

# Town Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 11th, 2022

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street Blowing Rock, NC. And was via Zoom for the public. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson and Council Members Albert Yount, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett and Town Manager Shane Fox. Via Zoom Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Fire Chief Kent Graham, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Police Chief Aaron Miller, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock and Public Works Director Matt Blackburn, Finance Officer Nicole Norman and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner who recorded the minutes.

Fri, 1/21 12:25PM • 1:06:11

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

building, town, fountain, applicant, pine street, intersection, question, crosswalks, plan, MS brown, moving, approve, speak, chief, feet, laurel, Doug, council, review, police department

## SPEAKERS

Matthew Selves, Kevin Rothrock, Aaron Miller, Allen Moseley, Albert Yount, Mike Trew, Matt Blackburn, Steve Heatherington, Shane Fox, Doug Matheson, Melissa Pickett, Doug Chapman, Kent Graham, Charlie Sellers, Jennifer Brown

### **Charlie Sellers** 04:56

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our Town Council meeting this Evening, January 11 2022, I want to thank you all those that have joined us virtual via zoom. This was a decision I made after discussion with the Council, and Shane Fox to hold this meeting virtual because of the onslaught of COVID situations throughout the county and the state, and there's a few things that are going to be removed from the agenda. So I did not feel like that this would be a problem. So if anybody catches any flack for moving this meeting to zoom, please pass it on to me, but I felt like this was for the safety of the people in Town Hall, as well as the safety of our participants and our Council. That being said, also make note that Mr. Fox a few days ago, instituted a mask requirement for Town Hall so if you do visit Town Hall, please have your mask readily available. That being said, I call this meeting to order once again, and roll call for attendance.

### **Albert Yount** 06:19

Present

### **Melissa Pickett** 06:21

Present

**Doug Matheson** 06:22

Present

**Charlie Sellers** 06:26

David Harwood is not going to be with us this evening. And Pete Gherini is having issues getting out of Italy. So hopefully we will get him sworn in sometime in this generation. But that being said, if you would please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All right. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes from December 13, 2021.

**Doug Matheson** 07:23

So moved

**Albert Yount** 07:25

Second

**Charlie Sellers** 07:26

We have a first and second. Any discussion? Okay. Those in favor?

**Albert Yount** 07:35

Yes

**Melissa Pickett** 07:35

Yes

**Doug Matheson** 07:35

Yes

**Charlie Sellers** 07:38

Okay, minutes, approval does pass. Alright. Before we go to approve the regular agenda, there are changes on this regular agenda. We are removing the Pete Gherini swearing in on this agenda because of course he's not available right now. Hopefully he'll be back soon. We are going to remove the TDA Board, the council applicant, which was going to be Pete. We're removing that for now. And we are removing the session on closed session that's normally held at the end of our meeting that will be held at a later date. That's something that we go into closed session. I feel like that all Council members need to be present when we're discussing matters under closed session. And so this will give us ample time to get Pete sworn in everybody in the same room. So, Council, that's my request.

**Doug Matheson** 08:43

Mr. Mayor, I would like to ask that we move the budget amendment #2022-02 off the consent down to maybe the fountain that will be holding discussion on a little later.

**Charlie Sellers** 09:00

Okay so you want just the portion of the Mayview Broyhill fountain moved to discussion

**Doug Matheson** 09:07

Correct

**Charlie Sellers** 09:07

Okay. All right. Albert, do I have a motion to approve the change in the agenda?

**Albert Yount** 09:14

So moved

**Charlie Sellers** 09:16

Second?

**Melissa Pickett** 09:17

Second.

**Charlie Sellers** 09:17

Melissa Pickett second. Those in favor?

**Albert Yount** 09:22

Yes

**Melissa Pickett** 09:22

Yes

**Doug Matheson** 09:22

Yes

**Charlie Sellers** 09:22

All Council voted in favor. Okay. Moving right along. Do I have a motion to approve the Consent Agenda?

**Melissa Pickett** 09:33

So moved

**Doug Matheson** 09:34

Second

**Charlie Sellers** 09:34

Melissa has made the motion to approve. And Doug Matheson has seconded there's no discussion allowed. All in favor.

**Albert Yount** 09:56

Yes

**Shane Fox** 09:57

We did not receive any public comments.

**Melissa Pickett** 09:57

Yes

**Doug Matheson** 09:57

Yes

**Charlie Sellers** 09:57

Consent Agenda is approved. Public Comments. Okay. We did not have any public comments at this time. All right, moving right along. We have a presentation from the North Carolina League of Municipalities Police Risk Assessment. This is a presentation. Shane, would you like to lead off with this.

**Shane Fox** 10:19

I would and I think Chief Miller has joined us as well, Chief would you like to maybe do the introduction And if chief is not able to do that, looks like he is having difficulties, I will be more than happy to introduce Matthew Selves. Matthew is with the League of Municipalities. Matthew, if you would just maybe spend the first couple minutes kind of sharing why you're here and then and then carry on with your presentation.

**Matthew Selves** 10:53

Thank you very much. And thank you, Mayor and Council for inviting me to present to the police department, the law enforcement risk review, for a little bit of background. My name is Matthew Selves I am the Public Safety Risk Management Consultant with the North Carolina League. I've been in law enforcement for over 24 years and was a Police Chief myself for 12 years in Troutman, North Carolina, which is in Iredell County, and work for the Statesville Police Department and the Iredell County Sheriff's Office. I'm still in law enforcement. I still work locally with the agencies, but of course I came to the League in May 2019. And took over the Public Safety Risk Management but mainly the Law Enforcement Risk Management. Of course, we do a lot of things with police departments that are pool members, or insurance members across the state, you got about 240 police departments that are insured by the League, Municipality wise and stuff, and we do training, we do grants, I think the manager can tell you that, that you got turned in several grants to us in the past couple of years. We work with the police departments on HR stuff, just a lot of things that could potentially cause issues for departments. So but today, again, I want to thank the Mayor and the Blowing Rock Town Council for this time and recognizing the Blowing Rock Police Department for completing the North Carolina League's Law Enforcement Risk Review program. Now to understand what the risk review involves, it's a comprehensive risk assessment and looks at high risk policies within a police department looking at policies, operations practices, and it also includes a detailed on site agency administrative operations review, which I did back in November, including we look at equipment, facility inspection, I actually rode around with a couple officers that day and took the Blowing Rock loop and talk to them as well. But we

did officer interviews, we looked at operations, operations all to validate the practice align with policies within the police department, and in turn compare them to the best practices that are across the state and the country. Now, again, we look at high ability areas that consist of response to resistance, which is like use of force evidence processing employment practices and procedures, training, in addition to 36 categories in all. The review, of course, is supported by the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police. And I want to let everyone know here in Blowing Rock that the powder report that the Blowing Rock Police Department successfully completed that risk review back in November, the chief, the command staff and the officers prioritize initiative, worked with me they were very, very transparent and proactive during the whole process. Now, I would like to thank Chief Miller and the command staff for their leadership and their willingness to participate in this very important initiative. They're very transparent. Again, I'd like to recognize the police department, and I'll be up there tomorrow afternoon, to meet with the chief to deliver a plaque on behalf of the League to show the completion of the risk review and in turn, you know, on best practices. Thank you.

**Charlie Sellers** 14:36

Thank you so much for the time that you've spent up here and I'm sure it's proven to be a true asset to our police force. And I think I can speak for the Council. We've been very proud of what our police force and Chief Aaron Miller have done.

**Matthew Selves** 14:55

I really love Blowing Rock is in a beautiful community. And it's I mean it's changed over the years is just more beautiful these days.

**Charlie Sellers** 15:08

Chief Miller, would you like to weigh in?

**Aaron Miller** 15:12

I apologize for being late. I think our internet went down for a few moments over here. So I had to reconnect. But thank you, Matthew. And I appreciate the League giving us this opportunity. It's taken us a little time we've been working on new policy reviews for, oh, at least a year and a half, I'm sure to get our policy manual and condition and get the policies in place that we needed to pass the audit. So we're just really excited. And I'd like all my staff to work hard to make that happen. So thank you very much.

**Charlie Sellers** 15:43

Chief, thanks again, for all that your staff does. We greatly appreciate your hard work All right, moving right along. This next section is a public hearing is conditional rezoning. The Lucrum 7 LLC Hotel. I'm gonna pass this off to Mr. Rothrock Are you on the line?

**Kevin Rothrock** 16:29

I'm here. Good evening. We do have Bill Dixon and Mike Trew for the project. Also Steve Hetherington, the applicant, and so they probably like to speak as well or answer questions and combination of there of. Run down through the staff report. And at some point Shane, share the screen I've got a couple of slides and plans that you've received already. This is a Conditional Rezoning 2021-

02 for Lucrum Seven LLC from Central Business to Conditional Zoning Central Business. It's the location between Pine and Laurel where the old stone pillar Bed Breakfast used to be and all that also snips demolished many years ago. The property is .337 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct a 14 room hotel. The proposed hotel will have parking access on the ground level, it will be one way traffic entering from Pine Street next in Laurel Lane. There'll be two floors above the garage first floor will have eight units, sixteen bedrooms total and the second floor will have six units with an additional six rooms. I know you're mostly familiar with the site. This shows just shows an aerial view and shows the property in between, it's currently gravel, it's used as a laydown yard for Steve's other project Main and Pine. I am going to go through the site plan. On the left side, we will see Pine Street and this is North and looking up on the top of the page would be toward Wallingford and over on the right would be Laurel Lane. This would be the site this really shows the footprint of the building But is also showing the first level which is the parking. I mentioned, there is gonna be parking on the ground level. Second floor would be eight units and sixteen bedrooms in those eight units and the next floor six units with an additional six rooms. Setbacks for the site are fifteen on both sides, on Pine and Laurel. And then on the on the ends along the vacant track, the DeVore track there and then also backing up into Village Shops is a five foot setback on each side. Let's discuss building height. The maximum building height is 30 feet, that's established finished sidewalk elevation. If you're using the standard 15 foot setback, once you get beyond 15 foot setback, you can increase that building height incrementally for every 5 feet of addition set back up to a maximum of 40 feet. The proposed building height for both ends of the hotel nearest the streets is 30 feet. So as you come in it's a 15 foot setback on Pine Street. On Laurel it'll be a little bit more because the distance off of Laurel Lane, the Town has some ownership of some land land there and then it's an additional 15 feet to the building. And I'll go back to the site plan there. But beyond that, once you get 65 feet from the sidewalk, you're going to increase the building height up to 40. And you can see how it staggers up. And when you get back to 85 feet, that's when the maximum peak of 40 feet is proposed. And it shows you how they're staggering that building in. The latest code allows building height to increase if the street setback is increased. The allowable building height can be increased to 40 feet and the applicant is asking, as condition, to allow the additional building height of 40 feet with the increased setback on that part of the building. Other parts of the building with less than 65 foot setback would meet the table that's in the code. And so it's staggered as you go up and then it's back down 30 feet as you get closer to the street. As far as the building design, you can see some of it here and I'll roll over to another view of it. They're gonna have some board and batten, some lap siding in there, some stone veneer on the bottom, some dormers and shed dormers, eve overhangs they'll have some metal roofing on some of those to give it some other accent. Move over to another design. So down here just the first perspective that you see at the top of the page there is from Wallingford looking through the meadow and looking at that side facing Wallingford. This view over here is perspective from Laurel Lane. Again, not all the trees are showing here that block some of that view but that's how it would look if there were no trees between Laurel Lane and the building. The other end is from Pine Street looking up towards Main Street. And this here is from Pine Street as you turn in I believe this will be controlled by gate access into the parking area and it shows where the gate is being placed. The project requires 22 parking spaces they're providing 22 angled spaces and you can meet all the criteria there. Stormwater then generated on site we collected underneath the building held in detention system and then released out the Pine Street. Sewer will also be connected to to Pine Street. The applicant will also extend a six inch water line to the corner of Pine and Main to the project entrance. There will also be a hydrant there to provided fire

protection to the building. Electric service will also be provided on the ground and there'll be a lighting plan produced that we will review prior to construction rolling proof. Garbage collection will be over here as you first enter the building, there'll be a crowd that they'll place it will be shielded from street view and the side view and they will just have rollouts, no need for a dumpster of this this level of garbage that will be created here I've got a landscape plan I'll show you. Same view, note that there's only about five or six feet between the property line and the building. So those trees that you see along that upper side, which is the west side of building facing Wallingford, they're not going to be very big, they're gonna be some ornamental type trees. Out on the street yards out on Pine, there'll be some shade trees, some maples or something like that. Then on the Laurel Lane side, there's some big pines in there. And we're asking that they remove those pines, some on town property, some of them theirs. No value in them and most of them are dead and just pose risks. So they're going to replace those trees with some other shade trees in that area. They'll complete a landscape plan won't do a full review, but this is a schematic. One of the conditions in the in the list of conditions is that they remove those pines on town property as well as to be responsible that in replacing shade trees. So the draft ordinance provides an attachment that is the list of conditions, I'll read those in just a second. One of those that they've got to have going forward is to be allowed to increase the building height to 40 feet, with that portion of the building is more than 65 feet on the backside. Recap some of you attended the neighborhood meeting. There were a few other folks that live in the area that also attend that was back on October 27. The Planning Board met November 15, they made a recommendation to approve the conditional rezoning with the conditions that were listed on their ordinance application. I did receive one letter or an email rather, I included in your packet from Charlene Barham so you have got that for your review. I did not received any other emails or questions from anyone that wanted to speak for tonight's meeting at any time since November. So I'll read those, after the staff report is the ordinance that was provided in your packet and then conditions on Exhibit B and I'll read those into the record. Number one, the building height may be increased to the limits allowed for the parts of the building that meet the corresponding setbacks, consistent with section 16-12.6.5.4, as no as long as no roof exceeds 40 feet in height. Number two, the applicant will be responsible for the cost of removal of large dead or dying pines on the property adjacent to Laurel Lane. Number three, the applicant will be responsible for replacement of trees removed on Town property with the minimum tree size required by Land Use Code - Shade tree (3" caliper), ornamental tree (1.5" caliper). Number four, the applicant is responsible for extending a 6" water line from Main Street to serve the building for fire protection, including a fire hydrant. That's all I have, I would be glad to answer questions and roll through any slides that you want to see.

**Albert Yount 29:29**

Well Kevin that was a good presentation, I commend you for it and I am not sure you could make it any better. Can you summarize I did not get what Charlene Barham wrote for whatever reason. Can you summarize it if it isn't very lengthy.

**Kevin Rothrock 29:59**

It's not lengthy I'll just read it. It's like four sentences says the town should immediately stop approving short term rentals in the downtown area until traffic and dining issues to accommodate these visitors is addressed. The growth of available lodging, especially along Main Street and behind Speckled Trout has skyrocketed in the past two years. Perhaps the town codes are antiquated allowing this to happen.

COVID seems to have caused a rush of people from our surrounding large cities to Blowing Rock year round. Perhaps we are considered a safe environment. Locals now avoid going downtown and dining in our local restaurants is impossible.

**Albert Yount** 30:44

One other quick question, and it's not a deal killer at all for me, but is there any possibility or has there been discussion about a electric car charging station somewhere?

**Kevin Rothrock** 31:01

There has been no discussion.

**Steve Heatherington** 31:05

I would be very in favor of that. Hey, sorry, Kevin. I didn't know if I could speak yet.

**Kevin Rothrock** 31:09

Go ahead.

**Steve Heatherington** 31:10

Yeah, sorry. Personal Thank you, everyone for making this happen Mayor Sellers and Council Members. I am actually quarantined for COVID right now, but yeah, the

**Charlie Sellers** 31:23

Excuse me, if you would state your name, please.

**Steve Heatherington** 31:25

Yep. Steven Hetherington, the applicant, or the project.

**Charlie Sellers** 31:28

Thank you Steven.

**Steve Heatherington** 31:31

And to answer your question, yeah, part of my company's sustainability commitment is to add sustainable features like car charging on site. So that will be something we'll be adding on one of the spaces one or two of the spaces?

**Albert Yount** 31:52

I have one quick question, Steven, is Lucrum Welsh

**Steve Heatherington** 32:04

If I if I spoke Welsh, you wouldn't see my screen it would have spit all over it, you know?

**Albert Yount** 32:15

What does it mean if anything

**Steve Heatherington** 32:18

It means it's, actually Latin, means to happen to do.

**Melissa Pickett** 32:31

I'm good, it meets all the requirements except for the four that they're asking. And really one they're only asking for. So I'm good.

**Doug Matheson** 32:44

I got a couple of questions, Kevin. At the peak height of the building how does it compare with the surrounding buildings?

**Kevin Rothrock** 32:57

Well, so the Main and Pine and was at 34 and a half feet. Of course, it's higher, it's higher when you go up the street a little bit and sit higher. So it's probably the same or higher than what this is, there is probably at least 10 feet of elevation change. So that building is higher and the Village Shops is I think about 35 on the front end, and much lower you can go back towards this.

**Doug Matheson** 33:34

So with the drop in elevation it's not going to stand above it.

**Kevin Rothrock** 33:43

It is lower from the elevation on Main Street. I'd say eight to ten feet.

**Doug Matheson** 33:52

The other thing I had is could you talk a little bit more on the retention stormwater?

**Kevin Rothrock** 34:04

Yeah, they're collecting water that's coming off the building. And the building doesn't take up the entire site but most of it and so they'll collect it. Mike could probably chime in a little bit more and give you details that I couldn't but it's gonna be collected and taken out to Pine Street.

**Mike Trew** 34:32

Yes, we've already done that design. And what we're doing is underground detention system out in the 15 foot street yard setback, along Pine Street. There's actually no storm drainage infrastructure out in the Laurel Street other than just surface drainage all the way down pass the intersection and four way intersection. So we're going to collect all the roof drainage, put them in headers, and then put it in Kevin's showing the plan now there's a couple of bashed areas there, that we've been able to get enough volume there to pull all the required storm drainage detention underground then it will be connected to the storm drainage pipe that runs down Pine Street.

**Doug Matheson** 35:18

Thank you Mike.

**Kent Graham** 35:23

I've got I've got one note and I apologize for not being better prepared, Jason Potter would be normally doing the detailed review of this and he is out right now he lost his mother in law to COVID day before yesterday. So I know Mike that we've discussed some apparatus access and the FTC hybrid placement looking at this, I have only looked at the footprint and site plan. So this height, this building height, we may need to further discuss an area apparatus access so that should be, looks like from these drawings that should be no problem to figure out is just an increased width basically. It's the same kind of distance measurement distances from the building, but the width of of the apparatus for an aerial device is a little bit increased because of the outriggers. So what would push it to that would be this height, this building height in the middle. We can we can talk about that. Unfortunately, where I would be looking this up is on the device that I'm joined this meeting so I'm kind of handicapped right now.

**Mike Trew 37:17**

The building will be fully sprinkled

**Charlie Sellers 37:23**

Chief Graham, Charlie, I've got a question for you and the applicant. This building is going to be fully sprinkled, is that correct?

**Mike Trew 37:31**

Yes

**Charlie Sellers 37:33**

Ok. Are there any other concerns Chief Graham that you have over this structure?

**Kent Graham 37:40**

Not at this time? No. And that's not I don't think that that's something that can't figure out I'll talk with Mike about that as soon as we can tomorrow.

**Charlie Sellers 37:57**

Thank you Chief

**Doug Matheson 38:04**

I'll make a motion that we accept it but I will add on that they do meet to get that worked out

**Albert Yount 38:13**

Contingent

**Charlie Sellers 38:14**

So you're making a motion that you would approve this contingent on the Fire Departments approval of the apparatus area

**Doug Matheson 38:28**

Correct

**Albert Yount** 38:29

Contingent on it

**Charlie Sellers** 38:30

Yes

**Albert Yount** 38:32

Second

**Charlie Sellers** 38:32

Albert seconded any further discussion

**Albert Yount** 38:35

The thing to remember about the sprinklers is they don't get people out of an upper level.

**Charlie Sellers** 38:48

We have first we have a second. Any additional discussion? Okay

**Albert Yount** 38:53

Yes

**Charlie Sellers** 38:53

Okay, so you have approval guys, and I'm sure you'll work with Chief Graham every way possible. Thank you so much.

**Melissa Pickett** 38:53

Yes

**Doug Matheson** 38:55

Yes

**Steve Heatherington** 39:04

Thank you so much.

**Charlie Sellers** 39:11

Moving right along here. Okay. This is under a regular agenda. The TDA board appointment has been delayed until Mr. Gherini can be present. So I guess we'll move on to Parks and Rec Update Part-F. Was Jennifer Brown gonna handle this?

**Shane Fox** 39:35

Yes, sir. So Jennifer is on the call. I will start by saying unfortunately Mr. Harwood, who's been leading this group now for about a year a little bit more than a year. Was planning on providing this update tonight and Ms. Brown has some notes that she would like to share. Ultimately, a full update will be

coming at the retreat. Mr. Harwood just wanted to share some highlights of some work that's been put in the last few months and Ms. Brown can share that. We will save the thunder for David when he's feeling better and ready to go at the retreat. So Ms. Brown.

**Jennifer Brown 40:11**

Good evening Mayor and Council, for the past several months, our Parks Strategy committee has been meeting and reviewing and discussing each one of our parks. When we first started, we decided that we didn't need to have one assessment overall that we needed to assess each of the parks individually. And so the committee came up with a purpose assessment form that each committee member filled out individually. And then we would be in come together and sort of combine all of our thoughts into one. So what we did for each park individually, is we had a park assessment form that we looked at, basically, what was our target patron for the park? What was the use of the park, the different activities that occurred in the park? Would we recommend a different profile or different patron for that part. And then we also looked at what committees should maybe be added or removed. We also looked at the access to the park primary, secondary improvements that were needed, ADA accessibility to guest ramp , parking, bicycles. We also looked at the safety, was there anything that was, you know, obviously, that need to be looked at immediately? Stuff that is done well, it wasn't just the stuff that was, you know, that needs improvement in the stuff that we do well, also in the parks. We also looked at landscaping, of the natural is it something that needs to be maintained, and then signage and wayfinding, which, you know, really doesn't need a lot of improving, but we've kind of held off waiting for the Roger Brooks report to come back and make it all sort of fit within his recommendations. Then we looked at the overall appearance of the park, is it clean? Does it look dated, is it well maintained? And then we kind of went into what are the critical conditions, the park that needs to be looked at immediately, we looked at different things that needed to be looked at, but maybe weren't critical. And then we also looked at, hey, this would be nice to add to a park or to do it doesn't necessarily mean it has to be done or that it's critical, but it was something that maybe we should look at adding to the park. And so we did all of that for Memorial Park, Broyhill Park, Annie Cannon, Glen Burney Trail, Devant Field, the pool, Legacy Trail and Kershner Gardens. And so when we meet at retreat, we will have a presentation that will kind of give you all of our results of what we kind of came up with with our critical needs, our essential needs and then maybe some desired additions to each one of those parks. If you have any questions, feel free ask.

**Charlie Sellers 43:33**

Thank you so much Ms Brown. And thanks to all the hard work that you guys have put into this and continue to put into it because as we know our parks are a centerpiece and focal point for our community. So thank you so much for what you do.. Yes, question. Okay, moving right along. Ransom Street Stop sign. Shane, would you like to lead this on off?

**Shane Fox 44:09**

Yes, Mayor I would like to. I'll read the staff report, it kind of tells the details but the topic potentially placing a three way stop the intersection of Ransom and Henkle Street has been discussed by several Town Council members with staff over the past several months. The intersection is heavily traveled especially during the commuting hours in which it is used for traffic into downtown from US Highway 321. During school traffic hours, as traffic utilize Henkle to navigate to Chestnut and onto Morris Street.

The intersection is similar in layout and typography as the intersection to allow Green Hill Road and Fairway 11. During the Green Hill Traffic Study, Ramey Kemp and Associates recommended placing a three-way stop at the intersection to allow for traffic to safely turn within the intersection. Staff requests that Council discuss the topic of placing a three-way stop intersection at Ransom and Henkel Streets. I will add that I did speak with Michael Karpinski at Ramey Kemp and he looked at aerial and Google Earth maps of the intersection and did agree the intersections similar in nature to what the Green Hill and Fairway 11 Court intersection is with higher traffic counts. So we did not do a traffic study. But it was made to my attention by several of you and others in the community that that intersection was a blind turn from those leaving Henkle. But left and right. So that's the reason for the topic, as it's been requested. Be glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

**Albert Yount** 45:43

I have no questions. I've always thought the world a lot of cities are totally going to it.

**Melissa Pickett** 45:59

Have we heard any incidents that the intersection?

**Shane Fox** 46:03

No, not to speak of, we have not.

**Doug Matheson** 46:05

We've been lucky there, going straight off that hill into a blind curve. I think it's gonna be much needed right there for future safety purposes.

**Charlie Sellers** 46:21

Would someone like to make a motion.

**Albert Yount** 46:27

I make a motion we do it.

**Melissa Pickett** 46:30

Second.

**Charlie Sellers** 46:34

Okay. Any further discussion?

**Albert Yount** 46:41

Yes

**Melissa Pickett** 46:41

Yes

**Doug Matheson** 46:41

Yes

**Charlie Sellers 46:42**

Okay. Mayview Broyhill Lake fountain.

**Shane Fox 46:53**

Thank you, Mayor. I will start and Ms Brown is still on the call she made like to join in. I'll read the staff report, approximately 15 years ago when BRRAC was not an official Town Board. They paid to have a fountain installed in Broyhill Lake as well as the power to the fountain. Over the years the lake has been unfortunately filling up a sediment from storm drain erosion in banks etc and heavy rains washing into the lake. The current fountain is functioning however, it's not flushing at 100% and would add that some days are better than others and participation or the final outcome of the water being produced in the fountain. Blowing Rock Village Foundation is wanting to partially fund installation of a new fountain due to the deterioration of the current fountain. The fountain company chose not only could provide the fountain but would also be close enough to maintain the fountain. The estimated cost of the fountain with LED lights is \$11,500. This includes removing the current fountain installation, the new fountain. Blowing Rock Village Foundation has committed to funding \$6,000 of the fountain which leaves \$5,500 left to be funded by the Town. So this particular topic includes a couple of things to think about. So one would be their acceptance of you all of the \$6,000 this is a donation that would have to be voted on to be accepted to the Town. And then the expenditure of \$5,500 that is not currently budgeted for hence the moving of the portion of the budget amendment. Mr. Matheson mentioned earlier down to this item. So approval of it potential approval of this item would include again the acceptance of the \$6,000 donation from the Village Foundation and an additional expenditure \$5,500. That's not currently budgeted for Ms. Brown, do you have anything you'd like to add? She's shaking her head no.

**Charlie Sellers 48:43**

Thoughts guys

**Doug Matheson 48:47**

One of the things I truly wanted to bring up on this is that what you hear call it's called the three P's public private partnerships. It is really starting to hit now in America, it wasn't big over here as it was overseas and it's really starting to get here is a great way that allows towns to get things done that they normally would it would be on their project list to do but they may not be able to afford it. Also as this builds I've read and saw some instances where it's even lowered some taxes in some towns because of the outpouring of public private partnerships being developed with the towns it's you know, one instances is the road in Charlotte you know, you look down there a public private partnership moved in got the highway built. Probably years ahead. When it was actually scheduled to be done. You know, it's So when you look around, it's a great asset. And that was that was the main thing I was wanting to try and get across tonight also, with this is, you know how helpful it will be going forward in the Town of some things that we might be able to do with with other you know, the foundation or other groups you're in town that we can't do on our own that might move projects.

**Charlie Sellers 50:30**

Good point, Doug. Thank you

**Albert Yount** 50:39

Just move we, we have two subjects, can this just be one motion.

**Shane Fox** 50:48

Yes sir

**Albert Yount** 50:49

I move we approve this project and the budget transfer as requested.

**Charlie Sellers** 50:58

Ok so Albert's made a motion that this be approved and that the monies of \$6,000 would be received from the Village Foundation as a donation. And Albert's motion also reflects that the approval of \$5,500 from the town budget. So that is the motion. Do we have a second?

**Melissa Pickett** 51:34

I'll second

**Charlie Sellers** 51:36

Any further discussion?

**Albert Yount** 51:41

**Melissa Pickett** 51:41

**Doug Matheson** 51:42

Yes

**Charlie Sellers** 51:44

Okay, now we're down to official reports. As mayor, I want to thank everybody I know the holiday season has been very trying when everyone under the best conditions it's trying and now that we've you know, having these issues with COVID Once again, my thanks to all the citizens for being supportive and, and doing their part and the Council for doing their part all of our town employees and department heads. And I also would like to also on another note, say that we lost a couple of people this this month Dee Hodges, who had been a business owner in town, and Carlos Hernandez, it was a business owner in town and so our prayers go out to their families. Moving forward, let's I'm hoping we've seen the low point of 2022. And hopefully we will climb upward from here. So But thanks again, it's I want to say thank you to all of you for tuning in this evening. So thank you.

**Albert Yount** 53:06

Well I have two things. One will be a question of Shane. And the other is I think Council we should think about anything that's going to be built commercially for rent or probably eating places should think about this charging station situation electric cars are coming faster than I ever thought that would. And I

would like for Kevin to give this thought if you folks agree, maybe report to us in a month or two or whatever. I think somehow it needs to be thought about in our town code.

**Charlie Sellers** 53:56

Probably a good item to bring up at retreat Albert.

**Albert Yount** 54:00

Okay, the other is a question and not my question its a question I've received from several people they want to know if the tent that Town Tavern has grown to the ground.

**Shane Fox** 54:15

Kevin I will ask you to answer that question regarding the tent at Town Tavern.

**Kevin Rothrock** 54:21

What I didn't hear what the question was the

**Shane Fox** 54:24

Question is regarding the Tent at Town Tavern is is it properly fastened and security to the ground?

**Kevin Rothrock** 54:34

Yes,

**Charlie Sellers** 54:35

I think Albert's question,

**Albert Yount** 54:38

The question coming to me is has that thing grown to the ground there other words, is it gonna be there? Or is it permanent or temporary?

**Kevin Rothrock** 54:49

Temporary they're limited to six months.

**Albert Yount** 54:57

Okay.

**Doug Matheson** 55:03

May I ask on that and how many times because it's like the first time, the tents been up and down in the last couple of months. How many times a year is that allowed?

**Kevin Rothrock** 55:15

One time. Last spring through I want to say May it's permitted for six month period per calendar year.

**Albert Yount** 55:30

Okay.

**Melissa Pickett** 55:32

Are they putting it up for the winter to help with seating since they are on limited seating,

**Albert Yount** 55:38

I'm sure

**Kevin Rothrock** 55:39

That's right. And they do depend a lot on their outdoor dining, because they've got quite a few seats out there. And so they're trying to utilize it.

**Albert Yount** 55:53

Well, I'm sure. I'm just asking what some people have been asking me

**Melissa Pickett** 55:58

Their tent was listed in the permits that Kevin put in his department reports.

**Albert Yount** 56:05

Well it's good to know. It's good to know the restrictions. I'll pass it on.

**Kevin Rothrock** 56:13

Okay.

**Charlie Sellers** 56:14

Kevin, if Albert puts in a permit for a tent in his yard, would you let us know?

**Kevin Rothrock** 56:22

Depends on what kind of tent like teepee Well, Shane's gonna be living up there and keeping better eye on him.

**Albert Yount** 56:34

Check data usage of the Blowing Rock sucking all the data available in the Southern part of Blowing Rock.

**Charlie Sellers** 56:42

Okay, moving right along.

**Melissa Pickett** 56:48

I just want to just, you know, kudos to our staff for hanging in there right now and just thoughts and prayers to our citizens. We'll get through it.

**Charlie Sellers** 57:01

Thank you, Melissa. Doug

**Doug Matheson** 57:05

Question and a comment. And I'll ask the question first. anymore on the crosswalks right now.

**Shane Fox** 57:14

So the crosswalks will begin the week after Winterfest is ending. So we we've delayed it and that was part of the process. February 1 was what the intended start date on that. So they've been gathering materials. Doug Chapman, I think is on the call. Do you have anything to add on that project? Doug? Regarding the crosswalks? I believe there's still

**Doug Chapman** 57:35

No I don't we have received shop drawings for the signals those were sent to DOT. I'm not 100% sure if they've been approved yet. And then we want to wait till they can get make sure they got those material before they start tearing things out.

**Charlie Sellers** 57:54

Did you hear that. Doug

**Doug Matheson** 57:55

Yes. And what about did we also talk about or was I asked about there at the crosswalk at school about putting some signals?

**Shane Fox** 58:09

Yes. And Mr. Blackburn, I think is on the call. We talked about that this morning. So those signs have been we've issued po and they've been ordered. He spoke with the sign designer, I believe yesterday about the final touches of those signs. So Matt, would you like to speak just a few moments on the signs on Sunset? The flashing lights?

**Matt Blackburn** 58:31

Sure, yeah, I spoke with the company yesterday morning and they're going to make some changes to sign. So apparently the sign that we want to get had to actually be the dedicated crosswalk and explain to them that this is gonna be more of a school zone type indicator. So they're going to make some changes to it and those should be coming to us in the very near future. And that we all timers we can hook a computer to it and it should be able to set the time so you can flash the morning and afternoon school hours. So they should be here relatively quickly.

**Doug Matheson** 59:07

And the only other thing I had was just a statement that I look forward to 2022 and the aspect is not what I was talking about the public private partnership not only just that with without groups here in town I look forward to the town this year hopefully developing great relationships and this being one of the best years that the town is seen in a while.

**Albert Yount** 59:38

Shane does this mean the material for the traffic signal are here

**Shane Fox** 59:50

For the crosswalks. I'm not sure what's been procured at this point. So they were procuring waiting on Winterfest that's what we've been waiting That was oh, it is we initially at the pre construction meeting decided that February 1 was kind of going to be our start date we hoped so we knew we had Winterfest and other things going on did not will obviously start tearing into those intersections with heavy traffic weekend that was planned for the end of January. So the rough goal is to have about a month or so worth of demo conduit being placed and then another month or so worth of work. No all weather dependent. So it's not a and Doug may speak up. It's not a overly difficult project, so to speak. There is some work flatwork concrete work that has to be done weather dependent as well. So all should be completed prior to our busy season. So it has been coming back in place.

**Charlie Sellers** 1:00:53

Mr. Mosely, do you have anything for us to see?

**Allen Moseley** 1:00:57

No, but I just want you to know them here. You're looking good to see this month's.

**Charlie Sellers** 1:01:11

Likewise, have a good week.

**Allen Moseley** 1:01:15

Thank you, too.

**Charlie Sellers** 1:01:16

And now to the last and the best our Town Manager Shane Fox.

**Shane Fox** 1:01:24

Thank you, Mayor and Council. Thank you for good meeting. Very efficient meeting tonight, I'll eco a couple of comments. Start with Mr. Mathesons comments about working with groups in town we are planning at the retreat to have a segment that allows a number of groups in town to come to our retreat, give a little bit of a update of maybe who they are and what their purpose is, for the purposes within the town and ultimately how they could potentially work with the town now the town could work with them on hopefully accomplish some great things in 2022. So we are looking forward to those groups coming to the Retreat. The Retreat is January 24th, 25th and 26th. That's a Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, here in town, roughly 8:30 to 5:00. It is currently at BRAHM that potentially could change depending on COVID. I have spoken to Lee Carol and I think she and I plan on staying in touch we do have the Legion reserved for those three days as well if need be. So like a lot in the last little bit. Everything is ever changing. So we'll play that one by ear, we will have the retreat I hope, as planned is the goal as of right now. So unless something changes, that's the plan. I would like to mention Ms. Ellie Nickels started today as an intern. She is a senior Watauga High School and she plans on being with us a couple of days a week for a few hours to get a better understanding of what Town Government entails. So she started today and kind of followed me around for a number of hours. I think enjoyed some of it. I think she was born on some of it as well. So say thank you to public works as always, obviously stepping up. We did have our first snowstorm of the year, last week and it came a little bit heavier than I

think it was originally predicted. But like always, snow removal went as planned. And then it appears Winter is here. We have a few more chances even this week and the next week coming up with snow so there'll be busy ABC board. I've always liked to update their numbers. I've lost track of how many months in a row. We've had record breaking sales over last year \$270,000 In November versus \$230,000. November of last year. So \$40,000 increase. Bass Lake Sidewalk was originally scheduled to be officially open today. Let everyone know and under the Chamber and others have put out email blast that has been postponed or was postponed until further dates will everyone know obviously when that time is here. In your packet, you had the Planning and Zoning calendar year update. So just wanted to point out this year. This is a calendar year update. We had a total of 404 permits that equal \$38 million. While that's a big number, and it is a big number \$32.6 million is residential. So I think that's telling in itself 16 new homes were started this year at \$18.1 million which has a value of \$1.13 2 million per house on average. Within the Town of Blowing Rock. Will also mention that at the retreat, we plan on hearing from the county and they will at that point update us on the results of the re-val so maybe there's some indication here that we should see some increases coming our direction. So with that that's my update for tonight and be glad to answer any questions

**Charlie Sellers** 1:05:16

Motion to adjourn.

**Doug Matheson** 1:05:26

Motion to adjourn.

**Albert Yount** 1:05:30

Second

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Charlie Sellers**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Tax Refund/Release #2021-01 – Attachment A**

**Budget Amendment - #2022-02 – Attachment B**

**Lucrum 7, LLC Hotel – Attachment C**