

No Crowd for Beech Budget; No Tax Hike

Written by Annie Rutenberg
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The meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council was held at Buckeye Recreation Center in anticipation of a large crowd, but only a few turned up for the public hearing on proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. Prior to a power point presentation outlining the budget, public comments were requested regarding a comprehensive plan for the long term future of Beech Mountain. Town Manager Randy Feierabend reviewed the proposed budget, stating there would be no tax increases. He said there are funds set aside for road improvements and slope stabilization, there is a 1 million dollar unencumbered fund reserve and projections for general fund is \$4,455, 000, and that during the months of June, July and August, recycling will be available 7 days a week. He also said that there will be some upcoming personnel changes along with employee benefits, and that the complete budget report is available at the Town Hall for anyone to review. Other issues included the location of a new water tower, discussion showing differences of opinions on where the plant should be located, but it was agreed that even though the most cost effective location would partially obstruct the view on the deck of Buckeye it was the best option. The issue of the Gnarnia music festival was addressed but it was stated that at this time, no one was aware of any future plans to hold the event in Beech Mountain.