

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
September 14, 2004

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 Chambers of Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Paul Piquet and Dr. Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Building Inspector Keith Cook, Town Engineer Ed Powell and Town Attorney David Paletta. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation – Charlie Bureson opened the meeting with prayer

Pledge of Allegiance - All present joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag

1. Adoption of Agenda – The Agenda was adopted with the addition of Bob Bedore of 113 Heather Lane under New Business item ‘F’.

2. Consent Agenda – Minutes of August 9th Regular – Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the minutes of the August 9th meeting as amended. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

3. Old Business –

A. Proposed Water and Sewer Use Ordinance Amendments

Mr. Lawless pointed out the recommended changes in the Ordinance. The first was a deletion in Section 4-1 “Extensions of utilities to properties located within the corporate limits for which subdivision approval has been granted prior to the date of this amendment shall be financed partly by the Town of Beech Mountain and the owners of benefited property. The Town shall contribute 25% of the cost of such extensions, the remainder of the cost of the water or sanitary sewer extension or both shall be assessed against owners of benefited property.” The second item is in Section 4-3 (a) dealing with Extensions to Existing Lots, Parcels or Developed Property. Mr. Lawless outlined the addition of option 2 dealing with extending water or sanitary sewer service or both. The third change is a deletion in Section 4-3 “to be shared by the property owner(s) and the Town as provided herein.” Mr. Piquet made a motion to approve all three changes. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Lawless also discussed the changes in Appendix B and after a brief discussion the Council asked that further research be done and resubmitted at the next Council meeting.

B. Consider Resolution 04-09-01 – Surplus Property – Mr. Lawless gave a brief overview of the auction procedure using the Gov Deals web site to sell surplus government property noting that the bid opening could be open for 1 to 2 weeks, giving ample opportunity for anyone who

wished to place a bid to find internet access. Mr. Lawless felt the negative issue was that the Town could not take sealed paper bids if the Gov Deals program was used. Mr. Chamberlin moved to pass Resolution 04-09-01. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion. Mr. Adams asked if there was a fee for using the web site to which Mr. Lawless indicated there was a fee that the buyer had to pay. The motion passed without dissent.

4. New Business -

A Consider Resolution 04-09-02 – Adoption of Watauga County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Lawless reported to the Council that it was a federal mandated requirement that the Town participate in a 'Hazard Mitigation Plan'. After a brief discussion Dr. Waligroski moved to accept Resolution 04-09-02. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Discuss Position Grade Changes – Mayor Owen opened the discussion of pay grade changes noting that the information included in the packet was the classifications currently in use. Mr. Piquet indicated that he was in support of Chief Hefner's recommendations as discussed during the budget meetings in the spring. Mr. Piquet further noted that the cost of implementing the proposals for the current fiscal year would be approximately \$1,850.00, very little as compared to the \$10,000 landscaping proposal that was discussed for Town Hall earlier this year. Mr. Piquet felt that a number of positions should be moved up in grade. Mayor Owen was opposed to grade changes because it would affect all employees. Mr. Lawless indicated that the League of Municipalities had done a study 4 years ago and changed some of the job classifications raising some and lowering others – the patrol officers grade did not change in their study. Mr. Lawless also noted that supervisors could start employees at a higher step, but could not go above a grade 3 without his approval. Mr. Lawless continued by saying that employees are given a yearly evaluation in December or January which could raise their step in pay. Mr. Adams indicated that he was not in favor of raising the salary for the police department. Mr. Chamberlin voiced his opinion stating that he did not see a need to move positions up, perhaps since the dispatch was expected to know more as being an E.M.D their grade should be changed. Mr. Lawless reminded the Council that employees were given a longevity bonus after 10 years of service to the Town and department heads could give up to a maximum 5% bonus during evaluation, but the system was not set up to give each employee the maximum bonus. Further, Mr. Lawless noted that the cost of living raise given each year helped employees keep up to date. Mayor Owen, feeling that a lot of time had been spent on the topic, asked for a motion. Mr. Piquet recommended another classification study. Mayor Owen, with the consensus of the Council, asked Mr. Lawless to provide the Council with copies of the price quote received from the League of Municipalities, as well as quotes from other company's who would do that type of study.

C. Discuss Roadside Fence Improvements – Mayor Owen opened the discussion on the roadside fence replacement with estimates on materials being approximately \$25 per section. Mr. Lawless indicated that the Town was unsure of the ownership of some of the fencing and noted that the fence at Christie Village had been replaced by the property owners. Mr. Chamberlin made a motion to replace the fencing and let the property owners adjacent to the right of way know that they are not to modify the fencing. Hearing no second, the discussion continued with Mr. Piquet indicating that the property owners should be notified first. After much discussion, Mr. Adams asked if the purpose of the fence was Town beautification, when it was determined that it was. Mr. Adams asked if the T.D.A. had made a contribution to the fence upkeep. Mayor Owen asked that Mr. Lawless place the topic on the T.D.A. agenda for their upcoming meeting on September 29th. Mr. Chamberlin withdrew his motion.

D. Consider Change Order #3 – GEM Construction – Mr. Lawless presented a change order for the removal of unsuitable soil at the Buckeye Lake Recreation site. After a brief discussion, Mr. Adams moved to approve the change order in the amount of \$1,246 14 Dr Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Consider Change Order #3 – Moretz Paving/Flood Damage - Mr. Lawless reported that he had been in contact with Moretz Paving with regards to the repairs the Town would have to make to the roads from Hurricane Francis and asked the Council if a phone poll would suffice for approval. Mr. Chamberlin indicated, and the Council was in agreement, for Mr. Lawless to poll the Council for repairs to the roads.

F. Bob Bedore – Police Department- Mr. Bob Bedore of 113 Heather Lane reported to the Council that he and a group of citizens were looking into fundraising for the Police Department. Mr. Bedore indicated the group was not asking the Town and/or Council for any type of assistance in this endeavor, the purpose was to make the Town aware of the upcoming efforts of the citizens to help the department by having a fund to assist officers in the event of an emergency. Mr. Bedore will keep the Council informed of the progress on the fundraising efforts.

5. Staff/Consultant Reports

A. Town Engineer's Report – 1) Mr. Powell reported that Moretz Paving has given the Town a very good quality job with the paving project. 2) Chris Ryder Construction had the first alum sludge basin completed and would start on the other basin after the threat of bad weather has passed. 3) Mr. Powell reported that he is continuing to work with Raleigh on the grant and loan applications.

B. Public Works Director's Report – Riley Hatch reported: 1) The Town had some flood damage from Hurricane Francis. The Public Works department operated with one half of the crew because they could not get to work. Tamarack Road has already been repaired. 2) Indian Trail suffered heavy damage and the crew will install a 7' culvert to alleviate future problems. Mr. Hatch's report was accepted as submitted.

C. Town Attorney's Report. – Mr. Paletta had no report.

D. Police Report – Chief Heffner gave a brief review of the report noting that the burglary was not a forced entry, the intruder had a key and no damage was done, but the unit had been used. The larceny was from a stolen check and an arrest has been made. Chief Hefner noted that the new dispatcher, Dan Jennings, was scheduled to start work on Thursday. The Police report is on file with the Town Clerk.

E. Town Manager's Report - Mr. Lawless reported; 1) The annual employee luncheon will be held at Buckeye Lake on Friday, September 24th at noon. All the Council members are invited to attend. 2) The Office of State Management and Budget has estimated the Town's population showing a 1% loss in the total. The Town will have to do some research to prove the full time residence is higher than they have estimated. After a brief discussion, Mr. Piquet indicated that his wife, Barbara, had access to information that would make the research easier. 3) GEM Construction will hold its monthly progress meeting on Wednesday, September 15th at the Recreation Center site at 1:00. 4) The monthly TDA meeting will be on Wednesday, September

29th at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Lawless' report was accepted as submitted. Mayor Owen took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lawless on his 'Manager of the Year' award at the High Country Council of Governments annual banquet.

F. Tax Collection Report – On file with the Town Clerk.

G. Building Inspections Report – On file with the Town Clerk.

6. *Executive Session – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (6)* – Upon a motion by Mr. Piquet, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Council entered into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. Mayor Owen called for a 5 minute recess before entering into executive session.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:38 p.m. No action was taken. Mr. Chamberlin moved to recess the meeting until Monday, September 20th at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion. All agreed.

Reconvened – Mayor Owen announced that a Council member would be late for the meeting. All agreed to wait until all members were present. The meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m. on Monday, September 20th. Mr. Chamberlin moved to enter into executive session to continue the annual performance review of the Town Manager. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 5:55 p.m. Mr. Piquet moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Dr. Waligroski and approved without dissent. Mr. Chamberlin moved to increase the Town Manager's salary 2.5% effective July 1, 2004 and award a \$2,000 bonus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Piquet and passed unanimously. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned by consent at 6:00 p.m.

7. *Other Business* – There was no other business for the Council to consider.

8. *Adjournment* - The meeting adjourned by consent at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 20, 2004.

Minutes approved by Town Council on OCTOBER 12, 2004



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

Reconvened meeting

Sept 20

*ally
Please pass this on to Reba
for minutes*

At 4:00 p m , Mayor Owen announced that a Council member would be late for the meeting All agreed to wait until all members were present The meeting reconvened at 4:20 p m Mr Chamberlin moved to enter into executive session to continue the annual performance review of the Town Manager Mr Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously *set*

At 5:55 p m , Mr Piquet moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Dr Waligroski and approved without dissent Pete Chamberlin moved to increase the Town Manager's salary 2 5% effective July 1 and award a \$2,000 bonus The motion was seconded by Paul Piquet and passed unanimously. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned by consent at 6:00 p m

