

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock

Board of Commissioners

May 13, 2008

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Phil Pickett, Albert Yount and Tommy Klutz. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Eric Brown, Building Inspector Jesse Horner, Finance Director Nicole Norman, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Tester made a motion to approve minutes for meetings held on April 8 (including closed session minutes), April 28, and May 5, 2008 with one correction on page 7, which stated Blowing Rock Fire Chief Eric Brown to Blowing Rock Police Chief Eric Brown in the April 28, 2008 minutes. The motion received a second from Commissioner Ball . Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. RZ #2008-01 – Gideon Ridge Area Zoning

A public hearing was held for public comment to consider initial zoning of Gideon Ridge Area including the Blowing Rock visitor attraction which will be annexed into the Town's corporate limits on June 30, 2008. The properties included in the annexation are currently zoned under Caldwell County zoning. Planning Director Rothrock advised that Town staff recommended zoning all the subject properties R-15, single-family. Surrounding properties and the subject properties within the Town limits are currently zoned R-15 single-family. Mr. Rothrock stated the proposed R-15 zoning would be consistent with the zoning designations for the area.

Mr. Rothrock also advised that Town staff was currently in the process of drafting language to establish a Historic Properties Overlay District or provide ordinance flexibility for the Gideon Ridge Inn, the Blowing Rock visitor attraction, and the Green Park Inn. The purpose for the overlay district or ordinance amendment would be to recognize the historic significance of these properties and provide some flexibility with regard to future expansion.

During the April 17th meeting of the Planning Board a recommendation to rezone the property to R-15 single-family was made.

After several questions regarding the overlay district Mr. Rothrock explained that under the current ordinance the Gideon Ridge Inn, Green Park Inn and Blowing Rock visitor attraction could not expand. He advised that an overlay district would allow for future expansion. Town Manager Hildebran stated that under Caldwell County zoning the properties were currently zoned R-20 which is similar to the proposed R-15 single-family.

Commissioner Klutz inquired if the Blowing Rock visitor attraction would be able to revert back to the days when it was a tavern. Mr. Rothrock responded that it would not.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Tester, seconded by Commissioner Ball to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Tester continued with a motion to approve RZ #2008-01 – Gideon Ridge Area Zoning as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.
RZ #2008-01 Exhibit A

2. RZ #2008-02 – Troyer (444 Inc.) Property

Mr. Rothrock stated the Troyer (444 Inc.) property on Gideon Ridge Lane would be annexed into the Town's corporate limits on June 30, 2008. The property is currently zoned by Caldwell County as being single-family. Mr. Rothrock stated in order to be consistent with surrounding areas, Town staff recommends the property be zoned R-15 single-family.

During their April 17, 2008 meeting, the Planning Board recommended the property be re-zoned R-15 single-family.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Tester made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tester to accept RZ #2008-02 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. **RZ #2008-02 Exhibit B**

1. CUP #2007-14 Chetola Resort

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Mr. Randy Jones of David R. Jones Architect, and Mr. Kent Tarbutton owner of Chetola Resort were sworn to speak during the public hearing.

Planning Director Rothrock presented Council with a request from RSK, LLC d/b/a Chetola Mountain Resorts for a conditional use permit to amend CUP 93-08 to construct two condo buildings and a 6-unit building for a total of ten 3-bedroom units. According to the CUP request, a new access road would be extended from the end of Chetola Lake Drive. The proposed property is zoned PUD-R6M and is located partially in both WS-IV-PA and WS-II-CA.

Mr. Rothrock spoke regarding the storm water management, watershed, parking etc. for the proposed project.

The Planning Board also recommended the approval of conditional use permit as submitted during their April 17, 2008 meeting.

Commissioner Tester questioned item #4 of the proposed CUP. He inquired if calculations had been done regarding the 6% limitation in the WS-II-CA and if they were within those limitations. Mr. Rothrock assured Mr. Tester the calculations had been verified and they were within the limitations.

Commissioner Ball had questions regarding materials being used on the proposed condos and vegetation between the condos and adjoining properties. Commissioner Ball advised the area where the condos were planned was visible from the By-pass. She felt there should be more stonework and wood incorporated into the design in order to blend into their surroundings since they were visible from the highway. Mr. Randy Jones spoke further on the design plans and materials to be used.

Mr. Tarbutton said the only problem that he could foresee in the future would be if the Tanger property ever sold. He noted that he would be willing to add more vegetation if

needed should that ever happen. Mr. Tarbutton stated the materials used for the condos were in keeping with other condominiums at Chetola, which was a requirement in the original PUD he received from the Town. He also stated several years ago the colors of the buildings had been changed to blend better with their surroundings.

At Commissioner Yount's request, Mr. Tarbutton updated Council on future growth planned for Chetola.

Mr. Jones stated Mr. Michael Trew was now present and had further information regarding Mrs. Ball's concerns regarding vegetation.

At this time, Mr. Michael Trew was sworn to speak regarding the proposed project.

Mr. Trew presented Council with more diagrams pertaining to the project showing existing trees between the proposed project and Tanger properties.

Commissioner Klutz asked if any trees were to be removed for construction. Mr. Trew explained some trees would be removed in order to put in the storm detention for the project, but they planned to salvage as many trees as possible.

Mrs. Marie Weingartner was sworn to speak during the public hearing.

Chetola resident Marie Weingartner expressed concerns regarding a proposed trail for the project rather than a sidewalk. Mrs. Weingartner was unsure where the new trail would connect and who would be responsible for the upkeep of the trail. Mr. Tarbutton explained the trail for this project would be a cedar and timber trail like the one at "the Ponds". He stated the new trail would be connected to the trail leading to Bass Lake.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Klutz, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Ball made a motion to approve CUP#2007-14 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Commissioner Tester requested the motion be modified to include the statement that after the project was built, and more greenery was needed, the applicant would work with the Town in that respect. Commissioner Ball agreed to the modification, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved. **CUP #2007-14 Exhibit C**

2. CUP #2008-02 Robbins Memorial Pool

The Town of Blowing Rock requested a conditional use permit for significant construction to the Grover C. Robbins Memorial Pool. The Town proposes to construct a new pool, new pool house and showers, new public restrooms, and a new picnic shelter with playground equipment.

The new pool will be built in the same location as the current pool but with different amenities. The new pool will have “zero-entry” access, splash play area, general play area, and lap swim lanes. The pool house will be more functional with updated restrooms and showers, and the covered picnic area will be expanded. Two public restrooms will be added to the parking lot side of the building, which will be accessible from the outside. The new playground area will be adjacent to the new picnic shelter.

During the April 17th meeting of the Planning Board, a recommendation to approve CUP #2008-02 was made with the condition that the playground area be ADA accessible.

Commissioner Ball expressed concerns regarding the preservation of trees on the property and fencing around the new facility. Mrs. Ball suggested something more attractive than a chain link fence be erected. Commissioner Tester expressed that he would like to have vegetation around the fence also.

Mr. Hildebran expressed if screening around the pool was too dense, late night activity could not be seen clearly. He felt other options for fencing around the project could be investigated. Several members of Council suggested a more attractive fencing material, possibly, a vinyl colored fence.

Funding for the project was addressed next by Town Manager Hildebran. He stated after receiving a PARTF Grant in the amount of \$500,000, \$100,000 from the Broyhill Family Foundation, \$140,000 from the Town of Blowing Rock ABC Board, \$50,000 from Watauga County, \$30,000 from the Community Foundation, as well as donations from local residents and money set aside for the project in the Reserve Fund, funding for the \$1,000,000.00 project had been met.

Mayor Lawrence expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hildebran for efforts put forth in acquiring funding for the new facility.

Mrs. Louise Absher, adjacent property owner of 447 Wallingford Street, approached Council with a request for adequate buffer to be placed between her property and the new pool facility. Council agreed with Mrs. Absher stating this was a reasonable request.

With no further public comments, Commissioner Tester made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. A motion to approve CUP#2008-02 with the condition that an adequate buffer be placed between Mrs. Absher's property and the proposed project was made by Commissioner Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. **CUP #2008-02 Exhibit C**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Drought Update

Town Manager Hildebran gave an update on the drought situation by stating even though there was some improvement he recommended that the Town remain in Stage I Water Conservation as recommended by the State. Council concurred with the recommendation.

Mayor Lawrence called for a short recess at this time.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with the following items:

NEW BUSINESS

1. Blowing Rock Art & History Museum/Town Joint Venture Agreement

Joann Mitchell, representing the Blowing Rock Art & History Museum presented a Joint Venture Agreement between the Town of Blowing Rock and BRAHM regarding the proposed history museum and the public parking structure planned for South Main Street.

Commissioner Tester advised he felt they were moving in the right direction but was concerned with the timing of the document. According to Mr. Tester in order for Council to make a decision to move forward with the project, they must first have the following: drawings of the proposed building to see what it would look like and how well it will fit on the property, cost estimates, in order to know how much public funds would be spent on the project, a funding plan, showing how the project would be paid for and where the money would be coming from, and public input. Mr. Tester felt the document was premature without first resolving those issues.

Town Attorney Moseley stated the joint venture summarizes the design expenses to be paid by BRAHM. Mr. Moseley asked Ms. Mitchell what kind of commitment BRAHM was looking for from the Town before incurring these expenses. Commissioner Tester stated, according to the original agreement between the Town and BRAHM, they (BRAHM) were obligated to spend money on the design. Mr. Moseley stated he understood, but BRAHM might want to wait until they knew the Town was committed to doing the project. Mr. Tester advised Council had changed since the discussions began regarding the project, and there were only two members of the present Council who were involved in all the discussions, but the discussions so far, had been in line with doing the project. Commissioner Tester advised that Council was not trying to back off from their intent, but before spending public funds they needed a preliminary design of the project, cost estimates and funding plan for the structure. Mr. Tester stated, according to the lease agreement, BRAHM was obligated to do these things before the Town obligates to build the structure. The process Council needed to follow would be to see the design and decide if they wanted to build the structure or lease property to BRAHM to build a scaled down version of the parking structure, but asking the Town to move forward without that was not consistent with the lease agreement.

Mr. Moseley suggested adding a statement as part of the motion to address those concerns.

Mr. Tester asked for clarification regarding a sentence in the document written in bold, which he felt must be of importance that read; “the Town and BRAHM shall construct the museum and parking structure simultaneously.” Tester stated if BRAHM insisted that a document be signed that night, then somewhere in the document a statement was needed stating the town would not be obligated to go forward with the project until the correct process was followed regarding the design, cost and funding. Mr. Tester reiterated that he did not feel comfortable signing anything that might imply the Town was approving the project because Council would be walking away from their responsibility to the people of Blowing Rock.

Mr. Moseley stated BRAHM was asking for approval of the concept, but until the contract was signed, wording could be added to the joint venture document to reflect the process Mr. Tester had talked about.

Ms. Mitchell stated Town Manager Hildebran had a cost estimate given to him that day, and according to the minutes of Council Retreat, it was their understanding that authorization had been given to move forward. Mr. Tester stated moving forward with design input only.

Ms. Mitchell also stated that Town Manager Hildebran had been very helpful in gathering information to present to Council and she understood the joint venture to be an agreement between the Town and BRAHM to work together as partners. Ms. Mitchell advised that BRAHM would move forward and let the Town provide the joint venture agreement for them to sign. According to Ms. Mitchell, BRAHM needed to start the CUP process since they had a deadline to meet and that was the time to hear public input.

Mr. Tester stated, according to the schedule they were several months away from that point and could not go through the CUP process without a design. Mr. Tester also said that an orderly process needed to be followed before committing public funds to the project. He also advised the stipulation needed to be added stating the Town could walk away from the project without any obligation of any kind to BRAHM. Mr. Tester stated if BRAHM brought the project before the Board and they decided not to build the structure, then BRAHM would have to cancel it or add costs to the museum project for the parking

structure. Mr. Tester reiterated his belief that a stipulation was needed stating the Town could walk away without any obligation to BRAHM up through the CUP process.

Mr. Tester stated the Joint Venture Agreement was a legal document to be signed and recorded and the stipulation previously stated needed to be added to the document, allowing the Town to walk away without any obligation to BRAHM.

Town Attorney Moseley stated the problem was what to do first, and from BRAHM's standpoint, money could be saved by doing a design/build on both the museum and parking structure. The problem was timing, and he also felt BRAHM wanted feedback from the Town on what to do first.

Mr. Moseley stated in recognizing the Town could pull the plug on the project, BRAHM was trying to get a contractor and architect on board and were banking on the fact that the Town wanted to proceed with the project.

Commissioner Ball stated the Town was not trying to get out of the project, but without plans to look at, it would be hard to judge the cost and the Town needed a ballpark figure. Mrs. Ball stated, Commissioner Tester did not want to sign something that would obligate the Town before knowing how much money is needed." Mrs. Ball continued by stating, "Council was behind the project concept but needed figures and plans to look at."

Mr. Moseley stated while reviewing the Boone Construction contract with Town Manager Hildebran the maximum price had been deleted and the Town needed a guaranteed maximum price. Ms. Mitchell stated she thought that was a reasonable request.

Ms. Mitchell also stated that she, Town Attorney Moseley, and Town staff needed to work out Council's concerns regarding the contract and return in June. She advised that BRAHM had spent six figures on changes etc., and would spend more money in order to meet their obligation to the Town and their donors.

Mr. Tester stated he felt it was only reasonable before entering into an agreement to build, that Council needed a package with design, cost estimate, and a funding plan so Council could propose to the people of Blowing Rock that this project could be done, and the Town has the funds to do so. Mr. Tester noted the joint venture implied the Town was setting up a business partnership without seeing a cost estimate and so far he had only received a footprint and sketch.

Ms. Mitchell inquired if Council would feel more comfortable if the joint venture document was executed by the Town's attorney and staff. Mr. Tester stated he more comfortable if a document was put together with the design, a real cost estimate with Mr. Hildebran reviewing the document to see if funding was available. Once completed, BRAHM would bring it back before Council to decide.

Ms. Mitchell stated BRAHM would move forward without the joint venture document with the CUP application in order to meet their deadline. Commissioner Tester advised without plans it would be several months before BRAHM could acquire a CUP. Commissioner Tester stated a stipulation needed to be added to the agreement, stating the Town would walk away at any time up through the CUP process without any obligation to BRAHM financially or otherwise.

Mr. Hildebran conveyed he had spoken with Ms. Mitchell earlier in the day and advised he did not believe Council would be comfortable signing the document without feedback and discussing their concerns regarding funding and the comments heard tonight would be incorporated into the document.

Commissioner Klutz voiced he had a problem with a partnership agreement, if BRAHM did build the structure he would not be for it. "The building is beautiful, but I would rather have a surface lot than a deck, I would be in favor of a surface lot." Commissioner Klutz also stated he wanted BRAHM to build the building, but he would rather the deck not be built, "I can't be a part of it" he replied. "The building is gorgeous, but I would like to see you pursue a surface lot which I would be in favor of voting for."

Ms. Mitchell replied that she appreciated Mr. Klutz's consistency in holding that position, but in all fairness, she would like to bring a picture and maybe change his mind. Commissioner Klutz stated "No way, it's not going to happen."

Mr. John Calvin advised some cost prices had been given to the Town.

Commissioner Yount expressed a concern if the Town signed the document would it be “poisoning the well, so to speak” for the Planning Board. Town Manager Hildebran stated the Town had acquired special legislation from the General Assembly to do the design/build method, which means the Town did not have to receive competitive bids, and by bidding privately, approximately twenty percent could be saved on the project. He also stated the building designs had not been approved, the project would continue through the CUP process and according to the original agreement, BRAHM was responsible for paying for the architectural design and engineering costs, which most likely had been approximately \$100,000.00 or more.

Commissioner Klutz asked for clarification on Section IV regarding mediation. He stated it wasn't that he didn't respect what Mayor Lawrence and the President of BRAHM had come up with regarding mediation, but he felt Council might be left out in case there were problems between BRAHM and the Town. After reviewing Section IV, Town Attorney Moseley advised if a dispute could not be resolved between the Town and BRAHM, Council would be involved and that Mayor Lawrence was representing the Board, not acting alone. Commissioner Klutz felt it could be interpreted that way.

BRAHM agreed to follow up on the Council comments.

2. Resolution #2008-03 Stating Town Position on Consolidated Dispatch

During the recent intergovernmental meetings with the Town of Blowing Rock, Watauga County, Town of Boone, Town of Seven Devils and Appalachian State University discussion was heard regarding a consolidation dispatch for all police, fire and medic services. Based on comments during that meeting from Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, Police Chief Eric Brown and Town of Boone Police Chief Bill Post, a recommendation was made to investigate the possibility of a consolidated dispatch for fire and emergency medical services only. They also requested, should a consolidation of dispatch services for fire/emergency medical services occur, an appropriate oversight committee be established to represent the Town of Blowing Rock's interests.

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with Resolution #2008-03 stating the Town Position on Consolidated Dispatch for their review. Commissioner Ball suggested the last sentence of the last paragraph be changed, to state the Town of Blowing Rock should have "significant" representation regarding the oversight of the operation center.

Commissioner Pickett expressed his support of the Town of Blowing Rock's fire and rescue personnel in their decision of what was best for Blowing Rock.

Commissioner Yount asked for further explanation as to why the consolidated dispatch was good for fire and rescue personnel and not police. Emergency Services Director Kent Graham stated the main reason for the difference was the Police Department served the city limits of Blowing Rock and Emergency Services served a 52 square mile area and was already a part of the County operation.

After opposing consolidated dispatch, Mr. Klutz wanted to know why Mr. Graham had changed his mind. Mr. Graham stated his stance was the same with regard to the level of service by the Police Department in Blowing Rock with the welfare checks, intimate knowledge of the area and the residents, etc. However, while discussing the Fire/Rescue part of the consolidated dispatch, Mr. Graham advised there were issues that needed correcting. With adequate representation and keeping the police dispatch center he felt the consolidated dispatch for the fire/rescue would be helpful. Mr. Graham advised he was against a complete consolidation of all services. Commissioner Ball stated there were many things the Emergency Services people did, the public were not aware of, that made Blowing Rock the place that it is. Mrs. Ball stated "if it isn't broken why try to fix it?" Mr. Graham stated there were situations where intimate knowledge of the area or the person was needed in life threatening situations and that level of service needed to be maintained. Issues with directions given by the County etc. needed improvement. Mr. Graham felt with proper representation, a consolidated dispatch would work. Mr. Hildebran advised he did not think the Medical Advisory Board would support the modified proposal. Mrs. Ball wanted the personal touch Blowing Rock has to remain.

Commissioner Klutz agreed with Mrs. Ball and stated Blowing Rock's services were excellent and the Town needed to keep the personal touch they now had. He did not want Blowing Rock to lose anything further. Mr. Hildebran advised a consolidation was at Council's pleasure. Commissioner Pickett reiterated again his support of town personnel regarding this issue.

A motion to accept Resolution #2007-03, with Mrs. Ball's modification to add that Blowing Rock have significant representation was made by Commissioner Tester, seconded by Commissioner Ball. In favor of the motion were Tester, Ball, Yount and Pickett. Against the motion was Klutz. Motion carried. **Resolution #2008-03 Exhibit D**

3. Resolution #2008-04 of Support of State Appropriation for Ladder Fire Truck

Mr. Hildebran presented Resolution #2008-04 to Council for consideration supporting Appalachian State University and the Town of Boone for a state appropriation to acquire a ladder fire truck. Mr. Hildebran stated the truck would also be available for mutual aid in the county.

A motion to accept Resolution #2008-04 was made by Commissioner Yount, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Unanimously approved. **Resolution #2008-04 Exhibit E**

4. Resolution #2008-05 of Support for Watauga County Economic Incentives for Tweetsie RR

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with Resolution #2008-05 for their consideration in support of Watauga County to provide economic incentives to Tweetsie Railroad to insure their continued operation in the county.

Mr. Hildebran advised that Watauga County was acquiring interest in the Elder/Robbins property for \$3,150,000 and would be leasing the property to Tweetsie for the sum of \$1.00/year for six years. After the six year period, the lease rate would reflect fair market value lease rate. Tweetsie would then purchase the property from the County at the purchase price of \$3,150,000 plus interests cost and the average return rate. The Watauga County TDA would make a \$150,000 per year grant for six years for marketing and promotion of Tweetsie.

In return for the incentives, Tweetsie would agree to remain at their current location for a period of time to sufficiently fulfill the commitment of the County. Tweetsie also agreed to invest \$13,000,000 in improvements to the park within a defined period of time, as well as provide Middle Fork Greenway Association with an easement for a future greenway to be located along the Middle Fork River.

Tweetsie Ralroad provides an estimated \$27,000,000 a year in overall economic impact to the area, providing jobs and tourism to the area's hotels, retail and restaurants.

Mayor Lawrence encouraged Council to support this resolution, stating it was critical to the area. A motion to adopt Resolution #2008-05 was made by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved. **Resolution #2005-05 Exhibit F**

5. Resolution #2008-06 to Support Municipal Annexation Statutes

Resolution #2008-06 was presented to Council for consideration in support of the current municipal annexation statutes and expressing opposition to the moratorium on city initiated annexations proposed by N.C. House Select Committee on Annexation.

Mr. Hildebran stated the Town currently had pending annexations (Gideon Ridge Area and the Troyer Annexation) effective June 30, 2008 which would be affected if the moratorium passed. Mr. Hildebran advised the Town had spent an extensive amount of time planning the pending annexation and the Resolution being reviewed was in opposition to the proposed annexation moratorium.

A motion to accept Resolution #2008-06 was made by Commissioner Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. **Resolution #2008-06 Exhibit G**

6. Resolution #2008-07 to Recognize New River's 10th Anniversary as American Heritage River

Town Manager Hildebran presented Resolution #2008-07 recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the New River's designation as an American Heritage River for their consideration.

With no further comments, a motion was made by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Pickett to accept Resolution #2008-07 as presented. Unanimously approved. **Resolution #2008-07 Exhibit H**

7. Council Appointments to Intergovernmental Sub-Committees

As discussed in the recent intergovernmental meeting, it was decided that sub-committees would be formed to address the area's short-term water issues. The following action teams were established:

- Team #1 – Assessing Water Needs, Usage and Capacity
- Team #2 – Establishing Planning Criteria as Defined by All Parties Involved
- Team #3 - Investigating Water Conservation Measures
- Team #4 - Taking Joint Action at Regional, State and National Levels
- Team #5 - Establishing a Public Education Process

Possible appointments are as follows:

Team #1 Councilmember Phillip Pickett & Town Engineer Doug Chapman

Team #2 Councilmember Keith Tester & Planning Director Kevin Rothrock

Team #3 Councilmembers Albert Yount & Barbara Ball & Public Works Director Johnny Lentz

Team #4 Mayor J.B. Lawrence & Town Manager Scott Hildebran

Team #5 Councilmember Tommy Klutz & Town Manager Scott Hildebran

Commissioner Klutz made a motion to approve the appointments as presented, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Unanimously approved.

Speakers from the Floor

None

Departmental Reports

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with the recommended Annual Operating Budget for 2008-2009. A brief synopsis was given by Mr. Hildebran highlighting areas of the proposed budget. He stated the FY 2008-2009 Recommended Budget, including the General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund, totals \$6,376,940. The proposed budget has a tax rate set at \$0.28 per \$100 valuation, which is the current tax rate. The Recommended Budget included a water/sewer rate adjustment of \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons of usage above the minimum 5,000 gallons and a \$5.00 per month charge for all customers to cover the expense related to the planned emergency water interconnection with the Town of Boone and Appalachian State University. Also, due to a proposed increase in commercial landfill

tipping fees from \$45 per ton to \$49 per ton by Watauga County, the budget included an increase in commercial solid waste fee to recover these costs.

Mr. Hildebran stated part-time employment for the Police and Planning Departments was also proposed. He thanked everyone for their help in the preparation of the proposed budget and advised budget work sessions were scheduled for May 19th, 20th and 27th at 4:00 p.m. **FY 2008-2009 Recommended Operating Budget Exhibit J**

Mr. Hildebran commended Planning Director Rothrock and Public Works Director Johnny Lentz for their work placing the new newspaper racks and informational kiosks downtown. He also thanked the Tourism Development Authority for paying for the kiosks.

Mayor Lawrence expressed his appreciation to everyone that helped during the town clean up day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MAYOR _____

J.B. Lawrence

Attest _____

Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

Attachments

RZ #2008-01 Exhibit A

RZ #2008-02 Exhibit B

CUP #2007-14 Exhibit C

CUP #2008-02 Exhibit D

Resolution #2008-03 Exhibit E

Resolution #2008-04 Exhibit F

Resolution #2008-05 Exhibit G

Resolution #2008-06 Exhibit H

Resolution #2008-07 Exhibit I

2008-2009 Recommended Operating Budget Exhibit J