

**Town of Blowing Rock
Tourism Development Authority
May 3, 2022**

The Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority (TDA) held their annual budget work session on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Dean Bullis, Vice-Chair Kevin Walker, Members Greg Tarbutton, Pete Gherini and Tim Gupton. Others present were Ex-officio Members Nicole Norman and Shane Fox, TDA Executive Director Tracy Brown, Assistant Director Amanda Lugenbell, and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes.

Topics discussed included:

- Donation request to consider: Horse Show (100th Year celebration support), History Walk, Post Card Mural relocation
- Executive Director Tracy Brown and Ex-officio Member Nicole Norman reviewed the budget highlights with the board.
- Funding a full-time weekend bathroom cleaning position
- Cost share with the Town for the Christmas decorations and HWY 321 Landscaping cost
- **TDA Budget Funds Allocation Formula Discussion**

Executive Director Tracy Brown stated Representative Ray Pickett had a meeting with local TDA's to discuss the two thirds vs one third. There was an overwhelming response from the bigger cities that do not want to change to a fifty/fifty split, while the smaller Town's like Blowing Rock are ready to move to that. Representative Pickett and his office came up with some language to clarify as simple as they can with only changing a few words stating up to 50% can be used for tourism-related expenditures. The board discussed and Mr. Brown commented he wanted the board to be aware these discussions are happening, but felt it was Representative Pickett that needed make the call to hold off going further until all TDA's can be on board. In the meantime, Ms. Norman plans to reach out to Chris McLaughlin to get clarification on the use of two thirds portion of funding as it's a bit more restrictive than the one third tourism related portion. **Allocation Verbiage - Attachment A**

With no further questions or changes, the Members agreed to move forward with the proposed budget. The public hearing to adopt the budget will be held on June 7, 2022 at 3:30 pm during the regular scheduled meeting.

Executive Session

At 5:15 p.m. Member Tarbutton made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (6), seconded by Member Gupton. At 5:45 p.m. Member Tarbutton made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Member Gupton. Unanimously approved.

Member Tarbutton made a motion to give Mr. Brown and Amanda Lugenbell a 10% raise in pay for their annual salary. In addition, the Board gave Mr. Brown a 10% onetime bonus and made the recommendation for Mr. Brown to give Amanda Lugenbell a 10% onetime bonus, seconded by Member Gherini. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss Member Gupton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Walker. Unanimously approved.

TDA Chairman, Dean Bullis

Town Clerk, Hilari Hubner

Attachments

Allocation Verbiage – Attachment A