

MINUTES  
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL  
February 11, 2003

***CALL TO ORDER***

Mayor Rick Owen 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, Pete Chamberlin, Tim Holland and Dr. Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Town Attorney David Paletta, Tax Collector Missy Norwood and Building Inspector Keith Cook. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

***Invocation*** – Charlie Burleson opened the meeting with prayer.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

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

***1. Adoption of Agenda***

Mr. Charlie Burleson – IDA sign discussion was added under Other Business. The agenda was adopted as amended.

***2. Consent Agenda***

Mayor Owen corrected B.M.R.I. Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the minutes of the January 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting as amended. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

***3. Special Presentation – Dr. Randy Ellis; Emergency Medical Dispatch***

Mr. Holland asked Dr. Ellis of the Avery County Emergency Medical Dispatch to make a brief presentation on the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program to familiarize the Council with the concept of having a 911 dispatcher give medical advice to the people calling for assistance. Chief Hefner will be asking for money to be allocated in the upcoming fiscal year for an EMD training program for the dispatch personnel and a few of the patrol officers.

Dr. Ellis gave a brief overview of the 'flip chart' system used in the EMD Program, which allows the dispatcher to ask certain questions in order to facilitate aid to the 911 caller. The training program for an EMD is 2½ to 3 days and classes are given locally.

Fire Chief Jim Brooks commended the efforts to keep the 911 system up to date and asked if it would be possible to look into budgeting funds to set the fire

department up on the automatic mutual aide dispatch program. Mr. Holland recommended that the Council look at the issue during the upcoming retreat.

#### **4. *Wastewater Update – Seth Lawless***

Mr. Lawless reported that the Town would have authorization to construct the Grassy Gap Creek effluent discharge system in a week or so - according to e-mail from DENR. Once the official letter is received Mr. Powell will be able to put the plans out for bid.

Mr. Lawless also reported that the Town had received a verbal approval of the Special Order of Consent allowing an additional 10,000 gallons per day discharge at the Grassy Gap Creek Plant and an additional 30,000 gallons a day at the Pond Creek Plant. After a brief discussion the Council recommended that a public announcement be made when written confirmation is received. Mr. Lawless will do a press release as soon as the letter is received. The Council agreed to set up a special meeting to determine how the additional flow would be allocated once written approval is in hand.

Mr. Lawless also noted that Buckeye Construction was approximately 80% complete and they will have to return when the weather warms up to apply the epoxy in the manholes. During the construction process some changes have been made and at the 75% completion mark they were only \$1,400 over project projections.

Mayor Owen pointed out that Mr. Hatch had brought in examples of the type of pipe that was being replaced as well as the new type of pipe being used.

Mr. Chamberlin asked about the 'as/built' to which Mr. Hatch reported that Mark Lacey would contact Lee Humphries of Hobbs & Upchurch to finalize the as/built plans for the project.

Mr. Lawless also reported that Buckeye Construction was having difficulty getting the gravel delivered to the job site due to weather conditions. Mr. Lawless did indicate to the construction company that the Town would like to have the roads repaired as soon as possible.

Another point on the wastewater was that Hobbs & Upchurch will be back in Town as soon as weather permits to continue the monitoring flow to evaluate the construction work that has been done and to target the next project area, there is no additional cost for this.

#### **5. *Old Business – Proposed Water and Sewer Availability Fee Increases***

Mr. Lawless presented the Council with a comparison showing the fees charged by surrounding towns and the cost of various increases ranging from 30¢ to 50¢ on availability fees that Building Inspector Keith Cook had put together. After a brief

discussion Mr. Holland moved to adopt the 50¢ per square foot fee. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**6. *New Business – Discuss Date and Location for Special Meeting to Conduct a Planning Retreat***

After a brief discussion Mr. Chamberlin moved to hold the Planning Retreat at the Fairfield Inn in Boone on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**7. *Staff/Consultant Reports***

**a. Town Engineer's Report.**

Mr. Powell had nothing else to report. There were no questions for the Town Engineer.

**b. Public Works Director's Report.**

Riley Hatch reported: 1) The garbage truck is back in operation. 2) The Town is still loosing some water and Mr. Hatch asked that anyone who sees a leak to please give him a call. 3) B. J. Hughes will be working this weekend on the sledding hill.

Mr. Chamberlin asked why the recycling center wasn't open Sunday and Mr. Hatch reported that the employee who mans the center was out. However, the police department did open it up around 10:00 a.m. and also closed it in the evening. Mr. Hatch's report was accepted as submitted.

Charlie Burleson asked what the Town policy is on road clearing after hours. Mr. Burleson indicated that he had a large number of check-ins last Thursday and a number of the renters had a difficult time getting to the homes they reserved. Mr. Hatch reported that he had 2 employees called in to push snow. They worked from 8:15 p.m. until 11:15 p.m. that particular Thursday. Mr. Hatch noted that the police department called him at home when the roads were covered with 3" of snow and employees are then called to deal with the situation.

Mr. Hatch reported that the dispatcher does have communications with the employees in the Town trucks and Mr. Hatch indicated that he would do a memo asking that the people working to make sure that they let the dispatcher know when they arrive to work. Mr. Hatch went on to recommend that Mr. Burleson, or any of the other rental companies, let him know when they are expecting heavy arrivals in order to have the public works more prepared for their arrival.

**c. Town Attorney's Report.**

Mr. Paletta had no report.

**d. Police Report.**

Chief Jay Hefner gave an overview of the report noting that the department was working on a number of ski and snowboard thefts as well as a few auto break-ins. Chief Hefner's report was accepted as submitted.

e. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Lawless reported the following: 1) Representative Philip Frye has agreed to take the lead on the Towns behalf in the attempt to regulate golf carts within the Town limits. Mr. Lawless passed out to the Council a draft of the proposed golf cart legislation. Mr. Lawless pointed out the word 'electric' with reference to golf carts along with the fact that the state has exclusive right to regulate traffic on a state road, thus excluding Beech Mountain Parkway from any legislation that would pass. Mr. Lawless was asked to look over the notes from the original meeting regarding the issue and compare it to the draft. 2) The General Assembly opened the current session on January 26<sup>th</sup> and was unable to elect a speaker from one party, thus a joint speakership has been arranged. The two speakers are Representative Jim Black, a Democrat from Mecklenburg County and Representative Richard Morgan, a Republican from Moore County. 3) Mr. Lawless reported that one of the seminars at the City & County Manager's meeting dealt with health insurance and the indication was that the insurance would continue to increase. The idea was to get everyone to look long-term at their insurance to help prepare for inevitable increases. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Broyhill Center in Boone, which the Finance Officer usually attends; it is also open to the Council members. Mr. Lawless indicated that he would sign up anyone who wished to attend. 4) Available in Mr. Lawless office is a report that shows a comparison of water rates and rate structures in the state. There were no further questions for Mr. Lawless and the report was accepted as submitted.

f. The Tax Collectors report was accepted as submitted.

g. The Building Inspections Report was accepted as submitted.

Mr. Cook noted that his report would be more complete as it would be a year next month that he had been keeping records.

**8. Other Business**

Charlie Burleson, addressing the Council as a member of the Tourism Development Authority, showed the Council a proposed sign. Bob Cantrell has offered to let the Authority use the sign in front of his business as a community calendar sign. Mr. Burleson went on to say that the sign would have changeable letters with back lighting, which is against Town ordinance, thus the asking for the Town approval.

Mr. Burleson proposed that the Town lease the sign for 3 to 5 years for \$1 00 per year ensuring that the money invested in the sign would be a worthy investment.

Mayor Owen asked why the Town should enter into the lease agreement instead of the TDA to which Mr. Paletta indicated that it would not be a problem.

After a discussion, the Council agreed that in the Town's best interest they would not vote on the sign.

Mr. Holland asked Mr. Burleson for an update on the mornings' Chamber Meeting with regards to the sledding hill. Mr. Burleson reported that the Chamber had scheduled the sledding hill to be open in conjunction with the Chamber office, Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If volunteers wish to have the sledding hill open, and they man the office, that is acceptable. The sledding hill will be open for the next 4 weekends 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and Sundays 9-5. Funds have been allocated to hire part time staff if volunteers are not available. The sledding hill will be open for the next 4 weeks 7 days a week. A meeting will be held in March or April to discuss the problems associated with the sledding.

Mayor Owen clarified that it was not intended that people would be ask to leave the sledding hill after hours to which Mr. Burleson confirmed. Rick Miller asked if the appropriate signs were going to be put up to notify the public of their hours and it was indicated that this was the plan.

## 9. *Adjournment*

Mr. Holland moved for adjournment at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,

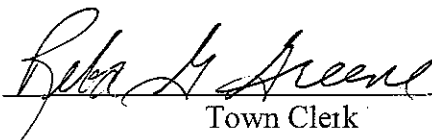
Reba G. Greene  
Town Clerk

rg

Minutes approved by Town Council on 3-11-, 2003.

ATTEST:

  
Mayor

  
Town Clerk