

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Town Council**  
**Budget Work Session**  
**May 18, 2023**

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council held their budget work session on Thursday, May 18, 2022. The work session was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson, Council Members Albert Yount, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett, and Pete Gherini. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Planning and Inspections Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Aaron Miller, Public Works and Utilities Director Matt Blackburn Fire and Emergency Services Director Kent Graham and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sellers called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

BRAAC Member Whitney Brown met with the Council on behalf of the BRAAC Board. They would like Council to give BRAAC a clear definition of their Board's purpose. The Board currently feels that they are not being utilized to their full capability. Council asked for Ms. Brown to get with Council Member Pickett and Planning Director Kevin Rothrock to come up with updated procedures to bring to Council for review at the July Council meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

Town Manager Shane Fox and Finance Officer Nicole Norman reviewed the budget outline and discussed with Council at length, highlights to the proposed budget. Some items discussed in detail were:

- A 5% cost of living (COLA) for employees beginning in July and new merit pay system for up to 4% merit pay to each employee based off job performance in January.
- Tax Rate increase from .31 cents to .39 cents per 100-dollar evaluation.
- Addition of 3 new full-time Firefighter/EMT Positions
- Blowing Rock Academy – Including hiring of 2 new full-time positions
- Continued funding of dispatch personnel

**ADJOURN**

At 4:30 p.m. Council Member Pickett made a motion to adjourn the work session, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Charlie Sellers**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk**