

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
June 7, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Holland called the Budget Workshop meeting 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. Town Manager Seth Lawless, Director of Public Works Riley Hatch and Chief of Police Jay Hefner were also present.

Mayor Holland asked the Council if they wished to start looking at the salaries or go through it as it was presented in the packet. The Council chose to follow page by page as presented.

General Fund

Reub Mooradian asked about the 'Reimbursement for Taxes' from the state. Mr. Lawless reported that he had received a fax from the League of Municipalities today indicating that we would know how much, if any, reimbursement we would be receiving from the property tax or inventory tax. Mr. Lawless also noted that he had only placed one-half of the amounts he hopes to receive in the budget.

Mayor Holland asked about the Fund Balance Appropriation to which Mr. Lawless explained that there were a few items that were budgeted last fiscal year that did not get completed. One of which was the paving for OZ Circle budgeted for \$50,000 and the salary reflects Missy Norwood's maternity leave.

Administration Department

Mayor Holland asked what fell under 'Building & Grounds Maintenance'. Mr. Lawless indicated that is was for the Town Hall – items such as weekly cleaning, repairs and carpet cleaning or painting.

Mayor Holland asked for clarification on the 'Insurance' line to which Mr. Lawless reported that it was for the public official's liability, vehicle insurance and general liability.

The Council discussed the contributions to the Avery County Humane Society and Genesis. All agreed to increase the contribution to Genesis from \$150 to \$500 and increasing the contribution to the Avery County Humane Society from \$150 to \$250. It was also agreed upon by the Council to add the Watauga County Humane Society to the list with a contribution of \$250.

Tax Collection Department

Mayor Holland questioned the amount in the 'Travel & Training' line item. Mr. Lawless noted that Ms. Norwood had been attending a school for inspectors and has since decided not to actively pursue

certification at this time. Ms. Norwood can, however, do informal building inspections when Don Fulkerson is out of the office.

Public Safety Department

The Council discussed the Capital Outlay for a new patrol vehicle estimated to cost \$24,500. The Jeep Cherokee will not be available and the state contracts for the new vehicles have not yet been awarded. The state contract is currently being negotiated.

Adding a new defibrillator into the Capital Outlay was discussed and agreed upon. The line item amount for this will be \$29,300.00.

The Council discussed the Mountain Ambulance and Health Care Foundation. Dr. Miller, representing the foundation, had requested a \$5,000 donation from the Town at the Council meeting on May 16, 2001. Rick Owen suggested that the Council wait on making a final decision on giving a contribution in order to see what type of support the ambulance receives from the other communities it serves - Banner Elk, Elk River and Sugar Mountain. It was also noted that the ambulance service was a county operated service. Noting that he was for supporting the ambulance service, but not sure that he is for supporting it through the Town. There was further discussion on the things that the Ambulance Foundation was paying for which included \$40,000 to be given to the county for salaries, the addition for the rooms at Elk River and a garage door. Reub Mooradian noted that the property owners in the Town had given the Ambulance Foundation of lot of financial support; he felt that they would expect the Town to give a contribution to the ambulance. A compromise was reached with the decision being to give the Ambulance Foundation \$2,500.

Mayor Holland questioned whether or not the level of pay offered by the Town for the Police Department was in line with the surrounding communities. Mr. Lawless indicated that looking at beginning pay, the Town would be near the bottom of the list, however, with the benefits packages, the Town would be near the top of the scale when compared to the surrounding communities. However, the other towns are in budget discussions and we will not be able to compare any figures until budgets are passed.

Police Chief Hefner spoke in favor of what the Town had given the department and felt it was competitive with most of the towns in the area. Chief Hefner also noted that he had spoken to other areas about the benefits package the Town gives to the department such as the merit pay system. Any increase in salary would be greatly appreciated, especially since it is a workers market.

The Council discussed the possibility of changing the part time police officer position into a full time position in order to even up the rotation. In light of the fact that it would add the cost of benefits and increasing the cost of health insurance and retirement, this would be approximately \$10,000 more.

Reub Mooradian stated that he would like to see something done next year with regard to salaries, not just for the police department, but with all the employees. Mr. Lawless suggested a study to see exactly where the Town stands with regards to the salaries in surrounding areas. Mr. Lawless will check to see if Region D would assist the Town in such an endeavor.

Building Inspections Department

Jim Herbert indicated that he and Mr. Adams were informed of a decrease in the Building Inspections Department to which Mr. Lawless indicated that it was regard t salaries and could be discussed in private. Mr. Lawless noted that the salaries line item was currently at \$27,112, the proposed amount was \$27,654.

Mr. Lawless reported that the increase in vehicle maintenance was due to the fact that the inspection vehicle would have some body repairs, but the transmission and engine should be sufficient for one or two more years before having to be replaced.

Vehicle Maintenance Department

There were no questions regarding the Vehicle Maintenance Department.

Road Maintenance Department

There was a question on the line item 'Sanitation Charge' in the Road Maintenance Department budget to which Riley Hatch responded to by noting that the sanitation department had assisted in helping to clear the roads this past winter.

Mr. Mooradian asked when the remaining metal stop signs would be replaced. Mr. Lawless indicated that it would be this summer and asked Chief Hefner to have the officers note any metal signs when they are making their rounds.

There was a brief discussion regarding the reflectors on the roads, the culvert replacement and the paving of Grassy Gap Loop Road.

Right-of-way Clearing Department

Mayor Holland asked about the progress the crew had made. Mr. Hatch noted that they were continuing to do clearing in addition to working with the I & I crew.

Recreation Department

Mr. Lawless gave a brief report on the Buckeye Lake Recreation Project noting that the Phase I would be done this year. This will include the tennis courts, basketball court and paving of the driveway. Phase II, budget year 2002 – 2003, will include the jogging track, fill dirt and the dug outs for the ball field. The 2003 – 2004 budget will have the staircase going down from the ball field.

Advertising Department

Mr. Mooradian asked for clarification on the '3% Administration Charge' to which Mr. Lawless indicated that it came back to the Town for the bookkeeping charge.

Mr. Lawless also gave a brief update on the bill that would allow the Town to increase the occupancy tax. At this time it looks doubtful that it will pass this year.

Water and Sewer Fund

Mr. Lawless reported a 5% increase in water rate fees was recommended to take effect on July 1, 2001.

Administration Department (W/S)

There were no questions regarding the Administration Department.

Waste Water Treatment Department

A brief discussion resulted in a request for Mr. Lawless to get a breakdown of the supplies used to treat the water.

Taps and System Maintenance Department

The department is requesting a new backhoe; Mr. Hatch is looking into purchasing another New Holland back hoe similar to the one purchased a few years ago.

Mayor Holland asked about the fire hydrant flags. Mr. Hatch indicated that he had located 8 flags – these flags are used on top of the fire hydrants to aid the firefighters in locating the hydrants in snowy conditions.

Sanitation Fund

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed manning of the recycling center that would require the hiring of two part time employees. Mr. Lawless noted that two part time individuals would be required in order to limit the expense of benefits.

Rick Owen indicated that he had a problem with the Town paying someone to take care of the recycling center while Mr. Mooradian felt it was a necessity because of the mess that was constantly present.

The center will be manned and accessibility will be limited to the hours it is manned.

E-911 Fund

There were no questions regarding the E-911 Fund.

Capital Outlay Recommendations

Mayor Holland, noting his disapproval of a cemetery, recommended the money be used in other areas such as the parking lot for the backside of Town Hall.

Rick Owen asked if the appraisal for the property the 'Cemetery Committee' has suggested had been completed. Mr. Lawless expected to have the figures soon.

It was recommended that, should a deal be put together to attempt to purchase the property, a contingency clause be added that all parties involved agree upon the sell or the offers were void.

It was also noted that the designation of 'cemetery' could be replaced with a more appropriate term

Other Business

Gil Adams asked that the 'Public Safety Department' be reopened for discussion. Mr. Adams questioned the necessity for a detective when the patrol area was short one person. Mr. Lawless indicated that there was not a lot of crime in the Town, but he did feel a detective was a necessity in that the Town offered assistance to the surrounding communities. Mr. Adams also noted that the fact that our Town was a great place to work should be some compensation for the pay scale the police department has.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Reub Mooradian, seconded by Jim Herbert. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:00 P.M. with the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th to adopt the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

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Minutes approved by Town Council on July 10, 2001.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
June 12, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Holland called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Jim Herbert, Reub Mooradian and Rick Owen. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Town Attorney David Paletta, Police Detective Dana Crawford, 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 – Charlie Burleson

Charlie Burleson opened the meeting in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Holland called for the addition of item 7-e, Offer of Lot Donations and 7-f, Adoption of Recreation Area Plans. All agreed to accept the agenda as amended.

2. Public Hearing – Proposed Fiscal Year 2001 –2002 Budget

Mayor Holland reported to the public that the proposed budget for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, which starts on July 1st, was presented to the Council at a workshop on May 30th. June 19th is the date set for the adoption of the budget. Mayor Holland noted that Seth Lawless did an excellent job on this year's budget.

Mr. Lawless gave an overview to bring the public up to date on the budget. He noted that the Town had a 3% growth in the value of the property with the tax rate proposed to remain at 76¢ per \$100 of valuation. The Town is requesting a 5% increase in the water and sewer fees as well as 2 part-time positions in the sanitation department to man the recycling center. Mr. Lawless noted that a copy of the budget was available for public inspection in the clerks office from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Mr. Burleson asked if the budget was based on the property values plus the 3% increase. Mr. Lawless indicated that it was.

Mr. Lawless introduced Jonathan Hobbs, the intern who will be working with the Town for the summer. Mr. Hobbs has just completed his studies and will receive his Masters Degree from Appalachian State University following the completion of this internship.

3. *Approval of Minutes*

Reub Mooradian moved to accept the minutes of the May 16th Regular Council Meeting and the May 30th Special Meeting. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3-b. *Committee Reports*

There were no committee reports.

4. *Persons wishing to Address the Council – Mr. Frank McKeen*

Mr. Frank McKeen of 605 Charter Hills Road asked the Council for full reimbursement of a sewer repair due to tree roots clogging up a Town sewer line. Mr. McKeen contacted a private plumber who informed him the problem was on the Town side of the line. The plumber charged Mr. McKeen \$185. After a brief discussion Gil Adams made a motion to reimburse the full amount of the plumber bill of \$185.00. Jim Herbert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. McKeen commended the public works crew on the job they did for him.

Mayor Holland asked that we put a notice in the newsletter letting people know to call the Public Works Department when they have a sewer problem.

Mr. McKeen took the opportunity to ask about the recent arrival of a doublewide trailer on Charter Hills Road. Mayor Holland noted that it was a modular home and as long as structures meet North Carolina building code they are permitted on the Mountain.

5. Special Presentation – Steven Overcash, Buckeye Lake Plan

Steven Overcash, of the architectural firm of Overcash and Demmitt, presented the Council with the Buckeye Lake Recreation Area Master Plan. Mr. Overcash noted that he had worked with the engineering firm of Davis, Martin, Powell & Associates, Inc. on the design of the recreation area. In a brief overview Mr. Overcash went over the amenities that would be available in the near future, starting with the existing ball field and the tennis and basketball courts which will be ready this summer.

Mr. Overcash touched on the indoor recreation facility, the St. Andrews Park with the fire department theme and the Grassy Gap Creek trail.

Mr. Overcash finalized this report to the Council by announcing that Court I had been awarded the contract for the tennis and basketball courts and that he will be on site to oversee the construction project which has already started.

6. *Old Business – Resurfacing Estimates*

Ed Powell reported that the estimated cost to resurface Tamarack Road from Beech Mountain Parkway to Pond Creek was \$47,000. The cost on Oz Road and Oz Circle would be \$58,000. This amount is \$10,000 lower than the original estimate. The

developer, Emerald Mountain, will be paying for the widening of Oz Road and the removal of some trees.

Mr. Powell also reported that he had looked at Grassy Gap Loop Road from Lake Ledge Road to St. Andrews Road. Mr. Powell estimated the distance to be 3,300 feet and cost about \$51,000. This project could be added to the other road resurfacing projects scheduled. He will report on this matter at the July meeting. The mileage of all the projects was estimated to be 1.3 miles.

Mr. Lawless indicated that the money could be taken from the fund balance, should the Council decide to add it to the paving project.

After a lengthy discussion, Reub Mooradian moved to add Grassy Gap Loop Road to the paving project for the 2001 – 2002 budget. Mayor Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Powell indicated that he anticipated having bids for the Council at the meeting on July 10th.

7. New Business

a. Call for Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendments

The Council called for a public hearing to be held on July 10th prior to the next Council meeting on the Zoning Ordinance amendments.

b. Proposed Amendment to Appendix B & C Water and Sewer Use Ordinance

Rick Owen moved to approve the amendments to Appendix B & C of the Water and Sewer Use Ordinance. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Consideration of Budget Amendment/Recreation Reserve Fund

Reub Mooradian moved to approve the Budget Amendment and the Recreation Reserve Fund Transfer. Jim Herbert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. BMRI Raw Water Line

Wayne Hoilman, General Manager for Beech Mountain Resort, Inc., addressed the Council with regards to the replacement of the water line running from Lake Santis to Snow Lake. Mr. Hoilman indicated that BMRI requests the Towns permission to use the West Pond Creek Road Right of Way. Mr. Hoilman did note that there was one other area that they could have to get permission to go around, that being the Coffman property on Greenbriar Road, where a garage had been built over the easement. The Council suggested that he deal with the property owner directly.

After a brief discussion Reub Mooradian made a motion to grant BMRI the easement across West Pond Creek Road. Jim Herbert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. Lot Donations – BHW-20 and AA-460

After a brief discussion, noting there was no road assessment, Rick Owen moved to accept donation of BHW-20. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After a brief discussion regarding the road assessment for AA 460 and the option of doing a foreclosure Rick Owen moved to accept donation of AA-460. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

f. Adopt Plans for Buckeye Lake Recreation Area

Reub Mooradian moved to accept the Buckeye Lake Recreation Area Master Plan as presented. Gil Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. *Staff/Consultant Reports.*

a. Town Engineer's Report.

Mr. Clint Brown asked about the North Pinnacle Ridge water project, noting that last month it was indicated that it was in the final stages. Mr. Brown was interested in a completion date. Mr. Powell reported that he had spoken with John Costin of R & G Construction on Friday, June 8th asking for an update. Mr. Costin had promised to send him a set of plans and start the work in the very near future. Mr. Powell indicated that he would be in contact with Mr. Costin and Mike Eggers, Eggers Construction, on a regular basis until the work was done, which should only be a couple of weeks after it is started.

Mr. Mooradian asked if we were having problems getting them to do the work. Mr. Powell indicated that it was difficult to get them started because they had a lot of work in this area, but their bid price was 30% lower than the next bid we received.

Rick Owen asked what the cost for paving was to which Mr. Powell reported that resurfacing is \$22 to \$24 per linear foot. New paving on gravel roads that have been properly prepared cost about \$35 per linear foot.

b. Public Works Director's Report.

Riley Hatch reported on the following: 1) The recycled paper and plastics were taken to Boone twice this past month and both times they were refused 2) They are still educating the public about the 4 special pickups per year for household refuse 3) There are 4 employees taking a hazardous material class for certification and 4 others taking the class for re-certification 4) The manhole mapping is still being worked on, however the foliage is giving some problems 5) The crew is also working on regravelling the

areas where the manholes have been dug up, but it is hard to keep ahead of the complaints.

Reub Mooradian reported that the recycling center was still very unkept and people still do not understand where they are supposed to put things. Mr. Lawless responded to this by saying that the Town has posted signs on each dumpster as well as signs on posts.

Mr. Hatch was instructed to find out exactly why the paper and plastics were being rejected so we can remedy the problem.

Mayor Holland reported that we would have a sign erected announcing the closing times of the recycling center, just to make the public aware of the upcoming changes.

Kakii Handley asked about the culvert on Beech Mountain Parkway that was to have a rock surface put on it. Mr. Hatch reported that it would be taken care of this summer.

c. Town Attorney's Report. Mr. Paletta had no report.

d. Police Report. Detective Crawford had no report.

Gil Adams asked about the 39 recycling center checks listed on the reported in the packet. Mr. Adams requested that the officers just drive through the center on their way back to Town hall.

e. Town Manager's Report. Seth Lawless reported on the following: 1) The Town experienced a power outage this morning in order for Mountain Electric to change out a pole that had been damaged 2) The two nuisance ordinance cases are in the process of abatement 3) Charter Communications is going digital, Mr. Lawless was not sure if a cable ready TV would require a digital box and there would probably be a charge for the box, we will do follow up to verify this information 4) The preliminary census results are in the packet. Mr. Lawless felt there was a few discrepancies and asked the Council to look the report over. Two items that looked insufficient were the number of housing units, 1868, the Town has over 2,000. The Town will be provided with the census maps and we will be able to check this. The other item was the number of children listed. The over total has increased, however Mr. Lawless felt we were undercounted and the number of houses and people are not subject to appeal. 5) The Water Quality & Wastewater performance reports will be available next week 6) Meeting reminders are for the budget adoption on June 19th at 2:00 P.M. as well an update on the visitor's center bids which are scheduled for opening at 10:00 A.M. that morning. The July 4th Planning Board meeting has been cancelled 7) Mr. Lawless reported that he had been asked to attend the Watauga River Partnership meeting on the 21st. Attendance is important in order to keep them informed and have a good relationship with their group and the Town 8) A water fountain has been ordered and Riley Hatch will install it for us.

The Tax Report and the Building Inspections Report were accepted as submitted.

8. Other Business

- a. Mayor Holland informed the Council that they were all invited to a reception at Elk River for the new ambulance service. The Avery County Commissioners will be in attendance from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Reub moved that the Town hire the intern to start in June. Jim Herbert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. Executive Session

Upon a motion by Rick Owen, seconded by Reub Mooradian, the Council entered into Executive Session at 7:50 P.M. under the provisions of NCGS 143-318(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney. The Council came out of the closed session at 8:20 P.M. No action was taken.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 P.M. upon a motion by Reub Mooradian, seconded by Rick Owen. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

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Minutes approved by Town Council on July 10, 2001.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP
June 19, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Holland called the Special Meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Jim Herbert, and Rick Owen. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Visitors Center

Seth Lawless reported that the bid opening for the Visitors Center had been scheduled for 10:00 A.M. earlier the same day. No bids were received, the Town will advertise with a new bid opening date of July 10th at 10:00 A.M.

Budget Ordinance

Mr. Lawless informed the Council that they had been presented with three copies of the 2001-2002 Budget Ordinance. This is in reference to the estimates submitted by Ed Powell, the Town engineer, on the resurfacing of Tamarack Road, Oz Road and Grassy Gap Loop Road.

Version #1 shows using fund balance in the amount of \$134,660 – this includes Oz Road and Oz Circle paving only, #2 shows using \$192,260 - this version includes Oz Road, Oz Circle and Tamarack Road. The last version uses fund balance amounting to \$269,460 has the paving included for Oz Road, Oz Circle, Tamarack Road and the portion of Grassy Gap Loop Road.

The road paving estimate received from Mr. Powell indicated that the Tamarack Road project from Beech Mountain Parkway to Pond Creek Road would be \$57,600, Oz Road and Oz Circle would be \$60,000 and the Grassy Gap Loop Road area from Lake ~~Lodge~~ *Road* to St. Andrews would be \$77,200 with significant patching.

Rick Owen indicated that he was opposed to taking that much money from fund balance and felt Grassy Gap Loop Road should be taken care of next year. Mayor felt that if it was not done this summer, it would cost a lot more next year. Jim Herbert agreed with Mayor Holland that the road should be paved this summer.

Rick Owen made a motion to repave Oz Circle, Oz Road and Tamarack with a fund balance appropriation of \$192,260. Gil Adams seconded the motion. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Adams noted that problems could be found on any of the roads within the Town limits and he felt Grassy Gap Loop Road could hold off for one more year. Mayor Holland felt one more year could result in server deterioration to the road and end up costing more to repair. Mr. Herbert asked it we could do a patch job and make it last to which Mayor Holland indicated that it would not hold

up from what he understood Mr. Powell to say at the June 12th meeting. Mr. Herbert indicated that he was in favor of paving Grassy Gap Loop Road.

Mr. Lawless asked if the Council would consider doing Oz Road, Oz Circle and Grassy Gap Loop Road, skipping Tamarack Road or doing the small section of Tamarack near the top where the grade is so steep.

Mayor Holland called for a vote on the motion by Mr. Owen. Mr. Owen and Mr. Adams were in favor of the motion. Mayor Holland and Mr. Herbert were against the motion, leaving it at a tie of 2 for and 2 against. With this, the motion died.

After further discussion it was agreed to recess the meeting until Thursday, June 28th at 4:00 P.M.

Recessed

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was recessed at 2:45 PM. upon a motion by Rick Owen, seconded by Gil Adams. Motion passed.

Reconvened – 6-28, 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Holland reconvened the Budget Workshop, recessed from June 19th, at 4:00 p.m. Present was Mayor Holland, Vice Mayor Rick Owen, Council members Gil Adams, Jim Herbert and Reub Mooradian. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless and intern Jonathan Hobbs. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Mayor Holland announced to the audience that the meeting was to take a vote on the 2001-2002 Budget for the Town. The meeting had been recessed due to a split vote. Now that Mr. Mooradian has returned the Council can vote on the Budget, the question being whether or not to pave Grassy Gap Loop Road in addition to Oz Circle, Oz Road and Tamarack Road.

Rick Owen made a motion to pave Oz Road, Oz Circle and Tamarack Road having the Fund Balance Appropriated at \$192,260 as opposed to the Fund Balance Appropriation of \$269,460. Gil Adams seconded the motion.

Reub Mooradian asked for the percentage of the General Fund under the two options presented to the Council. Seth Lawless responded by saying that the Fund Balance Appropriated at \$192,260 leaves a margin of 30% while the other option of \$269,460 would leave 27%. Mr. Mooradian reminded the Council that he had been in favor of the additional paving while requesting that the future Council make a strong effort to get the Fund Balance back up - that this not set a trend.

Rick Owen responded that his reasoning for the position he had was based on dollars, not just a number of 3%. He noted that the 3% was equal to \$77,000 and anticipated that it would be more difficult to put more money aside in the future.

Mayor Holland called for a vote on Mr. Owen's motion. The motion failed with Mr. Owen and Mr. Adams voting yea and Mayor Holland, Mr. Herbert and Mr. Mooradian voting nay.

Mr. Mooradian made a motion to pave Oz Road, Oz Circle, Tamarack Road and Grassy Gap Loop Road. Mayor Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 2 with Mayor Holland, Mr. Herbert and Mr. Mooradian voting yea and Mr. Owen and Mr. Adams voting nay.

Mr. Mooradian moved to approve the 2001 – 2002 Budget. Mr. Owen seconded the motion. Mr. Herbert had further questions.

Mr. Herbert indicated that he had some questions regarding the Public Safety portion of the Budget with one question being the detective issue brought up by Gil Adams at the last meeting. Lawless reiterated that the detective position was created several years ago to consolidate the investigate functions of the patrol officers into one position. No staff were added. Mr. Herbert then asked about the vehicle to which Mr. Lawless replied that one is replaced every year. Further discussion was given to the comparison of the Town's budget with the Town of Banner Elk with the outcome being that there was too many differences between the Towns to have a real comparison. Mr. Owen expressed his dissatisfaction over the timing of the questions on the public safety budget and urged anyone who had questions to come to the Town staff and get answers.

Cindy Keller asked if would be possible for the Town to post information on a sign, perhaps with changeable letters, notifying the public of the, meetings and in general what is going on. She felt this would help educate people and they would not come into the Council meetings not knowing what was going on. Mr. Lawless responded by saying a sign might be a good idea, but we do publish meeting notices in the papers and they are announced on WECR as well as the information that is put on the board in the Town hall entrance. He also noted that he had informed Ms. Keller of the last budget meeting when she had called to talk with him. Mayor Holland reported that the type of sign that was being discussed was against the sign ordinance and that the new Chamber of Commerce building would have an outdoor bulletin board that could be used for that purpose.

Mr. Mooradian expressed his dislike of outdoor signs, noting that he was against putting an outdoor signboard at Town hall.

Mr. Adams reiterated that the meetings were posted on the bulletin board just inside the Town hall and that the Council meetings were on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Mr. Adams then called the question. Mayor Holland asked the Council if all were in favor of calling the question.

Mr. Mooradian indicated that he would like to see a show of hands in the audience of those who would like to see an outdoor sign, 7 individuals raised their hands. That was approximately ½ of the audience.

Mayor Holland called the question that was on the floor asking for a vote on the motion to adopt the 2001 – 2002 Budget. Those in favor were Mr. Owen, Mr. Adams, Mr. Mooradian and Mayor Holland. Mr. Herbert voted nay. The Budget passed 4 to 1.

Mr. Lawless announced that he would e-mail the agenda and minutes to anyone who would like to receive them.

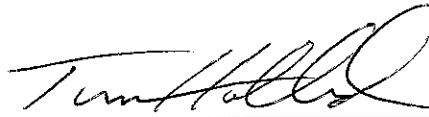
There being not further business to come before the Council, Rick Owen moved the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 P.M. Gil Adams seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

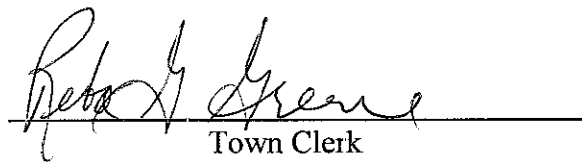
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Minutes approved by Town Council on July 10, 2001.



Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk