
- e. *Town Manager's Report.* Mr. Lawless reported that he had attended the Banner Elk Planning Board's meeting the previous evening at which the proposed annexation agreement between the Town of Banner Elk and the Town of Beech Mountain had been tabled indefinitely.

The League of Municipalities will hold regional meetings soon. The closest will be in Blowing Rock April 23, 1997 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Lawless intends to attend, and would like to know which Council members wish to do so prior to April 18th.

- f. *Financial Report and Building Inspections Report.* Both reports were received without comment.

7. *Other Business.*

Mayor Pfohl announced Mountain Cleanup Day has been set for April 19th and urged all possible help. He also noted that Barry Fehl is doing 75 hours of public service as part of his Watauga High School work, so if anyone sees him doing cleanup work they should thank him for selecting Beech Mountain as his project.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Reub Mooradian moved the meeting be adjourned Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM

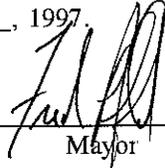
Respectfully submitted,



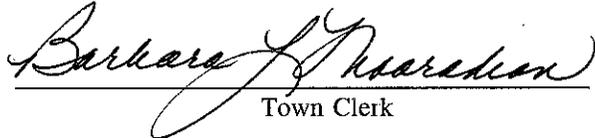
Barbara L. Mooradian  
Town Clerk

BLM/hs

Minutes approved by Town Council on April 8, 1997.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Town Clerk

MINUTES  
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL  
Special Meeting, March 21, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred Pfohl called a special meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 9:10 AM on Friday, March 21, 1997 at the Glendale Springs Inn. Other Council Members present were Shiela Fletcher, Reub Mooradian, Rick Owen and Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Public Works Director Joe Perry and Town Clerk Barbara Mooradian.

I *Introduction — Mayor Pfohl.*

Mayor Pfohl thanked all present for attending, and made a few introductory remarks.

II. *Tour DuPont Reserve Funds.*

Mr. Lawless pointed out that there is a reserve of just under \$19,000 in the Tour DuPont Fund. If no action is taken by Council then the monies will pass into the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. Shiela Fletcher suggested some of the monies should be spent for a plaque or monument indicating Beech Mountain's participation in the race for four years. Mayor Pfohl suggested keeping the bulk of the funds in reserve to cover the possibility of a replacement race in the future; or to use the funds, or a portion of them, for Tour DuPont scholarships for a Beech Mountain student going to college. Reub Mooradian said he felt the funds should be kept in reserve for at least a couple of years. Mayor Pfohl asked if there was any way interest which the monies earn could be added to the base amount, and Mr. Lawless said it could be set up that way. He said that Mayor Pfohl had suggested each person who donated to the event be written a letter indicating what the excess funds are being used for. Shiela Fletcher and Seth Lawless are to get prices for a commemorative plaque.

III. *Ground Rules for Channel 2 Local Access.*

Mayor Pfohl praised Mr. Lawless for the fine job he has done on the Channel 2 local access channel, noting he had received a lot of positive comments. Mr. Lawless said he would welcome some ground rules for use of the channel, for example should the Town advertise events outside of Beech Mountain, what Club activities should be advertised, what about church services, etc. Reub Mooradian said he felt that events all over the area should be advertised. It was suggested that a simple list of area churches and their phone numbers would suffice for the religious services aspect. It was the consensus of the Council that announcement of Club events would be a service to the community. Mr. Lawless said that before long the Town would have the capability of showing videos on the channel. He asked how the Council felt about establishing a \$200 to \$300 line item for procuring material for the channel, and the idea was received positively.

IV. *Review of Plans for Chamber of Commerce Building.*

After a good deal of discussion on the subject, it was decided that, before Council takes any action, (1) the Chamber of Commerce should vote on whether or not they desire the building; (2) the EDC should be approached for funding and should formulate a request to bring before the Council incorporating all aspects of the project (funding for construction, ownership of the building, payment of availability fee, water/sewer payments, etc.)

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V *Review and Prioritization of Public Works Projects.*

Mr. Perry went over a list of projects which he has laid out for the Public Works Department, and received guidance as to which projects the Council felt were most important. The question of running a water line to the Southcrest Condominiums engendered a good deal of comment, and the consensus of the Council was that this project would not be undertaken unless Southcrest agreed to tap onto Town water. Reub Mooradian suggested that costs for the parking garage include some sort of facade on the metal building to make it look better. Council pushed for more mowing of secondary roads in the summer. It was generally decided to work very hard on aesthetic projects before the summer residents return. Mayor Pfohl asked if the Resort could be contacted to see if the Town can haul away material from Santis Lake.

VI. *Personnel Policy Issues.*

- A. *Sick Leave.* Ed Waligroski put forth a suggestion that the Town pay employees at the end of each year for sick leave not used, but after general discussion it was agreed that a major illness could use a great deal of leave and it would be a shame for an employee not to have it all available.
- B. *Employee Evaluations.* Mr. Waligroski suggested employee evaluations be done after a particularly busy time. After further discussion, the idea of a second, mid-year, evaluation, not connected with merit pay, would be beneficial.

VII *Aesthetic Issues.*

- A. *Garbage Container Policy.* Reub Mooradian said he felt one of the ugliest aspects of the Town was the garbage container situation, and suggested the Solid Waste Ordinance be changed to require underground containers, giving those with above-ground containers three years or so to amortize their investment in the containers. It was suggested this be turned over to the Planning Board for possible action.
- B. *Mountain Electric Site.* Mr. Mooradian said he was very disappointed that despite all the promises Mountain Electric and TVA had made, the substation site was horrible looking. Mayor Pfohl suggested they be written a letter inviting them to the mountain, so deficiencies can be pointed out, since they had promised they would landscape to our satisfaction.
- C. *Fire Department/Maintenance Area.* Mr. Mooradian complained that the tree cutting accomplished for installation of the electric line opened up the Resort maintenance building and Fire Department to view, adding to the general unsightliness of the area. Mayor Pfohl suggested the Resort be contacted to take part in the joint Town/Fire Department/Ski Resort project to plant some fir trees along the edge of the parking lot which would help screen the buildings.
- D. *Public Works Area.* Mr. Mooradian expressed his concern that the Public Works area, as well as the recycling center, are unsightly. He urged the trees which have died be replaced. Mayor Pfohl suggested perhaps it will be necessary to construct a solid fence between the trees and the chain link fence. Mr. Mooradian urged that the new chain link fence to be constructed around the new parking area be vinyl coated to make it less obtrusive.

- E. **Sign Straightening.** Mr. Mooradian noted that there are a number of signs which are tilted, and urged the Public Works personnel be encouraged to notice these things as they drive around the Town. Mayor Pfohl suggested perhaps holding a "sign blitzing day," during which employees would fan out and fix all the tilted signs in one day. Mr. Mooradian summed up by noting that impressions, however small, are very important to a resort community. Appearance is very important in creating the image that we seek.
- F. **Shoulder Maintenance.** Ed Waligroski noted that he was going to bring up the maintenance of road shoulders, but that item had been covered by Mr. Perry in his report of summer plans.
- G. **Plantings at Intersections.** The same held true of this agenda item.
- H. **Snowflakes.** Mr. Waligroski noted that the snowflakes had been a disappointment, with different intensities of bulbs in some, and non-functioning bulbs in many. Mr. Lawless said he thought Mr. Rickard had figured out the problem, and was going to take care of having them repaired.

VIII **Existing Recreation Facilities.**

- A. **Park Maintenance.** Mr. Lawless said he had asked Mr. Perry to think of some way that each of the parks and recreation facilities of the Town can be checked every day, so that repairs/cleanups can be performed in a timely manner. Mayor Pfohl said he had gotten a request from Bud Delano to be a "monitor" for Lake Coffey and Buckeye Lake, and perhaps this could be expanded to other volunteers for other areas.
- B. **Trail Maintenance/Expansion.** Mr. Lawless noted that the Mountain Biking Club is very interested in maintaining old trails and creating new ones for both hiking and biking. He said they feel very strongly about developing these natural areas and actively promoting their existence.

IX **Review and Discussion of Property Owners Survey.**

Mrs. Mooradian briefly went over the abridged results of the property owners survey with the Council. The survey committee will meet, after which all information will be turned over to the large Long Range Planning Committee for them to suggest future plans.

X. **CDBG Stormwater Drainage Project and Resolution.**

Council decided that the four storm drainage improvements outlined by Davis-Martin-Powell should be accomplished with CDBG funds in the following order: Beech Mountain Parkway east of Pine Ridge Road, Overbrook Trail/Spring Branch Road northeast of Charter Hills Road, Grassy Gap Loop Road west of Lake Road, and Beech Mountain Parkway at entrance to Skiloft Road. This would leave about \$50,000 for private needs, to be administered by the Unmet Needs Committee. Reub Mooradian moved Resolution 97-03-02 Authorizing a Community Development Block Grant Application be passed as submitted. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. **Water Basin Grant Project.**

Mr. Lawless reported on the availability of stream restoration grant funds through a matching grant from the Water Resources Project Grant Program, which would assist the Town in completing projects between

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Grassy Gap Loop and Chestnut Way, and Waterfall Condominium area. The grant would total \$30,000, and require the Town match the grant with \$15,000, most of which would be in in-kind services. Ed Waligroski moved the Town proceed with asking for the grant. Rick Owen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

XII *Public Works Vehicle Shed.*

This topic had been previously addressed, and Mayor Pfohl simply asked Mr. Perry to work towards policing up and neatening up the Public Works area.

XIII *Enforcement of Leash Law.*

Shiela Fletcher said she felt something needs to be done to enforce our animal control regulations, as there is a real dog problem in her neighborhood. Perhaps an informal meeting with the Police Department to discuss enforcement and problems would be in order.

XIV *Review Town Budget and Accounts.*

Council went over a memorandum from the Finance Officer projecting the financial status of the various funds and reserves of the Town at June 30, 1997.

XV *Long Range Goals.*

Council went over the Long Range Goals lists from the previous two planning retreats, and decided it would be best to continue to work toward completing all of those, rather than adding additional goals. With regard to the cemetery, Mr. Lawless was asked to contact Charlie Steineger and Kakii Handley and ask them to draw up a plan. With regard to guard rails, Mr. Mooradian requested that future guard rails be wood, even though the support posts may be steel.

XVI *Other Business.*

Mr. Lawless asked if Council approved having another seafood cookout this fall, and was told it did. A date for the cookout will be requested early so it can be mentioned in the MountainEar and perhaps get a better turnout.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



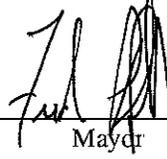
Barbara L. Mooradian  
Town Clerk

BLM/hs

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March 21, 1997

Minutes approved by Town Council on April 8, 1997.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Town Clerk