

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
August 8, 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, Jim Herbert, Rick Owen and Reub Mooradian. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Public Works Director Riley Hatch and Code Enforcement Officer Don Fulkerson. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation – Hayst Harrold.

Pastor Hayst Harrold opened the meeting in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

***1. Public Hearings - Grassy Gap Creek Rd./Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Preliminary Assessment
Spring Branch Rd./Grouse Ridge Rd. Preliminary Assessment***

a. Grassy Gap Creek Road/Pinnacle Ridge Rd Preliminary Assessment Roll

Mayor Holland called for input from the public and announced we would have another hearing next month on the same issues. Hearing no comments Mayor Holland called for a motion to close the Grassy Gap Creek Road/Pinnacle Ridge Road preliminary assessment roll hearing. Reub Mooradian moved the hearing be closed. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Spring Branch Road/Grouse Ridge Road Preliminary Assessment Roll

Mayor Holland called for input from the public and announced we would have another hearing next month on the same issues. Dede Burger questioned whether or not the striping of the road was included in the assessment. Seth Lawless indicated that the striping had not been included in the cost of the project, instead the Town will take care of the striping at later date. Bill Coleman asked how the cost was determined, Mayor Holland stated that the original petition requested the total project cost be divided into equal shares for each lot abutting the new pavement. Hearing no further comments or questions, Mayor Holland called for a motion to close the Spring Branch Road/Grouse Ridge Road preliminary assessment roll hearing. Rick Owen moved the hearing be closed. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. ***Adoption of Agenda***

Mayor Holland called for additions and/or deletions to the Agenda. Mayor Holland added *New Business* items K: Discussion of Recreation Plan and L: Set the time and date for a public hearing on the Spring Branch Road/Grouse Ridge Road and Grassy Gap Creek Road/Pinnacle Ridge Road Preliminary Assessment Roll. One addition was put under item 5; *Persons Wishing to Address the Council* – Phil Caldwell asked to have a few minutes to discuss ambulance service. Town Attorney David Paletta recommended that the Town Council add Resolutions 00-08-02 and 00-08-03 under *Other Business*. Mayor Holland called for the agenda to stand as amended.

3. ***Approval of Minutes***

Mayor Holland asked for changes on the Council minutes of the July 10th meeting. Motion to accept minutes as submitted by Gil Adams. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. ***Committee Reports***

Seth Lawless reported that Watauga County had once again funded \$50,000 for community recreation grants. The grants will be distributed in October. The Watauga County Recreation Committee has invited Mr. Lawless to give an update on the Buckeye Lake Recreation Area plan at their meeting on August 16th.

5. ***Persons Wishing to Address Council 1) Claude Hinton and Hans Beckendorf***

Claude Hinton of 134 Club House Road (GL-4) addressed the Council asking that the gravel portion of Clubhouse Rd. be paved. Mr. Hinton indicated that of the 24 property owners on the unpaved portion of the road 13 agreed to the paving, 4 were opposed (2 of the 4 own 2 lots each for a total of 6), and 3 had not been heard from as of today's date. *[Clerk's notation the number of lots and discussion by Mr. Hinton and Mr. Beckendorf of the number of owner's opposed by may not match the final project/petition]* Mr. Lawless noted that Mr. Sposato, Beech Mountain Club General Manager, had call him indicating that the Club was in favor of the paving. Mr. Hinton estimated the cost to do the paving would be around \$75,000, or less than \$3,500 per lot.

Mayor Holland asked if the property owners were requesting the Town's assistance in paying for the paving. Mr. Hinton responded in the affirmative, that it was the desire of the property owners to have the Town participate.

Mayor Holland looked over a 1997 memo from then Public Works Director Joe Perry to the Beech Mountain Planning Board. The memo contained a priority listing of roads to be paved with cost estimates, and included the gravel portion of Clubhouse Rd. Mayor Holland noted that the first two roads on the list, Pinnacle Ridge and Grassy Gap Creek, have been paved, however, the remainder are not included in the current year budget or the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Holland indicated that he was unaware of any circumstances that would change the position of the Council.

Hans Beckendorf of 124 Club House Road, GL-10, could see no reason why the Town would not participate considering the amount of traffic on the road.

Mayor Holland informed the audience that the Town Council had already denied any participation in the paving of Mariah Circle, which was ahead of Club House Road on the list Mr. Perry had submitted. The property owners on Mariah Circle are working on a petition to pay 100% of the paving costs.

2) Phil Caldwell – Mr. Caldwell addressed the Council with regards to the ambulance issue. Mr. Caldwell noted one of the reasons he had chosen to live on Beech Mountain was its proximity to the hospital. Now that the hospital has moved he stated that the ambulance response time was close to 30 minutes. However in a recent situation it had taken 43 to 45 minutes for the ambulance to arrive. Mr. Caldwell understood that the Town could not pick up the tab for Beech Mountain having it's own ambulance service, but he wanted to suggest that the Town add \$1.00 to the utility bill, like we do for recycling, for ambulance service. He suggested we ask the Town of Banner Elk and also Avery County to do the same.

Mayor Holland reported that Dr. Miller was working with a foundation to set up the ambulance service. He also noted that the moving of the hospital had not effected the response time of the ambulance, which continue to be dispatched from the same locations. The additional time is in getting to the hospital. Mr. Caldwell felt it would take too long for the foundation to raise sufficient funds.

Dr. Miller gave an update on the Mountain Ambulance Foundation and reported that both Banner Elk & Beech Mountain had contributed about \$2,500 to date. Dr. Miller also discussed the status of current fundraising and negotiations with Avery County.

6. Old Business – Review Recycling Center Security Camera Options ✓

Mr. Lawless reported that he and Chief Hefner met with 3 companies that were interested in bidding on a security camera system. Councilman Owen felt the issue should be included in the Planning Board's comprehensive review of the Recycling Center operations and Solid Waste Ordinance review. All agreed to refer the matter to the Planning Board.

7. New Business

a. Hill Climb ✓

Jim Rickard reported that the Chamber was formally requesting that the Town allow the closing of the road for the Hill Climb on April 27-29, 2001. Mayor Holland asked the Council for discussion. Councilman Herbert asked Mr. Rickard which dates had been most successful in previous Hill Climb events. Mr. Rickard indicated that in his personal opinion, the most recent race, held the third weekend in May, had drawn the most spectators.

Mr. Clint Isles, a Ski Way property owner, expressed his disapproval of the Hill Climb, along with a number of other individuals from the audience. Mr. Rickard reported that the Chamber recommendation had been a compromise between business owners, the car club and the

property owners who appeared at a public hearing regarding the Hill Climb. Mr. Rickard felt not to have the event would certainly present a hardship to the businesses

After much discussion Jim Herbert moved to keep the Hill Climb the third weekend in May for the next two years. Councilman Adams seconded the motion for discussion.

- / The Council gave further discussion to the motion by Mr. Herbert. Mr. Herbert requested the event be held in May on the 18, 19 and 20th. It was asked if Mr. Herbert would drop the 2 year extension on his original motion. Councilman Herbert withdrew his motion then moved for the 2001 Hill Climb to be held on the third weekend in May. The motion was seconded by Councilman Owen and passed 4-1. Mayor Holland voted against the motion.

b. Discussion of Street Banners ✓

Mr. Lawless requested that the Town be allowed to purchase winter season banners with the money set aside to purchase the fall banners. Rick Owen moved to apply the money for the winter banners. Councilman Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Rick Miller asked how many flags would be required. Mr. Rickard responded that it had been reduced to 25 and that the design had not been finalized. Rickard also noted that it would take 3 to 5 weeks to receive the banners after the order was placed.

c. Consideration of Tax Matters ✓

Mayor Holland requested the annual tax settlements for Avery County, Watauga County and Beech Mountain be considered together. Rick Owen made the motion to approve the settlements as presented. Jim Herbert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that the Town must charge the Tax Administrator to collect the 2000 taxes. Rick Owen made the motion for Ms. Norwood to collect the taxes. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. Set Meeting Date for Municipal Association Meeting

Mr. Lawless stated that Beech Mountain had agreed to host the first High Country Municipal Association Meeting. The topic will be the occupancy tax. The Council agreed to host the meeting on September 26th at 7 p.m.

e. Review Construction Noise Complaints ✓

Mayor Holland informed the audience that a number of complaints had been received because of the construction going on at a site located by Tamarack Rd. and Sugar Maple Lane. The Noise Ordinance restricts the working hours to be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The work in question was the use of a jackhammer after regular working hours. Mayor Holland requested that the Planning Board examine the complaints and consider making a recommendation. All agreed.

f. Consider Request to Change September Regular Meeting Date

Mayor Holland told the audience that two Council members would be out of Town on September 12, the date of the next Regular Council meeting. Upon a motion by Owen, seconded by Mooradian, the September 2000 Regular Town Council meeting was moved to September 5th.

g. Review Grassy Gap Wastewater Violation

Mr. Lawless reported the fine of \$1,313 for a violation at the Grassy Gap Wastewater violation in April. Ed Powell noted that April had an excessive amount of rain resulting in the violation. Mr. Lawless noted that we could possibly get a fine for a violation in May. After some discussion Reub Mooradian made a motion to pay the fine. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

h. Consider Resolution 00-08-01; Avery County Solid Waste Management Plan Update ✓

After a brief discussion Reub Mooradian made a motion to pass the resolution. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

i. Consider Request from Wayne Tobin

Mr. Lawless reported that Dr. Tobin was an out of Town water customer who had experienced a leak in his service line. It took Dr. Tobin 15 days to get the leak repaired and he was requesting that the Town make emergency water service line repairs on private property. A member of the audience suggested that the Town collect a list of contractors to distribute to people needing repair services. Mr. Lawless noted that the Building Inspector had a list of backhoe operators who could do the necessary repairs and Mayor Holland requested that the dispatch office be given the list of contractors.

j. Call for Public Hearings ✓

Mayor Holland called for a date to be set for public hearings on the Planning Board recommendations for zoning ordinance amendments as well as the Grassy Gap Creek/Pinnacle Ridge and Upper Grouse Ridge Road preliminary assessment rolls. All agreed to hold the hearings at the September 5th Regular Meeting.

k. Discussion of the Buckeye Lake Recreation Site Plan ✓

Mayor Holland reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee recommended hiring a consultant to master plan the Buckeye Lake recreation property. Mr. Lawless sent out a request for proposals to a number of companies. A subcommittee was formed consisting of Joe Pavelchak, Seth Lawless, Tim Holland and Roger Bullock. The subcommittee interviewed 2 firms this morning, one quoted a price of \$33,000 and the other was \$47,000. A decision will have to be made on how to pay for the consultant since monies have not been earmarked for this site plan rendering. Reub Mooradian asked what the companies had proposed to do for the Town. Mayor Holland stated that they were going to develop a master plan for the park on the 26-acre site, concentrating on the recently graded pad and the location

of the future indoor recreation center and tennis courts. Additionally they will help develop the Grassy Gap Creek Trail extension and possible neighborhood park on St. Andrews Rd. Mr. Lawless noted that he had informed the Economic Development Committee that he would like to make a presentation at a future meeting to discuss the use of occupancy tax funds for this project. Council agreed to have Mr. Lawless make the request.

Mayor Holland informed the Council that the Town had received a \$69,000 grant for the tennis courts from the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund.

8. *Staff/Consultant Reports*

a. *Town Engineer's Report.*

Ed Powell had no report. Mayor Holland asked about the proposed water system improvements for North Pinnacle Ridge Road. Mr. Powell went up to the area and noted that Slopeside Rd stopped about 1,500' short of the Summer Road. It has been roughed in approximately 750' to 1,000' with the last 500' being unopened. Mr. Powell noted that the existing booster station could be upgraded and placed back in service and adequately serve the area. This would allow the system to be extended as more homes were built. When we got to a point close to the Summer Road we could connect to the system coming from Emerald Mountain, put in a pressure reducing station and abandon that pumping station. His firm is going back to the original manufacturer to get some drawings and recommendations. They are proceeding with the Phase 1 portion of the project as directed in the last meeting and getting a permit for the work.

b. *Public Works Director's Report* – Riley Hatch had no report.

c. *Town Attorney's Report* – David Paletta had no report.

d. *Chief of Police's Report*

Chief Hefner went over the submitted report. He also discussed the progress made by the NC Highway Patrol on the radio antennae being constructed on the Town water tanks, and stated that it would be at least a couple of weeks before the new communication system was operational. Chief Hefner also gave an update on the Police Department citizen survey, which will be sent out later this year.

e. *Town Manager's Report*

Seth Lawless announced that the Annual Banquet for Region D will be on September 1st, anyone wishing to attend should contact the office. The remainder of the Town Manager's Report is in the agenda packet.

f. *Tax Report and Building Inspections Report*

Mayor Holland asked if there were any questions regarding these two reports. There were no questions.

9. *Other Business*

Mayor Holland asked the Council and audience if there was any other business to come before the Board. Hearing none, the Mayor stated that the Council would be taking up other business following the executive session.

10. *Executive Session*

Upon a motion by Councilman Mooradian, seconded by Owen, the Council voted unanimously to enter closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)6. At the completion of the closed session and upon a motion by Councilman Herbert, seconded by Adams, the Council voted unanimously to end the closed session and resume other business. Rick Owen moved to increase the Town Manager's salary 10%. The motion was seconded by Councilman Herbert and passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland asked for a motion on Resolutions 00-08-02 and 00-08-03. The resolutions declare the cost of the recent paving projects on Grassy Gap Creek Rd/Pinnacle Ridge Rd. and Upper Grouse Ridge Rd./Spring Branch Rd. They also announce that the preliminary assessment roll is available for public inspection, and declare that a hearing on the rolls will be held Tuesday, September 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Beech Mountain Town Hall. Upon a motion by Councilman Adams, seconded by Mooradian, Resolutions 00-08-02 and 00-08-03 passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

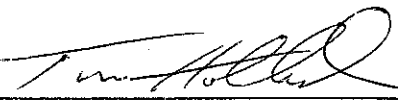
There being no further business to come before the Council, Rick Owen moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Reub Mooradian and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

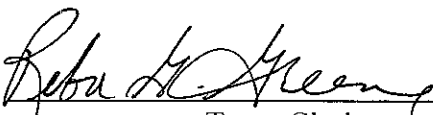
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Minutes approved by Town Council on Sept 5, 2000.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

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