

A meeting to further discuss a possible lease agreement between golf course property owners, the Cottoms, and the Town of Seven Devils did not end as optimistically as previous meetings.

In fact, when talking about the damaged drainage system, voices were raised as community group leader Noble Hendrix questioned who was responsible for the reparations. Lenny Cottom and several town council members thought it was a county or state issue. Pessimism set in when discussing the lease. Some council members, Mayor Bob Dodson included, felt that since Cottom's mortgage payment was an estimated \$110,000 a year, the projected \$100,000 lease was too expensive for the six months it would be used by the town.

Might Cottom compromise on the lease?

It depends on the terms Seven Devils brings to the table, but Cottom said he is doubtful his price will come down.

In fact, his optimism further waned when the Council told him there was nothing they could do to expedite his expansion of the ski slope. Cottom plans to move the snowtube slope to where Hole 4 is now. He is being told he needs a conditional use permit, even though it is zoned recreationally and he has been given permission in the past on another location on his property. Expedition of his expansion plans was one of the benefits to leasing his property to the town, he says. The town discussed forming several committees from the original committee designated to sort out the golf dilemma. It was finally decided that a committee to discuss the lease terms would be formed and reconvene Friday at 9 a.m. Cottom believed council members should figure out what they can afford before agreeing to a lease price. This includes determining the costs of renovating the course and its upkeep. While Hendrix and many other Seven Devils would-be golfers left feeling optimistic, the Cottoms and the Council left with a lot to think about.