

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
February 10, 2009

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting took place in the Council Chambers located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Phillip Pickett, Albert Yount, and Tommy Klutz. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Engineer Joel Whitford, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Town Clerk Sharon Greene and Rick Ruppert representing the Police Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Tester to approve minutes for meetings held on January, 13, January 18-20, and January 26, 2009 with one correction to the minutes for the special intergovernmental retreat held on January 26, 2009. Mr. Tester stated he was not in attendance during this meeting and his name should be removed from the attendance list. The motion received a second from Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

During the 2009 Retreat, Council discussed prospective members for various town boards. The following appointments were recommended:

- **Planning Board (Appointments Effective March 2009 meeting)**
 - Web Alexander, reappoint to a three-year term ending 2012
 - Jim West, reappoint to a three-year term ending 2012
 - Brenda Fairbetter, Watauga County (ETJ) three-year term ending 2012

- **Board of Adjustment (Appointments Effective March 2009 meeting)**
 - Jerry Starnes, reappoint to a three-year term ending 2012
 - Tim Ford, reappoint to a three-year term ending 2012 (Alternate)
 - Brenda Fairbetter, Watauga County (ETJ) three-year term ending 2012

- **ABC Board (Appointment Effective July 2008)**
 - David Greene, reappoint to a three-year term ending 2012

- **TDA Board (Appointments Effective March 2008)**

Dean Bullis, appoint to a three-year term ending 2012 (Tourism Related)

Kent Tarbutton, reappoint as Chairperson for a one-year term

Phillip Pickett, reappointed for a 3-year term

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve the recommended appointments, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Drought Update

Town Manager Hildebran advised the Town reservoir was at full pond and recommended the Town remain in Voluntary Conservation Stage I. He also reported that in 2008 the Town had the lowest consumption of water over the past ten years.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Collectors 2008-09 Delinquent Report & Advertisement of Tax Liens Order

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 105-373 the Tax Collector submitted a report to Council for parcels of property on which tax liens were attached as of January 1, 2008 and remained unpaid as of February 5, 2009. Tax Collector Greene also requested Council's permission to begin advertisement of FY 2008-09 past due taxes beginning March 12, 2009.

Commissioner Klutz questioned why taxes had to be advertised in the newspaper. Town Manager Hildebran explained the Town was mandated by the General Statutes to advertise unpaid taxes.

Commissioner Tester made a motion to approve the Tax Collectors 2008-09 Delinquent Report and Tax Lien Order as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

Tax Collectors 2008-09 Delinquent Report & Advertisement of Tax Lien Order-Exhibit A

2. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Resolution #2009-01

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with Resolution #2009-01 for their consideration. According to Mr. Hildebran, the Resolution authorized the Town Manager to make applications on behalf of the Town for loans and/or grants to aid in the construction of town infrastructure projects.

Mr. Hildebran further explained, The American Recovery and Reinvestments Act of 2009 was a bill pending in the United States Congress and was intended to provide a stimulus to the U.S. economy during the economic downturn. The bill would include

federal tax cuts, expansion of unemployment benefits and domestic investments in education, health care, and infrastructure.

Mr. Hildebran advised the Act anticipated making loans and/or grants available to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of infrastructure improvements. He stated there were several projects which would qualify for funding under the Act, such as the Downtown Streetscape Plan, Morris/Chestnut Street Sidewalk Improvements, Water Treatment Plant Sedimentation Basin and Piping Improvements, the Blowing Rock-Boone Water System Interconnect, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Miscellaneous Improvements for an estimated cost of \$4,400,000.

Commissioner Ball requested further clarification regarding the Act and stated she was not in favor of passing the resolution. Mr. Hildebran advised the money would be made available for use by municipalities and the Town could apply for interest free loans and grants to aid with projects already in progress. Commissioner Tester explained this money would be used somewhere in North Carolina whether Blowing Rock received any of it or not. Commissioner Klutz stated there were other projects he would like added to the list such as enlarging and dredging the town reservoir. Mr. Hildebran explained there was a timeline of six months to begin projects and there would not be adequate time to meet all the requirements needed in order to add other projects. Mr. Klutz stressed he would like to see the reservoir added to the list if possible. Mr. Hildebran stated he would follow up on the matter and possibly add projects that meet funding requirements.

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to accept Resolution #2009-01 as written, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

Resolution #2009-01-Exhibit B

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. Hildebran advised that Aaron Miller had received his Paramedic Certification.

Public Works Director Johnny Lentz updated Council on the Memorial Park bathroom renovation project, stating the restrooms should be open to the public by the weekend. Council suggested that port-a-johns be obtained for the weekend if the renovation was not complete. Audience member Earl Horne thought the restrooms in the old fire department and the Parks & Recreation Center should be opened for the public. Mayor Lawrence stated this was not feasible because someone would need to be there at all times to monitor the areas. Emergency Services Director Kent Graham advised there were A.D.A issues if the bathroom facilities were opened in these areas.

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock spoke regarding the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission recommendations in reference to the type of trees that could be planted, the addition of new benches, etc. on Main Street in conjunction with the Downtown Streetscape Plan.

Mr. Lentz also updated Council regarding the materials and equipment used during the last snow storm.

At 7:23 p.m. Commissioner Pickett made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. 114.318.118(6) seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

No action was taken during the closed session.

Council reentered their regular meeting at 8:05 p.m. and began a brief discussion in reference to a recent letter they received from Mr. Greg Bovino pertaining to a desire for hunting to be permitted on the China Creek property. Council members emphasized the importance of obtaining the town water supply with the property exchange between the Town and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The consensus of Council was not to oppose hunting on this property should the National Park Service allow it. Mayor Lawrence stated he would be in contact with Mr. Bovino in the near future.

ADJOURN

At 8:10 p.m. with no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (02-10-09)

Tax Collectors 2008-09 Delinquent Report & Advertisement/Lien Order-Exhibit A
The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Resolution #2009-01-Exhibit B