

Town Council Meeting - Tuesday, February 8th, 2022

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street Blowing Rock, NC. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson and Council Members Albert Yount, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett and Pete Gherini. Also present were Town Manager Shane Fox, 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

Tue, 3/1 8:45AM • 1:40:51

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lake, town, council, gave, years, delivery trucks, question, water, problem, pete, study, issue, doug, maple street, road, silt, stormwater, point, dredge, meeting

SPEAKERS

Dr. Bunky Davant, Hilari Hubner, David Harwood, Aaron Miller, Allen Moseley, Doug Matheson, Kent Tarbutton, Shane Fox, Albert Yount, Melissa Pickett, Pete Gherini, Charlie Sellers, Doug Chapman, Rick Parsons

Doug Matheson 00:00

Charlie Sellers 07:02

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen and welcome to our Town Council meeting this evening, February 8, 2022. Roll call for attendance.

Pete Gherini 07:10

Here

Albert Yount 07:14

Here

David Harwood 07:16

Here

Melissa Pickett 07:17

Here

Doug Matheson 07:19

Here

Charlie Sellers 07:20

Pete, you'll have to refrain from any voting until once you're sworn in and then of course you're official. All right, moving right along to approval of minutes January 11, 2022. Do I have a motion?

Doug Matheson 08:12

So made

Charlie Sellers 08:13

Do I have a second?

Melissa Pickett 08:14

Second

Charlie Sellers 08:15

Any discussion? All in favor

Albert Yount 08:21

Yes

David Harwood 08:21

Yes

Melissa Pickett 08:23

Yes

Doug Matheson 08:23

Yes

Charlie Sellers 08:24

Approval of minutes January 20, 2022. Do I have a motion?

David Harwood 08:30

So moved

Albert Yount 08:31

Yes

Doug Matheson 08:31
Second

Charlie Sellers 08:31
All in favor?

David Harwood 08:33
Yes

Melissa Pickett 08:33
Yes

Doug Matheson 08:33
Yes

Hilari Hubner 08:37
Administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member Pete Gherini.

Charlie Sellers 08:38
All right, we have the oath of office for Pete "Pier" Gherini Congratulations. We're so pleased to have you home. Thank you for running and putting your name in the hat. Welcome to the Board.

Allen Moseley 10:51
All right, moving right along. Regular Agenda adoption. Do I have a motion.

Melissa Pickett 10:55
So moved.

Charlie Sellers 10:58
Do I have a second?

Doug Matheson 11:04
Second

Charlie Sellers 11:04
Any discussion on the Regular Agenda? All in favor.

David Harwood 11:11
Yes

Melissa Pickett 11:11
Yes

Doug Matheson 11:11

Yes

Albert Yount 11:11

Yes

Pete Gherini 11:11

Yes

Charlie Sellers 11:15

Approval of consent agenda. Now keep in mind Council there's no discussion on Consent Agenda. Do I have a motion? Doug motion first, then Pete second. All in favor?

Doug Matheson 11:35

So made

Pete Gherini 11:36

Second

Albert Yount 11:37

Yes

David Harwood 11:42

Yes

Melissa Pickett 11:44

Yes

Doug Matheson 11:44

Yes

Pete Gherini 11:48

Yes

Charlie Sellers 11:49

Consent agenda is approved. Thank you so much. Now, public comments. Keep in mind, please keep it to three minutes. And in all due respect for those who want to speak and for moving the meeting forward in a very productive manner. So if you would like to speak, please get with Hilari and give her your name and address. We have one so far, it would be Mr. Rick Parsons. Mr. Parsons, would you step up to the podium? How are you sir?

Rick Parsons 12:24

Great, thank you.

Charlie Sellers 12:25

Fantastic, welcome.

Rick Parsons 12:26

Always good to be here.

Charlie Sellers 12:27

Just for the record, if you would state your name and address.

Rick Parsons 12:29

My name is Rick Parsons I live in 1577 Green Hill Road. And I'm here once again, to talk about my favorite subject, which is traffic on Green Hill Road. I have a print out for each of the Council Members a copy of the summary of the Ramey Kemp study, a response to the study, primary conclusions and recommendations. I will not go into this in detail at this point in time. I would like to say for some of you here this evening, and myself, it's our anniversary. This is the fifth year that I've been coming to speak to some of you about the traffic problems on Green Hill Road. And I'm here again to talk about the same problem. During that time the traffic speed, volume data has been collected numerous times. And of course, most recently, an independent traffic study was conducted. And yet the cars continue to speed and the noise can still be heard for miles from the parkway all the way to well past Edge Hill Road. The public comments in the recent study were overwhelming and highlighting the speed and safety concerns on the road. And although there were many problems with the data used in the recent study, it does demonstrate the chronic speeding problem on Green Hill Road. Shane has put up some of that data. Some of that other data is included in the report that I gave you. I'm demonstrating from the least biased data. Some of the issues that face us on Green Hill Road. Now this is a summary of the southbound traffic indicating maximum speed reported by hour over the period of time in which the data was collected. So it's not happening all the time, but it is what is actually car speed reporting. The black is 10 to 14 miles over the posted speed limit. The yellow is 15 to 20 miles over the posted speed limit, orange is 20 to 24. Red 20 to 29, and of course, the star is almost 40 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. And that's 65 miles an hour. It's actually 60, for the record. So I don't know what you think about a residential street. But I don't consider 60 plus miles an hour being a reasonable speed. Now, approximately 380 cars a day you travel in both directions on the street. If you look at speeds over 10 miles per hour above the posted speed limit, that would equate to about 50 to 60 cars traveling at speeds 10 miles or higher over the posted speed limit daily. You extrapolate that to the northbound you're now talking about 100 to 120 cars a day speeding. Again, I don't think that's typical for a residential streets. These speeds were similar to speeds that were recorded as far back as 2017 in previous studies, so this isn't a new problem, it hasn't become apparent because of the road. It's always existed, it's just gotten worse. Now, enforcement's not a solution. You can see it happens in almost every time period. So if you wanted to enforce this problem away, it would have to be enforced 24/7. I don't think that's cost effective. And I don't think it's the best use. You know, during the study it was recommended speed indicator flashing lights were put there to indicate the speed limit. Those weren't paid attention to during the traffic study, that sign was flashing 25 miles an hour, while people were still speeding in both directions to suggest from the study that they should be implemented again, totally makes no sense at all. So really, what we come down to are the two options that we had known about since day one, stop signs and speed limits. Neither of which were really addressed in the study. As a matter of fact, with the exception of Green Hill Circle, no other street, no other intersection

between Green Hill and the parkway was actually looked at for safety and visibility issues. And it wasn't until the Town Council brought it up about Fairway Court that they went back and revisited that intersection for visibility and ultimately put in a stop sign. Now if that problem exists there it existed on Heather Ridge and Wonderland Drive. It also exists where you have speed problems where Wonderland intersects all of these problems, and the lack of stop signs and or speed bumps contribute to the speeding problem.

Charlie Sellers 17:56

Rick, your time is up.

Rick Parsons 17:58

I am over, sorry. Speed humps one last thing about speed humps, no one likes them, I understand that. Snow removal doesn't like them in the winter. I suggest if you want to consider speed humps that you can put in temporary speed humps that you can take out in the winter. That would solve the issue with snow removal. But you have not addressed any of these in this study. And during the question period for Ramey Kemp, not a single Council Member asked any questions about speed. And again, the data supports the problem. The question is what is the Town and what are we going to do about this? I'm here to help provide solutions. But it's five years now is it's enough time to kick the can down. Thank you.

Charlie Sellers 18:44

Thank you. Well, I'm sure that's going to be an ongoing discussion for the years to come, hopefully months to come or whatever. Moving right along. We have a presentation and this is a resolution honoring one of our longtime physicians, Dr. John Davis. Mayor Sellers read the resolution for Dr. Davis and presented him with the framed Resolution.

Shane Fox 23:03

Thank you, Mayor Council. Now that we have a full board for the first time in a number of months, the Town of Blowing Rock Tourism Development Board is comprised of a five member board which are aware of one of which is a current seated Town Council Member. After the resignation of the prior TDA Council Member the seat has been vacant. The Town Council shall appoint a new member that will serve a three year term beginning immediately. So it is on you all to nominate and appoint someone to the TDA Board. The next meeting is scheduled for March.

Charlie Sellers 23:34

Do we have a nomination?

David Harwood 23:43

I would like to nominate Pete Gherini. I think Pete would be an excellent choice for that. He certainly knows the landscape and would have a lot to contribute to that Board.

Albert Yount 23:56

Second

Charlie Sellers 23:58

Okay, we have a nomination made by Mr. Harwood, seconded by Mr. Yount. Any discussion on Pete's nomination? Pete? Are you in favor of this?

Pete Gherini 24:13

I am indeed.

Charlie Sellers 24:14

And we know you will serve admirably.

Pete Gherini 24:18

I will.

Charlie Sellers 24:19

Thank you. All in favor.

Albert Yount 24:24

Yes

David Harwood 24:25

Yes

Melissa Pickett 24:25

Yes

Doug Matheson 24:29

Yes

Pete Gherini 24:43

Yes

Charlie Sellers 24:46

Dr. Davant has arrived. Dr. Davant, would you like to speak about Dr. Davis.

Dr. Bunky Davant 25:12

Charlie asked me earlier if I'd like to say something during the presentation and I told him it really took someone with more stature than I had and I thought he could do a better job. I worked with John for right at 40 years. He came to us from Asheville, he was a Morehead Scholar at Chapel Hill. He was a Morehead Medical Scholar at Chapel Hill. And if he had worked a little harder, we probably could have gotten him into Duke. When he was 69, and decided he would take a little break to devote himself to his real love which is computers and electronics. They actually had planned to do this. You know, when you retired at the end of April. They wanted to do it in May or June. But they found out they couldn't do it until you had complete all your paperwork. But I do want to thank you for 40 years, he did a great job. Everybody misses you and everybody loved him.

Charlie Sellers 27:13

Thank you, Dr. Davis. Thank you, Dr. Davant. Thank you guys. Moving right along Council. Thank you for your patience on the deviating from the agenda. This next section is Maple Street one way versus current Police Chief Aaron Miller.

Aaron Miller 27:52

Thank you, Mayor, Members of Council. As I'm sure you recall, Mr. Roger Brooks was hired recently by the TDA to make some recommendations about traffic and tourism. And some things in the area. One of the things during his presentation that he brought to the forefront was the issue of Maple Street and how there was some issues turning onto Maple Street up Sunset Drive. So I've been asked to provide some information to Council so we can discuss if there needs to be any changes made to Maple Street. So Manager Fox came to me a few weeks ago and said, What do you think about Maple Street being one way? And I said, well, Maple Street probably should have been one way 20 years ago. And then I started digging into it and get some information. And I found out why it's probably not been made one way and that that period of time. So here the first photograph, and this is kind of the the issue is that the end of Maple Street on the Sunset Drive end is very narrow. It's probably wide enough for two cars to pass if they're driving perfectly. One of the things that compounds this problem is that you're making a 90 degree turn sometimes off of Sunset onto Maple Street on that end. And it's just becomes too narrow for two cars to pass so sometimes one car has to stop and wait. And as Mr. Brooks pointed out, we have some Wayfinding there that points people to parking. So we've made this one of the main entrances to our Maple Street parking lot. So as most of you aware as you turn down Maple Street from the Main Street. Maple Street is two way that it becomes one way and then it becomes two way at the end of the other and pass the interest of parking on. So that's why this issue was brought up. That's why Mr. Brooks from taking some measurements. It's 15 and a half feet there on that and that's just another photograph showing The difficulty turning. So this is the section of Maple Street that we're that we're really talking about this section is two way. But then you can see when you get up there at the Maple Street parking lot entrance, it becomes one way, coming from Main Street down. This is a photograph looking down from the Main Street end. This is where it begins the one way at the Main Street parking lot on the other end. Some suggestions, and of course it's wide, it's a pretty wide street up there it's 18 feet, there's a centerline painted, there's really no problems with vehicles passing up on the upper end. So one of the issues that has been brought up is whether or not to make Maple Street a one way street from the top entrance of the Maple Street parking lot, all the way to Sunset Drive. We obviously there are some issues, vehicles passing on that end. So we did start to solicit some information, I reached out to the Ragged Garden and I appreciate Rob and Lisa's constructive input on the issue. One of the things we ran into was some of the delivery trucks that are trying to make deliveries to the Ragged Garden Inn, and to the businesses, what was Savannas Oyster House, and some of the other businesses on Sunset Drive. They have to turn off of Sunset Drive onto Maple Street to try to get the trucks into make those deliveries. That's one of the issues that we ran into. Another issue that Ragged Garden has brought up is the very narrow entrance. I think that's been there more than 100 years, am I right about that. So when that was built, we didn't have automobiles in Bowling Rock, we used horses and carriages. And that entrance is designed for horses and carriages, and it's very narrow. So it's very difficult to turn larger vehicles into that main entrance. And sometimes they need to use the Maple Street entrance to get in. So one of the suggestions might be that we need to

lose some parking spaces on Sunset Drive in order to make their entrance usable for bigger vehicles. We also talked about bringing trucks, larger trucks down from the Main Street end, one of the questions and concerns that I have and that's been shared by others. We're not sure if some of the larger box trucks can make the turn that's there on Maple Street near Ms. Burns' house. So that's one of the issues that we've run into as well. So what I thought was going to be a very simple issue that, yes, probably it should be one way all the way down has been has proved to be a little bit more complicated than that. So that's the information I have.

Charlie Sellers 32:45

Chef, what's the feasibility of making it one way off of Sunset, to the parking garage. Or Sunset to the parking lot.

Aaron Miller 32:58

The only downside that I see to that is you're taking all the traffic that's leaving the parking area, and you're dumping it back out on Main Street, which is already congested. And that's also a pretty busy and somewhat difficult intersection to get through, especially in the summer when we have a lot of pedestrian traffic. In my opinion, it's better to try to route as much traffic as we count away from Main Street and get them back on Sunset and but that is an option that we discussed.

Charlie Sellers 33:26

Would that enable truck traffic to get into Ragged Gardens?

Aaron Miller 33:30

It should.

Charlie Sellers 33:34

Thank you.

Doug Matheson 33:35

Any other questions?

Rick Parsons 33:40

One observation I made. The other day there were people stuck up the hill

Charlie Sellers 33:47

Mr. Parsons no. Thank you.

David Harwood 33:51

Cheif, this might be a question for Mr. Rothrock, but I believe our standard road width is 18 feet. Is that correct?

Aaron Miller 34:02

I believe that's correct.

Shane Fox 34:03

Correct.

David Harwood 34:05

And so this it tightens up just down at the bottom right.

Aaron Miller 34:11

Well it tightens up if you're if you travel down Maple Street from Main Street. It starts tightening up near Ms. Burns house just past the parking lot entrance. And then you go into that very narrow turn, which I think is nearly impossible for two vehicles, especially larger vehicles to pass in that turn. So that's probably why that section was originally made one way. But it does start to narrow there and it continues to be narrow all the way down to the Sunset Drive.

David Harwood 34:40

The turn is not a product of a parking.

Aaron Miller 34:44

No, it's it's just the way the street was designed. There's a wall on one side of the driveway. It's on the other side. But there's really no way to widen that without taking out the rock wall that surrounds a Maple Street parking lot and probably taken out a few parking spaces in the Maple Street parking lot and relaying the wall. There's not much there's not much way to make it any wider without starting to tear out some of the rock work that's been here for a very, very long time.

David Harwood 35:13

It's just a corner, right?

Albert Yount 35:18

So would you say slower what you said about taking some parking spaces off Sunset Drive for loading and unloading.

Aaron Miller 35:28

One of the issues that Rob and Lisa from Ragged Garden brought up is that it's very difficult for large vehicles to turn into their main entrance on Sunset Drive, because there's some parking spaces on the other side. But that might make it easier if one or two of those parking spaces were eliminated the ones that are closest to the school bus parking lot. I think I had a photograph of spaces. Yeah, these two spaces right here basically where the car is parked in this other studies. If those spaces were eliminated, he would make it easier for larger vehicles to turn into their main entrance.

Shane Fox 36:08

When you're saying larger vehicles are you talking like a Dodge truck like I have or a delivery truck.

Aaron Miller 36:14

Yes a large Dodge truck pick up, a suburban, anything like that, it's going to have a real hard time making making that turn. And even if you're coming up Sunset Drive, you're probably still going to have to swing across traffic across both lanes of traffic to make that turn in, it's it's really, really tight.

David Harwood 36:37

Right now they're just parking in the street correct.

Aaron Miller 36:39

Some of the larger delivery trucks are parking in the street. There's the food delivery trucks are usually like a tractor trailer kind of set up and they park in the street. Rob and Lisa told me that they had several smaller delivery trucks that are able to come in to their parking lot off the Maple Street side. And that keeps them off the street. So if we did make that one way, and they weren't able to turn up in there, we would be pushing a few more trucks. Few more delivery trucks out on Sunset Drive, making deliveries. And that's also the case I have observed delivery trucks making deliveries to like Savannas Oyster House and some of the other businesses there. They also pull up in there and back around in behind Savannas. So that would probably push all those delivery trucks out on Sunset Drive as well.

Charlie Sellers 37:26

Cheif, could you mark that section? I've seen it done other communities a loading and unloading zone from certain times.

Aaron Miller 37:37

I'm sure that's something that we can consider, I would have to put some thought into that, but I'm sure we could look into that.

Doug Matheson 37:45

I was just going to ask now that there's a lot of things that we you know, like the cheif mentioned, that just came up here recently, if we could actually table this till you know, like, we don't know if a box truck can even make that turn there at Janice Burns, you know, we'd like to get some measurements there you know, find out what will make that turn. Couple ideas that's been thrown out there to let to let the Cheif, explore a little bit more like those two parking spaces, maybe just making them a loading zone and let the trucks go from there across the street instead of trying to get in, you know, just some things that the chief has recently, thought of that I like to see him narrow down for us if I'd be alright.

Aaron Miller 38:38

Yeah, I do think we've had quite a bit of input, since this was put on the agenda. And since we started soliciting some input, so some more time to study and come up with some other possible alternatives would probably the great.

David Harwood 38:53

I think that's a great idea. I'd like to look at potentially putting a radius here or call that aisle as a dead in aisle. So we could look at that, the stone wall needs work anyway. What we might be able to do, yeah, I would support that.

Melissa Pickett 39:14

I would to.

Charlie Sellers 39:16

Okay, so you all are in agreement that you want to table this until more research is done. Okay. All right. So no decision will be made on the Maple Street, one way versus current until more informations brought back to the Council by Chief Aaron Miller.

Aaron Miller 39:35

Sounds great. Thank you.

Charlie Sellers 39:36

Good guys. Okay. All right. Thank you, Chief. All right. Moving right along, Chetola Lake Cofferdam. Mr. Fox.

Shane Fox 40:09

Thank you, Mayor and Council. So, Mr. Kent Tarbutton and Greg Tarbutton is also on the meeting tonight via zoom. And they are coming before Town Council to respectfully request assistance in removing the soil and other debris that's collected in the stream cofferdam area, at Chetola Resort. This is the follow up request from September 8, 2020, regular Town Council meeting which the Council at that point chose to table it until a future date. So here we are on February the 8, 2022 at that future date. I did provide in your packet, the original information that was part of September 8, 2020 packet, along with a copy of the minutes from September the 8th. And then the additional information that was provided via an email from Mr. Kent Tarbutton and then historical data as well, from the original easement agreement in 2014 that was provided. So you all have that information as part of your packet. And at this point, would be more than happy to turn it over to either Kent or Greg, I'm not sure which one has chosen to go first or maybe they can fight it out among themselves.

**Note Mr. Tarbutton and Mr. Chapman were on via Zoom and the auto quality was hard to record, so it may not be transcribed completely.

Kent Tarbutton 41:19

I will kick it off Shane if you are ready. Thank you Council for hearing our request. I thought it was interesting when you mentioned what it looked like 100 years ago, I saw pictures of the downtown area. I think it was from the 30s and 40s and it showed dirt streets. was decided before it goes into the lake, he then as now realizes this ad group, sort of problem it looks like in our back, we started looking at this years ago that it was a national policy author on the route or reading sewer water, and in towns over 50,000 that has some kind of thing. As you go listen to us all from your town, the town would step up. On Friday, it's like sound, the sound is 1000. So it's kind of 50,000 probably going to live here. But I think it makes a pretty good statement about fair play and setting goals. And if your neighbors feel suddenly add a lot of water and wasn't well maintained to the soil or property, or like your driveway, sure you want them to do the right thing to do. So down in 2013 sort of hospitalist are approaching that like old like Soul to death, you know, not all the bidding and everything else is going on to the process, as though some of your review would have been back in two years ago. And you'll the basic bar for

about half the price what we did, right where we go in business, and that's where we did we were able to do that lake sound came forward at that time the council invited him back forth and initially gave smote about dollars. The homeowners that stolen we put 73,007 25 elephants at Lake mix. Sure several things that I can back in. Yes, why they did. I would say it's worth it. And I'll wrap because they realize that since the drought that began years before that documents back in 1998 9990 and 2000 was the drought and whatnot. And that leak provided over the next two decades over 750 million gallons of water sent with Annabelle watching you use that we all need it. I think it was probably one of the reasons why I was a great backup our spot. And they also knew from that earlier study that I have been in the Army Corps of Engineers determine that 84% of all stormwater, if the kind of boy rock produces there's going to like I've been real happy to see the town council working with you a few they did a road project in front of all this extension. They have done some marvelous work with this little model then, and I know the town's continued to budget annually assuming documents that you continue to do so automatic that helps her like in reality. So here you come ever see it, I got the old pictures but two years old of that copper dam filling completely up and coming to the surface of the lake. So you know they knew that any person that comes in or likely brachfeld So you have a quarterback then solace that they like that because in modern times they realize that it wasn't big was hitting us better than last moments. It gave a much bigger space for that bloggers allow the debris and salted Rafi which is exactly what we you know, like I think the purging they do was that they wanted to maintain the water Quality of delivery. This is one of the bodies that provides one or two rivers a link. So I think we're conscious of what the environmental is doing downstream. I think lastly, the health was fair, if it was equitable, and it was reasonable. I guess I come to you that somebody's saying humble request, considering that all the precedence has been set and health care for support resources there when you need it, and silently it collects all this stuff becomes downstream every day. So that's all I've got. I'm happy to answer any questions all this path will show you all the numbers, the guards rights, because the cheap anybody up here and doesn't want to sound. So that's why we working on lossy and how yours if we keep everybody else over these last couple of years, I think we're very attracted to the price of risk, we'll do it. And you have to pay 90,000 changes in Docs, and bags. And I'm open to them for the assistance of all rock I'm sure they will. And put it on paper just last time we had several people bring their their pickups and dump trucks to get loads on it. As you know, when we did the lake it was it's in there too. But I think it was \$100,000 to move that. Get rid of it back then in the recession. A little harder for those who might have Blue Ridge Mountains. That's important. And all it needed was a little line. So thankful almost all it is is we would certainly prefer for all of your yard packing tape. And hopefully it won't run out frequently. So I got

Shane Fox 46:35

Council, I would add the request is \$19,431.60 is the request that's been made by Mr. Tarbutton.

Kent Tarbutton 46:45

That's the price that we gave you back in 2020. And as I mentioned we increased that with the dredge operation but we are not going to raise it in this scenario, because we requested it. And we think it would be fair just to leave it there.

Charlie Sellers 47:00

Council may say something

David Harwood 47:03

I prefer to let each of the council members talk first.

Charlie Sellers 47:07

I was waiting. That's my call, go for it.

David Harwood 47:13

That would be the proper procedure. Kent I do have a question. I'm a little confused as to why Chetola is asking \$19,000 of the Town.

Kent Tarbutton 47:49

Is that is that the whole question?

David Harwood 47:53

Yeah, cause I'm confused because there seems to be two issues. There's an issue of sediment. And then there's an issue of having water capacity for the Town's emergency water needs. And so I'm trying to decipher between is this request because of silt buildup that supposedly is coming from sources within the town limits? Or is this to facilitate enough capacity in the lake for emergency needs of the town?

Kent Tarbutton 48:39

Good question, the question, and it really ties together. So let me let me address it. First of all, we didn't substantiate 84% of that coming from the Town that was from the Army Corps of Engineers study. So that's the one of the documents we sent over. They determined years ago, when we had to do a full breach damn study for the Department of Insurance. Who was going to cancel our insurance on that damn we was ride by racer in high risk game so I had to spend \$1,000 So there was 30 He had to get the information power for because yours as far as Mandy Roshan from the park which is over on this side and for the town coming in baggy day in there at the opera am a security and they came back and record at or at full sentence study that we pay for. So that is how much has actually come into town. I think that's why they gave us money back and unforeseen to help read the lake was back over again sauce that flows down is off most of it going in life. So if you keep that smaller area clean now, there is an ordinance that is out. Income from if you look at three runs, illustrates the different things that we're going to form like we add, it brings down a whole lot of stuff. Find has recorded as a lake because it's a lot cheaper to take it out of a scam than it is take it out that like, I think the reason that took nine is because they realize what it sound and only infrastructure, the townhouse brings all of that down. And you're like, there's many towns that have a city and placed in discussion of new properties and care for more, because they realize more suitable buildings that go out is. So anyway, it as it comes down, it comes into the light and fills it up and as she was good estimates is worse. And I think that's probably why they should have ways One was to say, Hey, we are sitting over someone. And the other thing is, we're all we're both all down. And suppose Well, he's been around, I'm sure there's some there have to be for the four monitors so that when you have your grains, so we'll find out that I think the counselor board was on the planning that they've been doing the last five years in trying to mediate this is we considered you bill for creating more space that doesn't allow for conflicts. So make streets. And that's

what we're dealing with it as opposed to the poverty and the lake and he reduced the water supply. That lake when it was between two and three key in different areas. And we had an emergency, it was not logical at all. So I think both of those are connected, I think while we come to the sound of the water without found in all of us who are paying taxes, or sending a hard wreath of streets and oil and everything else that comes into that light. And this level there for us, it's been with us for 20 or 20 years, or looking at a little over two decades, we willingly and happily gave the soundwave cars, over 750 million gallons of water that you sold by phone blows your mind. So I felt like I was getting water is dumping all the silver or downstream freeze and all the inactivity river. And yet we were left with the burden of hearing that that's all I came to the town recently and said, Hey, this is you know, I take it all the water freezing most of the silt before it goes downstream, and I'm giving it back to you. We didn't have 20 years. So I think it's fair to come back to the town and say, hey, you need to help preserve the central repo. You know, I find a boon. But if there's an emergency that comes again, you'll be looking just solely to try and get off and we all need when Grady call me an sp for that. That's what we're bringing over, I'd be happy to sign it. Because when we couldn't pick it off, we only want that's why I think it sounds

David Harwood 52:40

Well, I don't know if it's free of charge. I went in 2014 the Town paid \$200,000 to Chetola and I went back and looked at the minutes from the June 25 meeting. And I'm gonna quote that it says as compensation for past water emergency access and usage and to help dredge the lake which will help ensure that future capacity exist. Chetola is requesting the Town's financial participation. Due to sediment buildup from stormwater over the years, the depth of the lake has decreased and the water capacity of the lake has increased making dredging necessary. So in my opinion, it seems that the Town was paying \$200,000 to ensure a emergency water supply, but not necessarily taking liability for the silt. And just because 84% of the storm water comes into the lake doesn't necessarily mean 84% of the silt comes from that stormwater. And what I'm saying it's I'm not sure that 84% of that silt is coming off Town property. Because this stream winds through the golf course several other legs. It runs through a lot of private property before it gets here. And that private property has eroding banks. So I feel like that the payment that was made in 2014 was really to ensure a adequate emergency water supply, which we don't necessarily need because of the interconnect. But we did need it that time. There's no and I want to emphasize it. We're very grateful. You have been a wonderful neighbor to the Town. But I also think that we paid for that graciousness in 2014 to the tune of \$200,000 to help by dredging equipment. And which so I feel like my personal opinion is that silt, I would have a hard time voting to give \$19,000 to this cause, when we really don't know the origin of that silt. If the Town is liable for that, then we should probably take a look at that. But I don't have a study in front of me that's that states that.

Kent Tarbutton 55:37

Well, it's let on a couple things. First, I'll get the Army Corps of Engineers study. Because I don't know anybody better to do that study, than the Army Corps of Engineers. And I think maybe that's what you need to read to see what that is from. That was their determination. And if they were saying 84% of the stormwater comes through there, I can come back to them and certainly say, are you going to give us a reading on how much it is silt? You know, as it comes in from other sources, we are participating, there is no question about that. And I think that's why both the homeowners put up a little over \$74,000

themselves because they felt like, well, we all share responsibility for this sort of house payment. And she said that she feels equitable. And one of the letters I've given you, and I pulled it down. So my waterfall, so no, you haven't made an effort. I want to charge if you haven't been a deposition, because they were within I sent a letter JV sense. And it was signed, we had an interest in that year when I agreed for one year to do that, and did it for the money up and air industry. He was hurt to the people that are willing to laburnum 10 days to get the eight. So I certainly put a hand you have to buy in and said, Yes, I won't have what you want. You know, I never asked you guys to reduce my water bill, which is always water bill or anything along the way. It sort of houses. If you look at those requested documents, David, did you have that meeting? Flying it also see that at the end of his follow up, or over two and a half times what we started to do that? I think we've been very equitable than that. And I think that if you're saying seven 50 million gallons of water you paid for with sure, as knows exactly that out? Is there a way? There's a way that you if you have a boom right now, who calculated on that, and you're not even close to the ballpark? We think it's fair, because oil is send it in early, and you need to help us out because that's what's gonna be a bad watch. That yes, we do. But we may only need that one year in. And this is my deciding factor. I'm not gonna put you in this meeting and say, Well, I'm not very happy with it. Sally doesn't participate with us. For four years, at least. And I think you're saying this out loud and equitable. You haven't really done much research is what was asked. I don't think I

David Harwood 58:11

I didn't say if it was equitable or inequitable. I didn't cut that deal.

Kent Tarbutton 58:18

I thought you said you paid for it already?

David Harwood 58:22

Cut that deal with Chetola. I didn't say it was equitable. But if that's the case, at what point is Town square, with you, on your good deed,

Kent Tarbutton 58:32

It's not my good deed. Let's forget that I gave the town water at all. And let's just talk about the silt that is coming in. Again, you're not in a document that North Carolina has whatever it is a Statute for a Town that have over 50,000 that they go after stormwater. As you're not liable, you're going to begin with it's not about liabilities, it's about responsibility. It's about what you think is equitable and fair. If you think that there's no need to pay anybody, nothing at all, then maybe one day, you'll have that happen to you and your neighbor will say it's not my problem that's your problem, and then I'll have to be responsible for either way, we're gonna dig this out whether the Town helps us or not. It's starting to erode again all the way. And the last thing I will tell you is if you go back and pull the document Allen Moseley drew up when we got the \$200,000 and read that real careful, because it provides it says that you'll help us maintain that lake and dredge that lake, as long as we want to keep your agreement going with us for your emergency water supply. And it can't get any more solid than three feet before all bets are off. At that point, that lake is filled in and that's what was happening it's been many, many, many years for that to happen. That's why we keep dredging out as often to slow down. But you know, I think everybody wants to use that lake but you have to dredge to keep up with it.

Shane Fox 1:00:03

I have a question it keeps coming up about this being our emergency water supply is the equipment still in place to pull water out of the lake. Not currently

Kent Tarbutton 1:00:16

The pump is not we buried the lines underground, when they first put the pump, at least for several years and they finally figured if you know, we're gonna keep using it. I don't know what the Town has done with it, but it's been removed. We had already built an enclosure around it to be more attractive and less noisy for guests to go down to the damn to fish as it was right there. We really wanted to put it on the downside. And I don't want to stand the bar losing hearing but a really nice upside to the lake for some reason. Instead of passing it back a little bit, and so forth. So that had to be piped for then overground ran into our parking lot for years. And we didn't request it. I'm very happy though the Town came back and said hey we want to burry these lines. So they are buried between us and the Town reservoir.

Shane Fox 1:01:02

So if we were in a drought, say tomorrow, and we needed emergency water, we could pull it out of the lake tomorrow,

Kent Tarbutton 1:01:08

You could, but you got to get a big pump. Yes, we also allowed an easement to put a powerline there, they're bringing power and all the stuff that is still in place, you could not remove it. So you have to put a big pump. If y'all kept that pump or not, but you did buy it way back when.

Albert Yount 1:01:28

Hasn't the state made a ruling about the water in Chetola and our usage of it.

Shane Fox 1:01:38

In 2019, I believe that's correct, the state looked at the quality of the water and gave us a report. That was after the interconnect was completed. And the choice at that point was to remove the pump and rely on the interconnect. So those decisions were made along the summer of 2019. So the pump had not been operable. I think for a little while at that point and removing it was the choice of the Town. That was my decision at that time. The pipe as Mr. Tarbutton said remains there and will probably remain there for a definite amount of time it's been buried completely from end to end.

Albert Yount 1:02:14

Does the water have anything to do with the States

Shane Fox 1:02:18

It is so the state looks at the quality of all water sources and puts a high precedence of wanting to obviously maintain the quality of water, the type of quality of water that's coming out. And so that along with, again, not having prior interconnect, the decision was made to remove the pump.

Pete Gherini 1:02:40

Greg this is Pete and thank you for your presentation. My question is looking forward, this is going to be it seems an ongoing problem, do you or Doug Chapman, or any other people have a long term thought process or solution to how this might be rectified. So in five years, you're not coming back and saying you know you need more money.

Kent Tarbutton 1:03:13

I'm qualified to answer that but, I'll give you my thoughts. And you know, it really is your pocket chart here. I would just tell you that that's why Luther built the cofferdam. And Greg and I were very frustrated with all of it coming into lake we talked about building one up further on our property but all its gonna do is back it up into the property across the street flood that area accessible area. And if y'all remember years ago, the beaver built a house inside that culvert underneath the road there and it immediately backed up into the property across the street and flooded the whole area anyway and it started backing up into the Town. We don't want do that because I don't have any other solution than to build another cofferdam back up further. So I'm not dealing with this coming into my property the problem and I think that's why Luther built it again is that you got to have somewhere. The Town is doing things if you look at the money spent the last couple of years in stormwater management it's very evident to see they are trying to find ways to divert and slow down the whole process to slow the water down which is why Lake is so good because it's it allows it to filter the water runs through the dirt. So it really like cofferdam really doesn't do anything with getting another collection area but we water and frankly when it gets hundred year floods. You don't get any way it's moving so fast. It really doesn't have a whole lot of chances. But that's pretty rare.

Pete Gherini 1:04:46

Shane is Doug on

Shane Fox 1:04:49

He is, Doug, do you mind weighing in your thoughts on recent activity from the Town's perspective and what we could do potentially going forward.

Doug Chapman 1:04:57

Yes, the purpose of putting the cofferdam is catching sediment before it spreads out into larger body of water. Because it's much harder and much more expensive to capture in that area. Trying to remember all of Pete's questions, I would say that you're never going to stop sediment in the stream. It just, you can't stop it even with enhanced erosion control and good ground cover and good management within Town. There will always be mud in the rivers to some degree. So even if we had everything covered, this cofferdam will fill, again over and over whether that happens every % years or every 20 years, it's hard to tell, but it's going to happen repeatedly.

Kent Tarbutton 1:05:53

I have cleaned it, this will be the third time, 25 years, I would say it would have been longer but we really got a huge amount of it when the road was being built, that caused the erosion everywhere.

Doug Chapman 1:06:06

And yeah, I would say the highway construction through there has had more impact on sediment matter. Than any anything else obviously any other point activity.

Shane Fox 1:06:21

Doug are catch baskets, like we talked about in the upper ponds of Broyhill Is that an option in this area that can be taken out emptied and put back in

Doug Chapman 1:06:34

The catch basin is pretty large. So it's probably impractical, the small devices in that area using cofferdams probably the most efficient way to do almost on this scale. Because he as he has pointed out I remember the 86% that that sort of area. But that area drains all the way up all across the country club, it drains Main Street for Main Street East, all the way over to Green Hill Road and basically from the dam on the lake all the way up to where 321 turns where Main Street comes out over the intersection. So all that area drains into there so it's probably too large an area to do something different there.

Kent Tarbutton 1:07:31

To try and make it equitable and David I would answer you again, all of us homeowners on this case. That's why I would add to building houses to consider adding something to the building permit so we get this taken care of. I think it's everybody's responsibility and the Town is everybody. Lots of Town's have that, they have a stormwater management fee because they realize it's got to be paid for somewhere.

Doug Matheson 1:07:59

I would like to ask Allen a question. Allen, looking at it can you see any legal liability that the Town has there

Allen Moseley 1:08:21

I assume that you're talking about the agreement that was entered into in 2014. Okay, so Kent alluded to the 2014 agreement, David's alluded to it. And, and we, as David stated and Kent agreed this really had two components to it. One component related to the volume of raw water that had been transferred from Chetola lake to the Town reservoir that was an excess of 90 or excuse me 93 million gallons, the \$200,000 was stated in the agreement to be a one time payment for the water that had been had been provided by Chetola. And then the other component of this is the is the stormwater runoff. And I think we've the town at the time recognized that the town has not always had a comprehensive stormwater management ordinance and the town, felt some responsibility doesn't relate to just town property. David it relates to every project in town. And as stated in that study 84% of that stormwater runoff finds its way or did that time find its way into Chetola lake. So the underlying feeling at the time was that the town felt in some way responsible for helping out because Chetola was absorbing all of that. Now is that the legal obligation when this when this document was done in 2014, we, we talked about the last paragraph says this easement agreement shall continue and remain in effect until such time as an alternative raw water source and related capacity as identified by the Town of Blowing Rock, or Chetola Lake reaches an average depth of three feet, it needs to be dredged again, to manage its emergency raw water capacity. So what we contemplated was, we might be back here someday talking about this.

If the need was still there, for the raw water capacity for the benefit of the town. As to the stormwater runoff component in the in the cost, Chetola is going to have to incur and do the to do this work associated with the request. And I Is that a legal obligation? I don't I don't think that I mean, this, this agreement didn't provide that that was a legal obligation as to whether we still need that raw water supply from Chetola in light of things that have occurred since 2014. Maybe we don't. But does that negate the notion that the town should help Chetola out with respect to the stormwater management? That's up to you? Does that answer your question?

Doug Matheson 1:12:15

Yeah, I was just curious to see if we were legally obligated there. I was reading that paragraph.

Allen Moseley 1:12:22

Kent is that a fair summary?

Kent Tarbutton 1:12:26

I think it is. Yeah, I believe it is. Yeah, we we agree that who knows what the future holds, and she may come back again. And at that point, you lose the water supply, you lose the line, whatever happens in the world. We want to be able to re-resurrected as needed. And that is when I said 3 feet, we will need to re-dig.

David Harwood 1:12:58

I have one more question, I want to make sure that I understand what Chetola lake is I understand it's an amenity for the resort and the homeowners there. Beyond that, and it serves as a stormwater management solution for Chetola. Beyond that, what purpose does it serve?

Kent Tarbutton 1:14:05

Explained a few purposes, but audio was not good quality to get clear enough to transcribe.

Albert Yount 1:16:15

Well record will show that I was in favor of this two years ago, and probably remained the same way. But after all this happened two years ago, we couldn't really make a decision here. Think you weren't here David, Doug was is that about right? And I started thinking you know, there's something big contributing to this. It's not just people's yards and new construction as we're here because silt fences help with new constructed. And a place was discovered on the property of United Community Bank. It was feeder Creek into the New River. And it was a real problem. Correct Mr. Manager.

Shane Fox 1:17:05

Yes sir.

Albert Yount 1:17:08

And you got our Engineer and Matt Blackburn. And I believe didn't some stormwater people have to get involved in all this?

Shane Fox 1:17:21

So we visited the site numerous times I think over the years, we've had a number of storms that have caused erosion issues on both pieces of property there. So the former Papa Joe's restaurant property, and then the Bank. Even beyond that, as you go west to the back towards the storage buildings. New River Conservancy visit the site. I know, McGill has been at the site, as well as you know, others throughout the years and most recently, the Bank I think alleviated that issue. Essentially re-routed a section of the creek provided some storm water assistance there with truing up the bank, adding to riprap and things of that nature to that. So that's all been in the last 12 months, that process has taken place.

Albert Yount 1:18:09

Well FYI, the Bank is not adverse to their name being used as paid for this.

Shane Fox 1:18:17

Correct, the Town did not pay for that the Bank did.

Albert Yount 1:18:18

They did not know the figures to be used but I can say it's just short of six figures that they paid to help with a big problem. That was a lot of silt coming down through there during storms. And so my point is, mitigation has in my opinion, and maybe in Towns Engineer eliminated quite a bit of the percent of what's going on in the cofferdam in the future, hopefully. To me that that's the way the Town should be looking at this as to what we do right now will be the question for the five of us. But that problem was fixed with no cost to the Town.

Charlie Sellers 1:19:14

Pete, Doug, Melissa, David, Albert. Okay. If I may. Council, I just want to say early on that Chetola is a strong contributor to our community. You drive in North Main, and there's a beautiful lake growing up here that like was there. I think it's, I can't speak for you, Council. But as a citizen, I feel like that it's my job as a citizen to support other citizens. And Chetola is an icon in our community. Just like every other business in our community. And so we must, I think we should keep that in mind. That's all I was gonna say. Do we have a motion or a suggestion? Or

Doug Matheson 1:20:22

I'll throw something out there for discussion, I'll make a motion we give them, we meet them at 50% of the what they're asking for \$10,000.

Charlie Sellers 1:20:34

So you make a motion Doug for \$10,000. Okay

Melissa Pickett 1:20:42

I would second that.

Charlie Sellers 1:20:43

We have a second

Doug Matheson 1:20:43

Now that's just open for discussion.

Charlie Sellers 1:20:47

Any discussion on the motion? No discussion on the motion.

Albert Yount 1:20:56

I feel that we should remit what they asked for now but I want Doug to explain his motion a little more in depth.

Doug Matheson 1:21:14

I just brought that number out as meeting them a little more than halfway with what they were asking. I know he's furnishing his equipment. So I think he and Greg were asking \$19,000 and something. So I felt like that we would meet them half way. And like I said, that was just to put a motion out there to get it started.

Shane Fox 1:21:41

I would also encourage us if we do the ten, to work with the Town staff, with the Chetola staff and the New River Conservancy and to start working on that section of the river in Town, which Shane and I have a meeting, hopefully in the next week or two, when New River Conservancy to start working on river rebuilding and to help with situations like this to for a long term, solution.

Albert Yount 1:22:15

Well, both those comments are reasonable to me.

Charlie Sellers 1:22:20

Okay, we have a motion on the table. David? Comments.

David Harwood 1:22:24

Well, I would ask if if Twigs comes in once they're like dredged, or the Country Club comes and wants any number of their lakes dredge it all served by the same stream. Are we going to pay them \$10,000 Each out of some obligation that we feel?

Shane Fox 1:22:52

I think everything has to be on a case to case scenario. I mean, at this point, they do have the study that show that they are taking on. I don't want I will be honest, I don't want this to be a reoccurring thing. That's why I want us to work on long term solutions. I mean, they did the \$200,000 in 2014, which has been somebody helped me find that eight years. And I mean, you know, we're doing this form the cofferdam. This is a different section, which was dredged last time. I completely understand your side of it, too. I mean, I've thought about through this, you know, in the same section, one of Meadowbrook comes down and says they want their lake dredged, or you know, dug out, because it's in the same section. But I mean, this is another one of those situations where, you know, we have to be team players in town, but I do believe that we can be a team player, but we do need to seriously concentrate on the long term solution in this.

David Harwood 1:23:58

Well, I don't know that we do. Because this lake is an unnatural body of water it did not exist before, I believe the Snyder's built it. It is there purely for pleasure. At one time, the lake supply to ice for the town. I believe it may have had power generation for the Snyder house. But it doesn't serve any of those purposes now. And they were some say that, that the dam needs to go away and restore the natural stream. So I feel like the town is perpetuating a private amenity for the resort. And this feels like a sweetheart deal to me and I don't know where you draw that line. I am not arguing that the Tarbuttons and Chetola have been nothing but fantastic citizens. And I appreciate that, as does every citizen of this town. But I also think there was a \$200,000 payment made by this town in appreciation for that. So I'm, I don't see the point of this other than just because you feel like it

Doug Matheson 1:25:38

I'll answer your question in a minute to go on, for me is that agreement was 2014. Since then, there have been quite a bit feed into there. But I'm not wanting this as a recurring payment either. I'm offering this as meeting them half way of what they had asked for. Mainly because this is to me the end of the line right there for everything, it comes through Blowing Rock, because after that the city limits end pretty much you don't have a whole lot of stream left that is in the city limits. I don't want this to come to us really again. So what I would like for it to be you know, it's a one time payment to help with what has built from 2014, until now. And then Mr. Tarbutton either works with someone or works with the Town at finding another solution for this going forward.

Albert Yount 1:26:50

But that would actually be left to a new board.

Pete Gherini 1:26:59

I'll support Doug's motion as long as there's an ongoing end solving situation that either Doug or Greg or people can get together and provide some long term solutions.

Charlie Sellers 1:27:17

If I may say, I know it has been brought up stormwater studies and so on and so forth. That should be something that would be focused on in the next couple of years. And there are other communities do have stormwater fees. And that may be something that the Council will address at the time. I don't know. But yeah, I think Melissa has a good point where, you know, we need to be proactive and not reactive right now. We're being reactive, and be proactive and try to fix the issue. So that's my take on it

Albert Yount 1:27:53

Well, you know, United Community Bank stepping up and paying for something is a big start. That's right. I agree with you, Pete. But I can't agree, we can't dictate to another board that might sit here and here the five years down the road. I don't think.

Charlie Sellers 1:28:18

Any further discussion? We have a motion and we have a second on the table.

Albert Yount 1:28:23

The motion is

Charlie Sellers 1:28:25

To approve \$10,000 to go towards the dredging of the cofferdam to Chetola Lake.

David Harwood 1:28:34

Is it half or \$10,000?

Doug Matheson 1:28:45

I rounded it off.

Charlie Sellers 1:28:48

So you're saying \$10,000 that is your motion? Okay.

Albert Yount 1:28:54

Yes

David Harwood 1:28:59

No

Melissa Pickett 1:29:00

Yes

Doug Matheson 1:29:02

Yes

Pete Gherini 1:29:03

Yes

Charlie Sellers 1:29:05

Motion passes. Thank you

Kent Tarbutton 1:29:08

Thank you for your consideration and your time. I appreciate it. Let me say lastly that we very much would like to work with the town on any solution and Doug you know, very happy to be with you anytime you want. We can find a way to convert better.

Charlie Sellers 1:29:27

Thank you Kent have a good evening. All right. Moving right along. I have only one comment. I think it's unfortunate we are losing Wells Fargo Bank, I have had a number have numerous calls on it. And so it's very unfortunate. We're losing an anchor business like that in our Town. And that's that's all I have.

Albert Yount 1:29:59

Well it's news to me, I hope I don't get out there before I get my rewards credit card. Great meeting tonight, welcome Pete glad to have you.

Pete Gherini 1:30:20

Thank you, Albert.

Albert Yount 1:30:22

It was a good meeting. That's some deference to some former meetings. That's all I am gonna say.

David Harwood 1:30:35

Yes, I want to say welcome to Pete as well, I'm glad you're back, I'm glad you're both back. It's nice to have five council members up here. It really is. The only thing I would say. And my guess is it's going to be echoed down the line is kudos to the public works, I'm not trying to steal your thunder Doug, I know you are going to say that, as I know Shane is gonna say is that thank you so much for the snow removal. Just a Herculean effort. I texted Shane at one point during the storm and said I have had a truck go down in front of my house, once every hour. And that's just, that's just me and it just amazing. And I can't say enough to all those guys. And all the volunteer guys that stepped in to help from the fire department and other sources I imagine so those are my comments.

Melissa Pickett 1:31:49

I agree. It's great to have Pete home. And the other half, we are happy y'all are back. I missed my running partner. I do have some good news as my last act as BRAAC seat. We got approved to be Tree City USA again this year. I got the email two days ago. So to do that, again. Need to make sure Jennifer plans our Arbor Day celebration Shane. Kudos to public works. You obviously don't live on Green Hill, we don't get hourly service, but that's okay. We do get out

Doug Matheson 1:32:37

I would say it's good to have the Ms. back. Also echo what David said about the staff, great job, fire department, Parks and Rec and everybody can contribute during the storm that we had on top of each other. In your handout tonight, that Shane gave you it's a thing, legislative goal achievements. These are some of the things that we achieved this year at the League. From our goals, some of them or even when Ms. Sweeting was here when she sat on one of the boards down there and helped narrow it down. But these are some of the achievements that the league was able to do for municipalities this year. Look them over to see that we are we are trying in the League.

Pete Gherini 1:33:34

Thank you and thank you for all your nice comments. I ran for Town Council to represent all the residents and property owners in Blowing Rock which I will do. I ran for Town Council to help the Mayor and my fellow Council people get things done, which I will do. I ran for Town Council to help the Town Manager do his job, which I will do. And as a close. I'd like to thank my campaign team who worked long and hard with volunteers to put me here. So and then also thank you to my wife who put up with me.

Doug Matheson 1:34:18

She's just beginning to put up with you.

Charlie Sellers 1:34:25

Thank you, Pete and welcome home. Mr. Fox,

Shane Fox 1:34:32

Certainly Mayor and Council, few updates on some projects I would like to give tonight along with a few other things. So we did cancel the Bass Lake ribbon cutting scheduled for last month. We're planning to do that on March 8 date at this point, so I'm assuming at 4:30, maybe 5:00, but we'll get that confirmed. So that's coming up a month from now. The crosswalks had a meeting today or discussion today about a meeting next week. To begin the crosswalk project, luckily, all the materials should arrive by February the 15th. So that's just a week from today, which is great news. Those were a little delayed in getting here, like most things are on our supply chain management issues. But all the material should be here next week, along with a pre construction meeting with McGill and Greens Construction, which is the contractor that won the bid. And the boring work should begin, perhaps the following week. So you'll start seeing work on the crosswalks. I believe, tomorrow or Thursday, you'll see the underground utilities and lines marked, starting prepping that work for the boring, and that will begin the week of the 24th. I guess what that is in February. So you'll start seeing some activity out there, which is good news. So the crosswalks, again, have a project date end date of May 1. So that's a fairly short project that will be very important project to have. Next week is our annual retreat. We didn't move that as well from January so February 14 15th and 16th that's at the American Legion is open to the public will also televise it as well live and then we'll record it on the YouTube channel for anyone to go back and watch. If you wanted to catch up on 24 to 25 or so hours worth of retreat discussion. Laurel Lane trees. If you remember back in the end of December, we noticed a heading citizen point that out who's here in the audience today that we had a tree issue on our lane two pine trees that need to be removed large pine trees that are scheduled to be removed starting Monday morning at 7am. That work should take about six hours or so. So we'll have one lane of Laurel Lane closed Monday morning starting at seven until early afternoon. We'll put that on Facebook page later this week on the website. And also we'll have on Friday and Sunday, our hyper reach alerts go out to citizens especially Mayview to let them know that one lane will be closed Monday for that our E newsletter is set to go out this Friday the 11th. So it'll be the first time that the town has put out the e newsletter electronic newsletter. So previously, and we will continue to do the water bill newsletter, the bi-monthly newsletter. But this will be a every other week newsletter that we plan on putting out on Fridays to keep everyone informed on what's going on in the town. And there'll be some lead sections about employees and awards and things of that nature to share. So that will be coming out this Friday. If you have not signed up, you can sign up through calling town hall or we have links on our website as well. Or just stop by and we'll get you signed up for that newsletter. Also wanted to echo the snow removal. Of course had a couple of numbers here to share. We push know, starting on the 16th of January for 72. out of 73 hours, someone was pushing snow in town so I'm not sure what happened in that one hour if they slept or, or what. But we did have a total of 7 volunteers including the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief and others from the Fire Department that participated, especially in our Main Street and Sunset Drive cleanup, I will go a little different and thank our full time mechanic, Steve Norris, which does not get a lot of thanks. But several years ago, this Council made the decision to have a full time mechanic that comes into play more times than you would realize especially when you're pushing snow for 72 out of

73 hours. There were rear ends and trucks that were completely taken out and replaced during this timeframe to keep the plows on the road. Also like to have a special thanks to our landscape department that volunteer to give up their one large truck that they have to become a plow truck when we had another plow truck involved in incident. I say this to say it is a full team effort like it always is. Everyone showed up to do the job that they needed to do during this time to keep the roads clear. And I appreciate that in the midst of COVID and everything else that we've been dealing with. We continue to always amaze me at the amount of work and teamwork that we put in. So very thankful for that work. That was shown during that storm and I'm sure no doubt it'll be shown again if we have another incident. Same type of response. That's my thing.

Charlie Sellers 1:39:39

Thank you Mr. Fox. Alright, ladies and gentlemen we're going to be going into close session and thank you for attending this evening. I know everyone looks forward to spring and is tired of the cold, so we look forward to that. The closed session and no decisions will probably be made after that closed session.

Albert Yount 1:40:07

Motion to go into closed session under NCGS 143-318.11.(a)(3) Attorney/Client update litigation, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m. Council returned to open session. There being no further business, Council Member Pickett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____

Charlie Sellers

ATTEST _____

Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

Tax Release #2021-02 – Attachment A

Tax Refund #2021-02 – Attachment B

Budget Amendment - #2022-03 – Attachment C

Dr. Davis Resolution – Attachment D