

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
January 10, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the special meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Randy Corn and Paul Piquet. Also present were Town Manager Michael Boaz and Town Attorney David Paletta. Skip James, Director of Government Relations for Charter Communications arrived at 5:10 p.m. to join the Council in closed session.

At 4:32 p.m. Mr. Chamberlin moved to go into Executive Session under NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to consult with the Town Attorney. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Having taken no action, upon on a motion by Mr. Chamberlin, seconded by Mr. Piquet the Council came out of Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

**MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
January 10, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Randy Corn and Paul Piquet. Also present were Town Manager Michael Boaz, Town Attorney David Paletta, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Assistant Police Chief Dana Crawford, Public Works Director Riley Hatch and Building Inspector Keith Cook. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

II. Invocation – Dominic Simon opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.
Pledge of Allegiance – All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. Adoption of Agenda – The Agenda was adopted with the addition of VI. a) Walt and Betty Lemke and VI b) Riley Hatch for Alan Holcombe, sewer line request for 104 Old Field Road.

IV. Consent Agenda – Minutes of December 13, 2005 Regular Meeting and December 13, 2005 Special Meeting – Mr. Chamberlin moved to adopt the minutes of the December 13, 2005 Regular Meeting and the December 13, 2005 Special Meeting as submitted. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment –

Ms. Bell Bennett, representing Chalet Rentals, asked if the Council had received her letter to which Mayor Owen indicated that the Council was in receipt of the letter and would respond to her concerns.

VI. Persons Wishing to Address Council

a. Walt and Betty Lemke – Walt and Betty Lemke of 1099 Seminole Trail, expressed concerns over Watauga County's mandated telephone number change directing their calls to the Beech Mountain Police Department. Mr. Lemke indicated the response time from Beech would be approximately 45 minutes or more in a fire emergency, Fall Creek Station #2 is only 10 minutes from their home. Mr. Lemke asked for a copy of the Town's evacuation plan in case of flooding or other natural disasters. Mr. Dave Davis, 911 System Administrator for the police department, presented Mr. Lemke with a copy of the plan. Mayor Owen asked that the Lemke's review the plan and contact the Town should they have any questions or concerns. Mr. Lemke asked the Council to consider a reduction in the Seminole Trail property owner's tax due to the lack of Town services to which Mayor Owen responded that the Town was bound by the Legislature for the administration of property tax, all owners within the Town limits had to be taxed at the same rate. Mr. Lemke thanked the Council for their attention.

b. Alan Holcombe – Sewer Line Request – Mr. Riley Hatch, on behalf of Alan Holcombe, presented the Council with a request for sewer services to GH-1, 104 Old Field Road. Mr. Hatch noted that the lot had failed the counties pert test. Mr. Hatch recommended that a sleeve be installed under Old Field Road for the sewer line and repairs to the asphalt be required, should the Council approve the request. After a brief discussion Mr. Piquet moved to approve the request allowing the sewer line to cross Old Field Road with a sleeve allowing for repairs. The property owner would be responsible for all asphalt repairs to the road. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Old Business –

a. Planning Board Appointments – Mr. Piquet moved to appoint Jim Weaver and Paul O'Connell to the Planning Board and to reappoint John Hoffman. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Mr. Corn and Mr. Chamberlin voted nay. The motion passed 3 to 2. Mayor Owen noted that there would be another vacancy should Mr. Corn resign from the Board, according to the legislature Mr. Corn could serve as Council member and Planning Board member. Mr. Chamberlin indicated that he would like to see Fred France and Michelle Gipson on the Board. Cindy Keller asked that the Council consider Andy Porter for any future vacancies.

b. Board of Adjustment Alternates – Mr. Chamberlin moved to reappoint Ron Nichols and Russ Reiman to the Board of Adjustment Alternates. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it pass unanimously. Mayor Owen noted that the Council would make the 3rd appointment at the February 14th meeting.

c. Tourism Development Authority – Mr. Chamberlin moved to reappoint Calder Smoot and Jim Brooks to the IDA. Mr. Corn seconded the motion. Mayor Owen, Mr. Adams and Mr. Piquet voted nay. The motion failed 2 to 3. Mr. Piquet moved to reappoint Mr.

Calder Smoot as Chair of the IDA and appoint Alan Holcombe to the IDA. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Mr. Corn and Mr. Chamberlin voted nay. Mayor Owen voted yea. The motion carried 3 to 2.

VIII. New Business –

a. Personnel Ordinance Amendments – Mr. Piquet moved to approve the request to make changes to Section 7. Travel Expenses and Reimbursement in the Personnel Ordinance. Mr. Chamber seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Owen addressed the proposed amendment to Chapter 24, Article V, Conditions of Employment. Section 9 would prohibit employees from serving on Town Council. After a brief discussion, Mayor Owen recommended that the issue be table for further discussion. Mr. Chamberlin suggested the issue be discussed at the February 14th meeting.

b. Steep Slope Development Proposal – Mayor Owen noted that the High Country Municipal Association had recommended that Mr. Boaz present the Council with a proposal for geologic assessment of the slope steepness, bedrock and water supply of the Town. After a brief discussion the Council agreed it was not in the best interest of the Town to participate in the proposed study.

c. GIS Proposal – Mr. Boaz reported that the proposal was to have the three GIS systems in Town Hall combined. The upgrade would be housed in the police department. After a brief discussion, Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the proposed GIS upgrades. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. Budget Amendments –

i) Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the transfer from Wireless Funds in the amount of \$17,680 into Capital Outlay to cover the cost of the GIS upgrades. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ii) Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the budget transfer from contingency to supplies and materials in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. White Sewer Line Request – Mr. Boaz indicated that H. Taylor White had requested a sewer connection for his property at GH-48, 143 Grassy Gap Loop Road. After a brief discussion, Mr. Piquet moved to approve the request for a sewer line to cross Grassy Gap Loop Road, noting that a sleeve be placed under the road for repairs and the pavement be restored to the Town specifications. Mr. Piquet also noted that the per heated square foot charge not be waived nor reduced. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Council asked that Mr. Paletta and Mr. Cook review the Town's policy for adding sleeves to encase the utility lines under roadways.

f. Tax Releases – Mr. Piquet moved to approve the tax release for the Beech Mountain Resort, Inc. in the amount of \$484.89 and Emerald Opportunities, Inc. in the amount of \$3,322.44. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. Staff/Consultant Reports

a. Town Engineer's Report – Mr. Powell– Mr. Powell reported that the Pond Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant project was still in the final review stages in Raleigh. Mr. Powell noted that plans were still on schedule for the bid and construction process.

b. Public Works Director's Report – Riley Hatch – Mr. Hatch reported: a) The public works depart was extremely busy over the holidays with trash pick-up and the additional dumpster at the recycling center had been utilized. b) The sand supply was down by half and Mr. Hatch anticipated having to additional sand to make it through the season. c) The department had been cleaning culverts on nice days in anticipation of bad weather. Mr. Corn asked if it would be possible to add additional information to the report to which Mr. Hatch indicated that he would try to make some changes. Mr. Chamberlin commended the department on their efforts during the holiday period.

c. Town Attorney's Report – David Paletta – Mr. Paletta had no reported. Ms. Keller asked if the state had been contacted with regards to violators of the Occupancy Tax law to which Mayor Owen noted that he would follow up with the Tax Collector.

d. Chief of Police's Report – Assistant Chief Dana Crawford – Assistant Chief Dana Crawford indicated that the Department had been very busy, but things had been running smoothly. Mr. Corn noted the Chief Hefner had made some changes to the report, as requested; however, he did not have a list of 10 codes for the events that had been responded to. Assistant Chief Crawford noted that the Department would refine the report.

e. Quarterly Financial Report – Sally Rominger – The report is on file with the Town Clerk.

f. Quarterly Tourism Development Report – Sally Rominger – The report is on file with the Town Clerk.

g. Building Inspection Report – Keith Cook – The report is on file with the Town Clerk.

h. Recreation Center Director – Rosemary Burnett – Mayor Owen indicated that the flooring was being installed and it would be two weeks after it was completed before it could be walked on. Ms. Burnett's report was is on file with the Town Clerk.

i. Town Manager's Report – Michael Boaz – Mr. Boaz reported: a) The attached Policies and Procedures will be on the February 14th agenda for discussion. b) Mr. Boaz reported that the Managers Conference was scheduled for February 1 – 3 in Durham.

Mayor Owen noted that there was no other business to discuss and asked for a recess before entering into Executive Session.

X. Executive Session – NCGS 143-318.11(a), (3). - Upon a motion by Mr. Piquet, seconded by Mr. Chamberlin the Council entered into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. under NCGS 143-318.11 (a), (3) to consult with the Town Attorney. Upon a motion by Mr. Chamberlin,

seconded by Mr. Piquet the Council came out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. No action was taken.

XI. Adjourn – Having no other business to discuss the Council adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Piquet at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on FEB 15, 2006.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

12-20-20