

MINUTES  
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL  
May 9, 2000

***CALL TO ORDER***

Mayor Tim Holland called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Rick Owen and Reub Mooradian. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Police Captain R.L. Dunn, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Public Works Director Joe Perry and Code Enforcement Officer Don Fulkerson. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

***Invocation – Pastor Hayst Harold.***

Pastor Hayst Harold opened the meeting in prayer.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

All present joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

***Public Hearing***

Mayor Holland called for a public hearing to discuss the 5-year proposed Capital Improvement Plan. Seth Lawless gave a brief summary of the plan. For the past several years, every two years the Town Council has taken the time to gather estimates of needs within each department over the ensuing five years and that process was begun again this spring. The initial recommendations were submitted to the Council on April 7<sup>th</sup> at a retreat held in Boone. The plan was further discussed at the following Council Meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> and has been available for public inspection. It covers the fiscal years 2000-2001 through 2004-2005. It includes all fixed assets and large-scale projects recommended by the department heads for that 5-year period. Whatever plan is eventually adopted does not carry the authority of a budget ordinance, as it does not actually appropriate funds. It is a planning document to guide the Town over the next several years. Mayor Holland called for comments from the public. It was asked whether or not the plan included tennis courts or a golf course. Mayor Holland responded by saying the tennis courts were already in the current budget for the recreation area at Buckeye Lake, but nothing on the golf course. After the study last year it was determined the golf course would be a quiet issue for a few more years. There being no further questions the public hearing was closed.

1. *Adoption of Agenda*

Mayor Holland called for the following changes in the Agenda: Item #3 would be a report by Dr. Miller regarding the Ambulance Health Care Foundation. Under New Business, Item b. Road Name Change would be added.

2. *Approval of Minutes*

Mayor Holland asked for changes on the minutes of the April 7<sup>th</sup> Planning Retreat. Gil Adams requested the following change be made to Item I, paragraph 2 "question" should be changed to "questioned" and the discussion regarding an 8" water line upgrade should be added. After much discussion, the Council decided to continue the issue further under agenda Item #4, Old Business, Item c. Mr. Lawless felt the issue should be finalized tonight because there is an application pending before the Division of Public Water Supply and Emerald Opportunities is ready to sign a contract with Iron Mountain Construction to install 6" line.

Mayor Holland called for a motion to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. Rick Owen moved the minutes be approved. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. *Committee Reports*

Dr. Murray Miller gave the following update on the Ambulance Health Care Foundation.

Dr. Miller felt Avery County was giving serious consideration to the Foundation because they have spelled out the specifications for the equipment required in the ambulance. He indicated that he would be meeting with some folks from Avery County tomorrow, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and would be try to get a signed contract. The Foundation had their first board meeting last Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

The Foundation is in receipt of contributions in memory of other individuals as well as being the recipient of the funds from the Chris Juliano Foundation.

Beech Mountain and Banner Elk property owners were mailed letters from the Foundation requesting donations. However, there was some problem with the letters sent to the individuals in Banner Elk and they were not received. The second mailing will be done this month or the beginning of June signed by the Foundations Board of Directors. They are also working on a brochure telling about the foundation and a pledge/donation card.

Dr. Miller reported the old Cannon Hospital is under option or contract with a developer from South Florida who lives in Hound Ears. He has indicated that he would be willing for the to house the ambulance at the old hospital. Dr. Murray also reported that the Fire Department was going to donate a defibrillator to the new ambulance in memory of Chris Juliano and they are hoping that it will be a perpetuating thing, there would always be a Chris Juliano defibrillator. They have received over \$43,000 in actual donations, not pledges, as of the end of last year.

A number of checks that were given to the Foundation were sent to the North Carolina Community Foundation in Charlotte via UPS. UPS lost the checks they have agreed to pay the Foundation interest on the funds that were lost from the time they should have been deposited up until they are replaced. Arrangements have been made to deposit the donations locally. They are still hopeful in getting \$500,000 this year. They are going to push Banner Elk and Elk River and he will keep the Council posted, as significant information becomes available.

Dr. Miller expressed thanks to both Banner Elk and Beech Mountain for having agreed to underwrite the actual cost for setting up the foundation and covering the cost of the telephone. They have filed with the IRS for 501C3 status and have been told it can take 6 to 8 months to actually get a letter stating "yes you are". In the meantime they are covered under the 501C3 law through the North Carolina Community Foundation. One of the things they did in their contract with the NCCF was to allow if at any time they become unhappy with it they can withdraw their funds from them into another 501C3 and manage for themselves.

Mayor Holland thanked Dr. Miller for all his work.

#### 4. *Old Business*

##### a. *Consideration of Proposed Capital Improvement Plan.*

Mayor Holland asked about the defibrillators the police department had requested in the budget. The request for 3 defibrillators over the next 3 years had been taken out; his recollection was that it was to be put back in. Mr. Mooradian agreed. Mr. Owen questioned whether someone else might purchase them in the future? Mayor Holland felt the chances of that were slim and the Town needed the units as soon as possible. If funds should become available in the future it could still be used. Seth Lawless asked how long a defibrillator was good for? Mayor Holland estimated 10+ years and they keep upgrading them. Mr. Lawless asked if it was the consensus of the Council to put them back into the budget. Councilman Mooradian supported the idea.

Mr. Lawless noted a few changes in the 5-year plan as it was originally presented on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The police department removed the \$400 request for office repairs and the largest change was in the road maintenance. A \$78,000 line item for a tandem dump truck and \$2,500 line item for a pull behind mower was removed. At the last Council meeting it was approved to purchase a used tandem dump truck for \$16,000 and to trade some other surplus equipment for a used pull behind mower.

b. ***Discussion of Proposed Position Reclassification.***

Mayor Holland informed the public of the employee personal ordinance, which shows the job classification of each employee. He reported Mr. Lawless had done a study and was asking the Council to change some of the job classifications. The Finance Officer put together an estimate of the additional yearly cost of amending the plan. Over the next 3 years it is projected to cost an additional \$198 in 2001, \$405 each in 2002 & 2003. It is hard to pinpoint the exact cost, as assumptions were made with regard to the type of actions the Council would take over the next few years regarding cost of living increase and merit pay increases. Mayor Holland called for a vote on Resolution 00-05-01 'Position Classification and Pay Plan'. Reub Mooradian moved to pass the resolution. Gil Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. ***Emerald Opportunities Water Line Extension.***

Seth Lawless reported to the Council that Cindy Keller, representing Emerald Opportunities, had received 2 bids from Iron Mountain. A price on both a 6" and an 8" water line installation. Mr. Lawless went over the history of the request, originally presented to the Council in March. There was a set of plans drawn by Emerald Opportunities' engineer, William Lapse. Mr. Lawless noted that a water line extension would have to be approved by the state public water supply section. Following that meeting, even though no decision was made, Mr. Lawless submitted those plans to avoid delays. There would be no problem if the Council had voted the extension down, however if the Council gave its approval it would eliminate further delays. He and Mr. Powell attempted to find out the status of the plans prior to this meeting, but were unable to make a determination. Mr. Lawless had a copy of the contract between Iron Mountain and Emerald Opportunities. They would like to begin construction this week, but cannot without the permit that comes with the review of the plans by the state. They would like to go ahead and move in some of the required equipment and do some testing to see how much blasting they will have to do. Mr. Lawless had planned to do the agreement between Emerald Opportunities and the Town with regard to the Town's reimbursement of the 25% cost and the maintenance of the lines. Mr. Lawless stated that the contractor was ready to start and the developer, who did expect the project to proceed, was expecting to receive materials on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lawless indicated he would try to contact Ms. Keller to get the price quoted on the 8" water line installation.

A short break was called for.

During the break Dr. Miller took the opportunity to ask permission to compare the Beech Mountain Club list to one the Town uses for the utility billings. Mayor Holland indicated that would not be a problem, he thought the list the Foundation had used for it's mailing was from the Town.

Dr. Miller also questioned whether or not the Council knew the law in this state that allowed families to have split citizenship, i.e. one spouse a North Carolina resident and the other Florida. Mayor Holland did not know any specific law. Councilman Mooradian said that they had encouraged families with vacation homes to have one of the spouse's register as a resident of North Carolina. Mayor Holland said they had to be a resident 30 days prior to the election to be eligible to vote, after the election they could go back to Florida and declare they are a resident down there. Mayor Holland encouraged any action allowable to get more voters in the Town.

Returning from the break, Mr. Lawless did contact Ms. Keller who informed him that she was to get quotes on both the 6" and 8" line installation. She obtained quotes from Ernie Carpenter Construction and Iron Mountain. The lowest bidder bid the 8" line at \$57,500 and the 6" at \$49,761, a \$7,739 difference in the two. Mr. Lawless stated he had instructed Ms. Keller to go with the 6" line when she called this past week. If there were a misunderstanding on this he would have to contact Iron Mountain construction tomorrow to let them know and get a budget amendment to allocate the additional funds. Mayor Holland felt they had gone with Mr. Powell's recommendation was with the 6" line. Councilman Mooradian did not recall if a vote was taken on Mr. Powell's recommendation. Mayor Holland asked if the state would hold up the installation if the line were switched from 6" to 8" line. Mr. Powell indicated that would not be a problem. Mr. Mooradian thought bids were taken for both the lines, which we did according to Mr. Lawless, however it was actually an estimate from the public works director, Joe Perry, not a bid from a contractor. There was much discussion that followed with input from the Town engineer and Council about the various uses of the water line and reiteration of the ordinance requiring the Town to pay for upgrade when it is more than a development would require. Mayor Holland asked the Council where the discussion was. Mr. Adams indicated it was whether to allow the 6" water line or pay the approximate \$7,000 difference. Mr. Lawless requested the Council to make a decision, regardless of the last meeting, being that the same individuals were present and the Town engineer was available to make recommendations. He also stated it would be easier to have a delivery truck turn around than to make a mistake that they felt would affect the future of the Town. Mayor Holland asked Ed Powell once we extend on down the parkway whether or not it would be feasible to add on to this project. Mr. Powell felt it would be better to put in another line to serve on down the road. Mr. Perry indicated he felt when planning and looking to the future, it made more sense to him to save the \$7,000 to use on the line that will be run from Emerald Mountain to the Meadows. We would need a larger pumping station either in the Meadows or at Spruce Hollow and a larger line to get enough water up to the pumping station. By doing the 6" line we would eliminate 6 pumping stations and it would make more sense to save the \$7,000 to use in the future. Mr. Mooradian moved to approve the 6" line for the Emerald Court project. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7<sup>th</sup> Planning Retreat. Mr. Mooradian moved they be approved. Mr. Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. *New Business*

a. *Consider Increase in Attorney Fees.*

Mayor Holland reported to the Council that Attorney David Paletta has not received an increase in his hourly rate since 1994. He was requesting his fee be changed from \$75 to \$100 per hour. Councilman Mooradian moved to increase the attorney fees. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. *Road Name Change.*

Mayor Holland informed everyone that the fire department had made an official request to make a change in part of the road designated as the Beech Mountain Parkway. When Avery County developed it's 911 system they changed Highway 184 from Banner Elk up Beech Mountain to Beech Mountain Parkway. Due to this changed we have some dual addresses. The Town has had a few calls dealing with this problem, most recently the Town was called to assist Avery County with a break in at 1256 Beech Mountain Parkway. Our police department went to the address within the Town limits and found there was not a house at that address. The problem was outside the Town limits toward Banner Elk. This situation was not serious, but it could have been. The proposal, which has been discussed at the Fire Association and has not gotten too far, is to change the name outside the Town limits to South Beech Mountain Parkway. The towns of Beech Mountain and Banner Elk as well as the Avery County Commissioners would have to approve the name change before it could be done. Mayor Holland reported he had been in touch with Mayor Tate in Banner Elk and she did not see a problem, however no official decision has been made. The dividing line for the name change has not yet been determined. The current 911 numbering system is to our Town boundaries, with Charlie Burleson's office being included because part of his property is within the Town limits. Mr. Mooradian made the motion to change the name to South Beech Mountain Parkway, outside the Town limits. Gil Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Reub Mooradian suggested the dividing point between the two names fall in the same lines as the phone system. The 387 numbers start at the Emerald Mountain sales office, with Jim Brooks personal residence having an 898 number.

6. *Staff/Consultant Reports.*

- a. *Town Engineer's Report.* Ed Powell reported that Smith & Sons were working on Grouse Ridge Road. They are also in the process of doing the final adjustments on Pinnacle Ridge, Grassy Gap Creek Road, the Pine Ridge Lope, Skiway Drive & Circle and Village Road. They are making adjustments to manholes and confirming the asphalt thickness in the ditches on Skiway Circle. Mr. Powell's intent is to have all the paving completed by the end of this month.

His firm has checked the pressure problems on the Upper Pinnacle Ridge area and will come back with recommendations on how to deal with this.

- b. *Public Works Director's Report.* Joe Perry had no report.

- c. *Chief of Police's Report.* Captain Dunn reported to the Council that the police department was currently 1.5 positions short due to the departure of Riley Hatch. The review board met today and interviewed 3 individuals for Mr. Hatch's position. A decision has not yet been reached.

Captain Dunn reviewed the report in the packet. The arrest section indicated 14 charges brought a total of 5 arrest. The 5 was not correct, there were only 3 arrest. There seems to be a glitch in the computer system.

- d. *Town Manager's Report.* Seth Lawless directed the Council to the list of upcoming meetings included in the manager's memo to the Council. Mr. Lawless requested the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, which had been rescheduled from June 13<sup>th</sup>, be changed to Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Council approved the change. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Municipal group was moved from 5:30 to 4:30 at the last meeting. This will be held at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lawless reported to the Council that Skyline Telephone had completed the landscaping for the new switching station. Council was asked to look at the area to make sure it was to everyone's approval.

The Town tree planting has been completed and 35 to 40 dead trees were removed. 50 trees were planted, however no new trees were planted past the entrance of the ski resort.

The Landsman has started flowerbed maintenance.

Charter communications is making some lineup changes. They are also changing the pay per view club and adding new digital service capabilities.

Korean War veterans are being invited to participate in a parade in Boone on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Channel 2 will have more information regarding this event.

Mr. Lawless reported that the site preparation for the Buckeye Lake recreation is moving along slow. The blasting was completed a few weeks ago and is over budget, it was estimated @ \$15,000 and now is expected to cost \$60,000. There could be a little more blasting to be done. The area is now being cleared out. The Town may be in line for a grant from the Town's Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. We have applied 3 years in a row and this year we rank 16<sup>th</sup> out of 64 in the state. The decision will be made this week. The request was for \$69,000, which would fund the overage on the site preparation and also leave some money for the new Falls Trail project.

Mr. Lawless requested volunteers to help at the two home games, May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>, for the Beech Mountain's Little League team, the Bears. Thanks to all the businesses who have helped sponsor the team.

Peek Pavement started the striping of the roads last week. The work is scheduled to resume next week.

The Town is being asked to contribute to the Ambulance Foundation in the name of Chris Juliano. Reub Mooradian made a motion to donate \$500. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reub Mooradian requested that Mr. Lawless contact TVA to ask that they plant an evergreen tree 6' to 7' tall to fill in the space in front of the power station as promised. Mr. Lawless will put the request in writing.

The Town Manager was thanked for the improvements at the recycling center.

- f. ***Tax Report and Building Inspections Report.*** The Tax and Building Inspections Reports were accepted as submitted. Mayor Holland noted a correction to the Building Inspections report. It was noted by the building inspector where the report indicated there was 1 permit issued, there was actually 5 for the month reporting.



**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Reub Mooradian, seconded by Rick Owen. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Reba G. Greene  
Town Clerk

rg

Minutes approved by Town Council on 6/5, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

MINUTES  
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL  
May 24, 2000

***CALL TO ORDER***

Mayor Tim Holland called the special meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Rick Owen, Jim Herbert and Reub Mooradian. Also present was Town Manager Seth Lawless.

Seth Lawless presented the Council with the budget for the fiscal year 2000-2001 discussing how the information was organized. Following the presentation Mayor Holland asked the Council if they had any questions.

Gil Adams asked about the source of revenue for the Advertising Department. Mr. Lawless stated that \$135,000 was estimated for the coming years occupancy tax and \$3,000 would be coming from the advertising fund balance.

Mr. Lawless then referred the Council to the Fund Balances and Reserves on page 24 of the proposed budget and stated that the reserve account for the occupancy tax was shown in that report.

Mr. Adams then asked about the type of items the Occupancy Tax money could be spent on. Mr. Lawless reported that the statute restricts the tax to the promotion of Beech Mountain, however definitions of promotion may vary. The Town attorney, David Paletta, has advised the Council in the past that certain capital expenditures were legal. A short discussion then followed on the Towns efforts to increase the occupancy tax rate to 4% and dedicate the additional revenue to recreational facilities.

Reub Mooradian questioned the proceeds from lease purchase in the General Fund Reserve. Mr. Lawless replied that it was from the loan taken out to purchase the Case backhoe in 1999.

Mayor Holland asked why a recommendation to transfer the Public Works Directors salary from the Water and Sewer fund to the General Fund was made. Mr. Lawless replied that each fund is supposed to be self-supporting and currently the Water and Sewer Fund relies on a significant contribution from the General Fund. The transfer is one avenue to help the Water and Sewer Fund sustain itself in addition the Public Works Directors responsibilities are greater in the General Fund departmental activities than in the Water and Sewer area. Mayor Holland asked if there were any other items that should be moved among funds. Mr. Lawless replied that inter fund transfers for other items were in the budget request.

Mr. Mooradian questioned why 3% was being recommended for the Police Department Merit distribution while general employees were recommended to receive 2.5%. Mr. Lawless said that a 2.5% 401K contribution is proposed for non-law enforcement personnel this year instead of a C.O.L.A. raise and that sworn officers will receive no C.O.L.A. or increased 401K contribution. Mr. Mooradian replied that law enforcement already receive a 5% 401K. A brief discussion between Mr. Mooradian and Mayor Holland followed on the appropriateness of the recommendation.

Mayor Holland asked the Council if there were any other questions. There being none he reminded everyone of the Budget workshop on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Rick Owen, seconded by Reub Mooradian. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

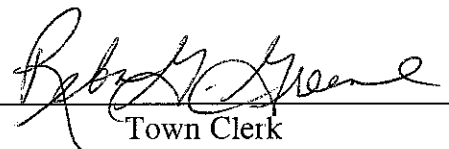
Reba G. Greene  
Town Clerk

rg

Minutes approved by Town Council on 6/23, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

MINUTES  
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
May 30, 2000

***CALL TO ORDER***

Mayor Tim Holland called the Budget Workshop meeting to order at 1:15 PM in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Jim Herbert, Rick Owen and Reub Mooradian. Riley Hatch, Robert Heaton and David Hicks represented the Public Works department. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Mayor Holland reported to the Council that the Budget would be gone through on a line by line basis.

**General Fund**

Gil Adams asked about the Occupancy Tax and for clarification as to the use of the tax. After reading the enabling local bill, Adams stated that the tax proceeds could be spent. Seth Lawless reported that the town of Banner Elk had used their occupancy tax money for the design of the police station. It was questioned whether or not we could get support for that since the tax is to be used for primarily for promotion of the mountain. There was some discussion with regard to the Economic Development Committee and how they would responds to the monies being used for items other than advertising. Mayor Holland indicated as long as Council can justify for promotion, it can be done.

Mayor Holland suggested talking to the rental agencies to get their ideas for other ways to best use the money.

**Administration Department**

It was noted that the number of employees had increased due to the transfer of the Public Works Director from the Water & Sewer fund.

Mayor Holland asked about the Avery Little League contribution. Mr. Lawless indicated the contribution also helped the local league and the Avery Little League had furnished the team with the catchers' gear, bats and balls. It was noted that Beech Mountain has a number of children playing various sports in Avery County.

Reub Mooradian asked about the intern. Mr. Lawless indicated it was nice to have however other items have received priority over the position.

Jim Herbert questioned the cost of a stool for the computer room, which is listed at \$180; he felt a more economical product could be found at Sam's. He also asked for clarification regarding the \$3,000 for meeting room chairs. Mr. Lawless said the stool had to be a certain height to accommodate the equipment and the meeting room chairs would cost approximately \$400 each.

## **Tax Collection Department**

There were no questions regarding the Tax budget.

## **Public Safety Department**

Mr. Mooradian asked about the DCI upgrade. Mr. Lawless reported that the state has requirements and the computer system has to be bought from them. DCI is the network of license and tag information. Mr. Adams asked about Banner Elks' use of our DCI service. Mr. Lawless reported they did and he could ask them for a contribution to help pay for the system. The -0- recommended in the Ambulance Service line item was questioned. Mr. Lawless reported the funds were paid up front.

## **Building Inspections Department**

There were no questions regarding the Building Inspections.

## **Vehicle Maintenance Department**

Rick Owen asked for an explanation on the \$1,000 for light and \$500 for a heater. Mr. Lawless reported the light expenditure would be used in the older workshop and the space heater could be used anywhere, inside or outside. Mr. Mooradian questioned the request for a 2wd pickup truck as opposed to a 4wd pickup. Mr. Lawless went over the savings in repairs, gas and the \$5,000 to \$5,500 savings in the initial cost of the vehicle. After a brief discussion it was recommended by Mayor Holland to leave the amount of \$18,000 in the budget, but find a used 4wd vehicle. Perhaps Roger could look for one the next time he attends an auction.

## **Road Maintenance Department**

Mr. Mooradian asked about Oz Circle. Riley Hatch reported that Oz Circle was the road dedicated to the Town that circled under the bridge. It was originally covered with BST, which did not hold up and the road is in very bad condition. A discussion of the patching of Lake Road followed. It was determined it would take approximately 2 weeks to complete and noted that the Club would be given ample notice. A brief discussion regarding the road reflectors ended with Mr. Mooradian suggesting they be covered with tape whenever the roads were scheduled to be striped.

## **Right-of-way Clearing Department**

Mr. Mooradian asked for an update on the clearing crew's progress. Mr. Lawless reported the workers had completed the 3-phase line, but the work was slow because of other projects. Mayor Holland asked why they had been pulled off the job to work elsewhere when they were hired on a temporary basis to work specifically on right of way clearing. Mr. Lawless asked Mr. Hatch to come up with a schedule of completion.

## **Recreation Department**

Mayor Holland asked about the P.A.R.T.F. grant the Town had applied for. Mr. Lawless indicated that we were 2<sup>nd</sup> on the list. 75% of the funds had already been passed out. When the disbursement of funds first began we were 16<sup>th</sup> on the list, but we have moved up. We will know by July 11<sup>th</sup> if we are going to receive any money.

Mr. Lawless also reported that the Buckeye Lake site preparation had cost a lot more than anticipated because of the blasting that was involved.

Jim Herbert asked what the 'Fishing Tournament' was in reference to. Mr. Lawless reported that the Town had intended to buy fish to stock the lake for youngsters to have a 1-day fishing tournament. The Town no longer takes care of the stocking of the lake; it is done by the state.

## **Advertising Department**

Mr. Owen questioned whether or not the expenditure for Christmas Lights might be decreased since the Town had taken out the large trees and replaced them with smaller ones. Mr. Lawless felt this expenditure would remain the same.

Mr. Owen then asked if there was a line item for the billboard. It is included in the advertising line and the Town still splits the bill with Ski Beech.

A discussion regarding the sledding hill followed. Mr. Lawless said a hydrant meter was needed to measure the water usage for snowmaking. The water used this winter was approximately 10% Town water and 90% Ski Beech water.

## **Water and Sewer Fund**

Mr. Lawless reported the tap fees and availability fees would be increased for new homes built. An increase in water rate fees is also scheduled to take place at the beginning of the fiscal year.

## **Administration Department (W/S)**

There were no questions regarding the Administration Department.

## **Waste Water Treatment Department**

Rick Owen inquired about the environmental fine situation. Robert Heaton replied that we had completed 2 audits since the fine. They are attempting to run the Pond Creek station at a constant level. The Grassy Gap plant has received 2 flow violations. The allocation for Engineering money is to have consultants to come up to help us with the Pond Creek situation. One of the major problems we have with the Pond Creek station is the grease. Mr. Heaton will be going around to the businesses with Don Fulkerson to make sure they have the proper grease disposal systems in place.

Mr. Lawless noted that the town of Selma had received a fine similar to the type we got. After negotiating with the state they were allowed to make a contribution to an environmental group equivalent to the amount they would have paid the state.

## **Taps and System Maintenance Department**

There were no questions regarding the Taps and System Maintenance Department.

## **Sanitation Fund**

David Hicks addressed the Council with regards to the Sanitation Department receiving funds for the purchase of a truck. Mr. Hicks stated the necessity for a 1 ton truck with a 12' dump bed. He felt the truck could be used to make one trip to pick up trash in the winter as opposed to 4 or 5 with a pick up. We could also take the strap steel to Boone and be paid for it, as it is now we have to pay to get rid of it. In addition a truck this size would not require the driver to have to have a CDL license.

After much discussion the Council all agreed and asked that Mr. Lawless included the request in the budget.

## **E-911 Fund**

There were no questions regarding the E-911 Fund.

## **Other**

Reub Mooradian asked if the fee increases should be voted on separately. Mayor Holland stated that it was implicit in adopting the budget ordinance.

Mr. Mooradian expressed his feelings regarding the 2.5% 401 K as opposed to the 3% cost of living pay increase. He felt employees should get some kind of increase. He asked if there would be any savings for the town. Mr. Lawless indicated that there would be approximately a \$3,000 savings in various taxes. It would also be a tax saving for the employees with other benefits being that the employees could borrow against the money and aiding in their future retirement. Mr. Lawless emphasized that a 1 year sacrifice is not too much to ask for when you look at the long-term benefits.

Mayor Holland asked the employees present how they felt. Riley Hatch said he could see both sides of the issue, however David Hicks felt if he wanted a 401 K he would open it up on his own and he would rather have a pay increase. Reba Greene felt giving the employees both would solve the problem.

Mr. Lawless said he would set up a meeting with the employees and a representative from BB&I, the bank handling the 401 K, to explain to all the employees the benefits of the program.

Mr. Mooradian said one alternative would be to give the employees 1½% into the 401 K and a 1½% raise.

After much discussion Mayor Holland asked Mr. Lawless to set up the employee meeting and table the item for further discussion until Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the next meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Rick Owen, seconded by Reub Mooradian. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Reba G. Greene  
Town Clerk

rg

Minutes approved by Town Council on 6/5, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk