

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
April 11, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:04 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 Engineers Ed Powell, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Building Inspector Keith Cook, Recreation Director Rosemary Burnett and Recreation Assistant Craig Colistra. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

II. Invocation – Charlie Burleson opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.

III. Pledge of Allegiance – All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

IV. Adoption of Agenda – Mayor Owen added three items to the agenda: a) Coakley Annexation Request; b) Rosenbusch; and c) Liquor at the Recreation Building under XI. Other Business. The Agenda was adopted as amended.

VI. Consent Agenda –

a. Approval of Minutes – Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2006 as amended. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.

VIII. Old Business –

a. Board of Adjustment Alternates – Mr. Chamberlin moved to appoint Dale Lethio as an Alternate to the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. New Business –

a. Personnel Ordinance Amendments – The proposed amendment would require town employees that file for an elective office to take an unpaid leave of absence for the duration of their campaign. Chief Hefner explained to the Council that the proposed change in the Personnel Ordinance would not affect the current employees that are running for public office. It was noted that the police department had two employees running for office; Kevin Frye for Sheriff and Dana Crawford for Clerk of Court. Both are candidates in Avery County. After much discussion, the Council agreed not to take action on the proposed Personnel Ordinance Amendment.

b. Sewer Line Request Lot 53 Pinnacle Ridge – Mr. Hatch explained that Mr. Clif Surrency, representing Mr. & Mrs. Fred Jaca, was requesting permission from the Town to run

a sewer pressure line from Lot PA 53, 142 Hawthorne Road, allowing the sewer pump to be connected in the same ditch as Mr. John Sams lot PA-56. After a brief discussion Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the sewer line request with the stipulation that the line under the road be sleeved. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Sewer Line Request 105 Huckleberry Lane – Mr. Boaz reported that Mr. Richard McGuire of Eagle Ridge Builders was requesting permission to cross Huckleberry Lane for Lot AA-483. After a brief discussion Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the sewer line request with the stipulation that the line be sleeved. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. Sewer Line Request 109 Golf View Drive – Mr. Hatch reported that Mr. Jeffrey Meehan of 109 Golf View Drive, GV-4, was requesting permission to hook onto the Town's sewer. Mr. Hatch explained the details and after a brief discussion, Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the home owners request to hook onto the Town sewer requiring that Mr. Hatch approve the pump to be used. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. Greco Agreement – Mr. Boaz indicated that he and Mr. Paletta had looked over the agreement. Mr. Boaz recommended that the Council not accept the agreement as presented. After a lengthy discussion the Council agreed to have Mr. Boaz and Mr. Paletta negotiate the agreement for the Town, noting that the right of way, roads and water lines would be dedicated to the Town and a standard cul-de-sac be installed at the end of the road.

f. Chestnut Falls – Mr. Boaz reported that Chestnut Falls, the development at the bottom of Pinnacle Ridge Road, had 5 lots within the Town limits within 200' of Town water and sewer. However, the developer would have to install mains across Buckeye Creek, making the line susceptible to freezing. Mr. Hatch indicated that the developer could run the line down the road to a point that would require crossing the stream but the line would be approximately 1,000', not 200'. The developer was requesting that the lots be exempt from the 200' requirement. After a brief discussion the Council agreed that Mr. Boaz, Mr. Hatch and Mr. Cook should negotiate with the developer.

Public Hearing on Water/Sewer Use Ordinance – Mayor Owen opened the Public Hearing at 6:24 p.m. indicating that the purpose was to allow public input on the Planning Board's proposed changes to the Water and Sewer Use Ordinance. Mr. Corn read the proposed change: Article III. Responsibilities; Liabilities, Section 3.1 Services; Connections under Subsection e. (f) Any utility lines (water, sewer, telephone, cablevision, electric, or gas) to be installed under Town streets shall be installed in a sleeve or conduit not smaller than two nominal pipe sizes larger than the utility being installed. The installation shall be inspected and approved by the Town Public "Works director or the Town Building Inspector, prior to being covered.

The installer or property owner authorizing the installation shall bear all responsibility and cost of any repaving and repairing any disturbed area, to the satisfaction of the Town. The repaving and/or repairs of streets shall be inspected and approved by the Town Public Works Director.

(g) Any repairs to existing utilities that are installed within Town streets shall be sleeved and inspected as required in subsection (f), as the time of repair.

(h) The Town Manager shall have the authority to approve the installation of any water or sewer line that does not cross into an adjoining property but does cross the right of way for a Town owned street.

Hearing no comments from the public, Mr. Chamberlin moved to close the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

g. Water/Sewer Use Ordinance Amendment – Mr. Piquet commented that the wording for the Water and Sewer Use Ordinance was good and moved to approve the proposed changes. Mr. Corn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. Staff/Consultant Reports

a. Town Engineer's Report – Mr. Powell– Mr. Powell reported that the Pond Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant project bids had been sent out to prospective contractors and the bid opening would take place on April 20th at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Owen asked about the completion of the paving project to which Mr. Hatch reported that he had met with Bruce Smith and arrangements had been made to start again next week.

b. Public Works Director's Report – Riley Hatch – Mr. Hatch reported his department had started sweeping the roads and right of way clearing had also begun. The crew had also resumed brush pick up. The drainage around the Recreation Center was complete and the hay had been removed from the sledding hill.

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

d. Chief of Police's Report – Chief Jay Hefner – Chief Hefner reported that the department had worked a number of cases including larceny and simple assault. Chief Hefner noted that the department was still working on a 28 year old rape case. Mr. Burleson asked if the larceny of building materials could be related to which Chief Hefner responded that there was no evidence to indicate the two were related. The report is on file with the Town Clerk.

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

f. Tax Report – Missy Norwood– 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 – Ms. Burnett reported that the Recreation Center would open on April 18th with a limited schedule of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Center would open for regular hours starting May 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., depending on staff availability. Ms. Burnett noted that the Center still had to fill two 25 per hour week positions. Mr. Corn asked about serving alcohol at the Center to which Mr. Paletta indicated that he would put together a liability waiver to be part of the rental agreement protecting the Town. Ms. Burnett's report is on file with the Town Clerk.

i. Town Manager's Report – Michael Boaz – Mr. Boaz reported: a) The redesigned web site was in place, some more changes would be made in the coming weeks. b) The contractors have completed their work on the Recreation Center, final payment was issued. c) Mr. Boaz noted that the manager evaluation forms were in the Council packets for a 6 month review. d) Mr. Boaz asked the Council for time off from May 10th through May 14th, Council approved.

X. Executive Session – There were no items for a closed session.

XI. Other Business –

a. Eric Rosenbusch - Mr. Boaz indicated that the Council did not have adequate time to address all issues on the Planning Retreat Agenda and asked the Council consider the right of way issue with Mr. Rosenbusch's home at 116 Skiloft Road. Mr. Rosenbusch had constructed a rock wall within the Town's right of way. It was noted that the wall did make snow removal more difficult, as well as sanding the road. After further discussion the Council was informed that Mr. Rosenbusch was aware that the wall was in the right of way. No action was taken by the Council.

b. Coakley Annexation Request - Mr. Boaz reported that Mr. Joe Coakley had requested annexation for property adjacent to the Klonteska development. After a brief discussion Mr. Chamberlin directed the clerk to investigate the petition and report back to the Council at the May 9th meeting. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Alcohol – Mr. Piquet asked about the use of alcoholic beverages at the Recreation Center. Mr. Paletta indicated that the liability for the Town came with serving alcohol. Mr. Paletta was asked look over the terms for a contract to be signed when renting the facility.

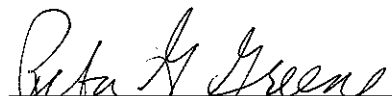
d. Town's Anniversary - Mayor Owen noted that May 1st was the 25th Anniversary of the Town. Mr. Boaz indicated that plans were underway for a celebration at the Recreation Center, starting time would 6:00 p.m. on the 1st. Mr. Chamberlin noted that one of the restaurants in the Town should be contacted for catering the event. Mr. Piquet agreed if the cost were reasonable. Mr. Boaz indicated that the staff would research the options available.

XII. Adjourn – Having no other business to discuss the Council adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Piquet at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on May 9, 2006.


Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING RETREAT
April 7, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Region D Council of Governments Conference Room in Boone. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Randy Corn and Paul Piquet. Also present were Town Manager Michael Boaz, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Intern Jason Horton and Ms. Kristin Daggett of Tour Andover Controls, Inc.

II. Adoption of Agenda – Mr. Corn requested under Other Business c) A discussion on surveying the road conditions and d) A discussion on attracting more permanent residence to the Town. Mr. Boaz added item e) Recreation Center opening. Mr. Chamberlin moved that the Council set the opening date for Tuesday, April 18th with a limited schedule of 3 days per week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday until May 1st. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Automated Meter Reading Presentation –

- a. **Presentation by Jason Horton, Intern** – Mr. Horton reported that he had been working with Mr. Hatch to evaluate the current meter reading process and ways for improvement. Mr. Horton noted reasons to consider an alternative system of meter reading was that the Town was experiencing an estimated 40 to 50% water loss and the actual reading of the meters was 174 man hours per quarter. Mr. Horton pointed out that the meters range from 3' to 7' in depth with numbers being approximately ½" to ¾" high, resulting in a high margin of errors in reading the meters. Mr. Horton presented alternate reading methods; touch-read systems, in vehicle-based radio-read systems and fixed-based radio-read systems along with instillation options and estimates for each type of system.
- b. **Presentation by Kristin Daggett** – Ms. Daggett of TAC, a performance contracting company, presented the Council with a plan to help reduce water consumption by upgrading the water system to an automated meter reading system. TAC indicated that they would provide the Town with an estimate, at no charge, for the proposed improvements and a pay back schedule to indicate whether or not it would be to the Town advantage to have an outside company do the work. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Owen and the Council agreed to have Mr. Boaz do some further checking in to the projects TAC has been involved with before allowing the company to proceed.

IV. Personnel Ordinance v. Personnel Policy - Mayor Owen noted that Mr. Boaz proposed the change from a Personnel Ordinance to a Personnel Policy. The change would allow more flexibility in personnel decision for the Manager. The Council was in agreement for Mr. Boaz to continue looking into the issue.

V. Bell South E-911 Proposal – Chief Hefner explained that Skyline/Carolina West did not have the updated equipment to ensure that E-911 calls for the Beech Mountain area were routed to the police department. Chief Hefner also noted that the proposed system would allow for 1 touch transfer, should the department receive a call that should be routed to another location. Bell South had proposed a system that would meet the Town's needs and could be paid for from the wireless funds received. Chief Hefner indicated that the funds were limited in the way they could be spent. The Council directed Chief Hefner to work with Bell South on the proposed system.

VI. Budget Presentation – Mr. Boaz reported that the Budget enclosed in the packet was a preliminary budget for the Council's consideration. Mr. Boaz indicated that the new tax valuation was estimated at \$471,150,000, an increase of 35%, and the proposed budget was based on a tax rate of $.58\frac{1}{2}\phi$, the current tax rate is $.62\frac{1}{2}\phi$. The Council discussed various ways to cut the budget with Mr. Corn noting that the increase in employee pay was one item that could be addressed. A discussion followed with regard to cost of living increase, merit and insurance coverage. The Council discussed the various capitol projects included in the budget as well as specific line items within the departmental budgets. After a lengthy discussion regarding utilities, Mr. Boaz was asked to look into a plan for the department being self-sustaining. Mr. Boaz and Chief Hefner were asked to further investigate the lease of police vehicles. Further discussions on the budget will take place in workshops to be scheduled by the Mayor and Council.

VII. Other Business –

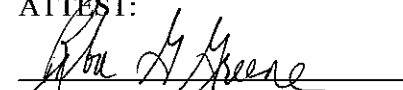
- a. Sand v. Calcium Chloride and Salt for snow removal – Not discussed
- b. Eric Rosenbusch – Not discussed
- c. Survey of Road Conditions - Mr. Corn suggested that the Town conduct a survey of its road similar to the water and sewer system surveys. Mr. Corn suggests that this work be done by interns from ASU. The Council instructed Mr. Boaz to research interns for such a project.
- d. Attracting more permanent residents – Not discussed
- e. Recreation Center Opening – April 18th on limited schedule.

VIII. Adjourn – Noting that the time limit on the room had expired, the Council adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Piquet at 3:20 p.m. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on May 9, 2006.


Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN BID OPENING
April 27, 2006

Bid opening for the Pond Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 2:00 p.m. Present was Town Manager Michael Boaz, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Public Work Director Riley Hatch, Water Department employee Gary Tipton as well as representatives from the three contractors placing bids on the project.

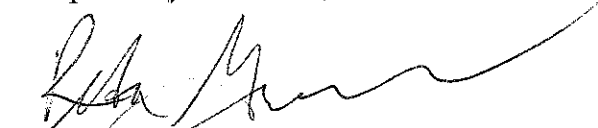
Ed Powell of Davis, Martin, Powell & Associates, P.A. Consulting Engineers opened the following bids:

Building Crafts, Inc.	License number 29518	\$1,791,656.00
Frizzell Construction Company	License number 6138	\$2,050,777.00
Gilbert Construction Company	License number 999	\$1,998,899.00

Mr. Powell informed the audience that the bid would be review and the bidders would be advised of the actions.

The bid opening adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

