

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
July 8, 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 Reub Mooradian, Rick Owen and Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Town Attorney David Paletta, Public Works Director Joe Perry, Sergeant Dana Crawford, and Town Engineer Ed Powell. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

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

Pledge of Allegiance. Those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

1. **Adoption of Agenda.**

Seth Lawless indicated that Dr. Anlyan would not be present to address the Council, and that consideration of bids on a new sand truck should be deleted, as it was necessary to readvertise for bids. He requested that consideration of Change Order #2 on the Grassy Gap project be added as item "e" under New Business, and indicated that Roger Bullock wished to address the Council under Other Business on the subject of our bear population. Reub Mooradian moved the agenda be approved as amended. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda.**

Reub Mooradian moved the consent agenda be approved. Rick Owen seconded the motion and the following items were unanimously approved:

- a. Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 5, 1997.
- b. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 1997.
- c. Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 24, 1997.

3. **Committee Reports.**

Kakii Handley reported that Watauga County Recreation had a very successful baseball season with very few problems, as well as a big turnout for soccer.

Mayor Pfohl reported that he, Reub Mooradian, Kakii Handley and Roger Bullock had attended a workshop in Asheville that day at which they had learned a lot about preserving the integrity of small towns. Roger Bullock added that the group hoped to put what they had learned into practice in the future.

4. **New Business:**

- a. **Consider Resolution 97-07-01.** Mayor Pfohl said he had requested Mr. Lawless prepare a resolution directing that future fines the Town receives from tree cutting violations be deposited into a fund for beautification projects. Mr. Lawless read the resolution, after which Reub Mooradian moved adoption. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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- b. **Consider Budget Amendment.** Mr. Lawless explained this amendment was required to set up the reserve for beautification established by the foregoing resolution, and deposit fines received after July 1, 1997 into the account. Rick Owen moved the amendment be approved. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- d. **Consider Change Order #1, Grassy Gap Project.** Ed Powell said the change order related to an alternate bid awarded in the original specifications. The Town has found a building at the site to be dilapidated and had received an alternate bid of \$2,500 to demolish and dispose of that chlorination and filtration building. Reub Mooradian asked Mr. Powell to delineate the areas which will be served by the enlarged sewage treatment plant. Mr. Powell replied that it will serve every part of the Town to the west of Pine Ridge Road (The Cliffs, Pinnacle Ridge, Laurel Gap, Ridgeview Woods, etc.) and once the Bear Branch outfall line is complete, all the roads to the west of Pinnacle Ridge Road will have access to sewer, all the way to the headwaters of Buckeye Lake. Reub Mooradian moved the change order be approved. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- e. **Consider Change Order #2, Grassy Gap Project.** Mr. Powell explained that the staff had originally anticipated the effluent would utilize part of the line from the existing plant to Grassy Gap Creek. It has been discovered, however, that the line has deteriorated and is unusable and in need of replacement. The estimate for replacement is \$800, which is reasonable and necessary. Reub Mooradian moved change order #2 be approved. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. **Staff/Consultant Reports:**

- a. **Town Engineer's Report.** Ed Powell reported that the Special Order by Consent requires the Grassy Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant to be operational in October. The contractor feels he will be in a position to place the plant in operation by mid-August.

The other project in the works is the paving of Christie Way. The contractor should be working on this within the next two to three weeks and anticipates paving will be complete in 45 to 60 days.

- b. **Public Works Director's Report.** Joe Perry had no report. Reub Mooradian asked if the Town is charged a fee for white goods it takes to the landfill for property owners, and Mr. Perry replied it is not.

- c. **Town Attorney's Report.** David Paletta reported that a meeting has been scheduled with DEHNR for July 25th in his office regarding the fines imposed on the Town.

- d. **Chief of Police's Report.** Sergeant Dana Crawford was present to answer any Police questions, but had no formal report. Reub Mooradian asked if there had been any breakins the previous month, and Sergeant Crawford said there had been none in June. He indicated there were a rash of larcenies at construction sites throughout Watauga County, and urged everyone to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activities to the Police Department.

- e. **Town Manager's Report.** Mr. Lawless reported the efficiency study is underway and he should have something for the Council at the August meeting. He said, regarding the feasibility study

on a public/private golf course, that he has been gathering information and documents from other towns and is putting together a list of people to whom to send requests for proposals. A higher priority is the proposed indoor multi-purpose recreation building. An ad hoc committee, consisting of Jim Rickard (Chamber of Commerce), Fred Diehl (Beech Mountain Club), Calder Smoot (Economic Development Committee) and Mr. Lawless had picked out some similar complexes in the area and have visited or are planning to visit them. They are finding out how they were planned for, how they gauged community needs, what they cost to construct and operate. They have visited Abingdon, are going to Elkin and then to Asheville. Roger Bullock, Chairman of the ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee, was asked to provide elucidation on these projects.

Mr. Bullock noted that all property owners had received a survey asking for input on interest in present facilities and need for future facilities. A 34% response was received, which is considered quite good, considering the number of property owners of vacant lots who were surveyed. The ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee consists of the Town Council, Planning Board, representatives of Ski Beech and the Beech Mountain Club, and the Economic Development Committee. The committee is looking at the need for recreational and conference facilities five to ten years in the future. For the next five years, the Town will concentrate on enhancing the recreational facilities already in place, such as hiking trails.

It is anticipated that five to ten years from the present Club facilities will be saturated. The survey results prompted the committee to recommend unanimously to the Town Council that they explore a feasibility study for another golf course. It is probable that any such construction would involve some tax increases, but the facts of the matter indicate there will be tax increases if nothing is done, as well. If the tourists, upon whom the Town's economic health is dependent, stop visiting because there are no recreational facilities available to them, then the taxpayers will be forced to "take up the slack" in the form of increased taxes.

The second item unanimously recommended was to proceed with the planning for a multi-purpose recreation and meeting facility. The Town is investigating the inclusion of all recreational amenities receiving approval in the survey, including tennis, pool, fitness center and children's facilities. He noted the results of the survey are on file in the office of the Town Clerk and everyone is welcome to peruse it.

Mr. Lawless reported that Region D is hosting a state-wide meeting August 7th and 8th at Beech Mountain, and will be using the Council Chamber. They have asked that Mayor Pfohl give welcoming remarks before the August 8th meeting.

- f. ***Financial Report, Tax Report and Building Inspections Report.*** The reports were received without comment. Mr. Lawless pointed out the final tax collection rate for FY 96/97 was 98.31%, a very good rate.

7. ***Other Business.***

Mayor Pfohl indicated Roger Bullock wished to speak about the bear problem, and that the Town intends to create a poster and brochure/handout, and has already placed a notice about bears on BeechVision (Channel 2).

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Mr. Bullock noted that a number of people have expressed their concerns this year about the continuing bear problem. In addition to what the Town is preparing to do, he suggested another article in the MountainEar to familiarize everyone with bear etiquette and problems. He urged that the pamphlet prepared by the Town incorporate material published recently by the Mountain Times. He said the telephone number of the Boone office of the Wildlife Resources Commission should figure prominently in both the brochure and the posters, and urged everyone with a bear problem not only call the Police Department, but that Boone office. He said he felt they would perhaps pay more attention to our requests that they address the problem if they were deluged with calls. The Town has talked with them on numerous occasions without success.

Bill Gawler voiced his approval, and noted that his wife had hit a bear that morning which had darted out in front of her car in broad daylight. While nobody wants to injure or kill a bear, the danger to humans should be paramount.

Mr. Bullock pointed out that often a certain number of people need to be killed at an intersection before a stop sign is put up. The Townspeople need to try and solve the problem of the bears before someone is mauled or killed. The problem is only going to get worse, as Tennessee has plans to move problem bears to an area very close to Beech Mountain.

Mayor Pfohl urged everyone to do prudent things such as not putting out garbage until the day of pickup, taking in their bird feeders at night, and most important of all, not to feed the bears. The feeding of bears simply encourages them to seek food from decks or homes, and indicates to the bears that humans are the source of food. This will, undoubtedly, lead to more and more confrontations between the animals and humans.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara L. Meeradian
Town Clerk

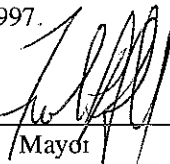
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Minutes approved by Town Council on August 12, 1997.

ATTEST:



Town Clerk



Mayor

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting, July 23, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

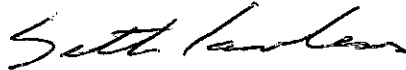
Pursuant to due notice having been given by Facsimile to The Watauga Democrat, The Avery Journal and The Mountain Times on July 21, 1997, Mayor Pfohl called a Special Meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, July 23, 1997 in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Shiela Fletcher, Reub Mooradian, Rick Owen and Ed Waligroski. Town Manager Seth Lawless and Public Works Director Joe Perry were also in attendance

Mr. Lawless distributed copies of the Bid Opening Minutes and noted that Goodpasture Motors was the low bidder. However, they had not included a bid bond or deposit. Since the specifications prepared by the Town had required a bid bond or deposit, their bid could not be considered. Reub Mooradian questioned Mr. Perry about the alternate bid for the next lowest bidder, Scruggs Equipment. Mr. Perry explained the difference between the primary and alternate bids. Upon a motion by Reub Mooradian, seconded by Shiela Fletcher, the Council awarded the contract for the 1997 sand truck to Scruggs Equipment Company in the amount of \$53,569 and also asked Mr. Perry to include the Jake brake as an additional \$612.00,

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Reub Mooradian moved, seconded by Mayor Pfohl, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM

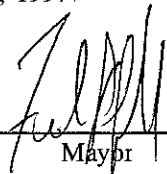
Respectfully submitted,



Seth Lawless
Town Manager

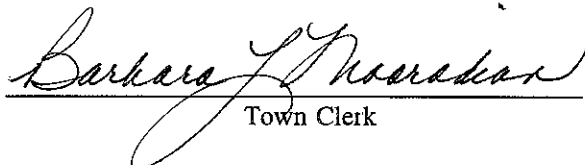
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Minutes approved by Town Council on August 12, 1997.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk