

**MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
December 8, 2009**

Prior to the meeting, Mayor Lawrence received the Oath of Office from Town Clerk Greene.

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Phillip Pickett, Albert Yount and Tommy Klutz. Commissioners elect Doug Matheson and Jim Steele also attended. Others present were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Police Chief Eric Brown, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Building Inspector Jesse Horner, Finance Director Nicole Norman, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Tester made a motion to approve minutes for meetings held on November 10th and 30th, 2009 which included the closed session meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Commissioner Pickett requested the word "West" be added in front of Hill Street on 1-A, page two of the November 10, 2009 meeting. Commissioner Tester amended his motion, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Lawrence called Commissioner Tester forward to receive a plaque of appreciation for his 8 years of service to the Town as a Council member. Mayor Lawrence remarked that Mr. Tester had been known as "Mr. Thorough" during his time on Council because he had always carefully studied the issues that came before Council. Mr. Lawrence spoke of Mr. Tester's great integrity and passion while on the Council and how he will be missed by all.

Mr. Tester thanked everyone for allowing him to serve on the Town Council and stated that it had been quite an honor. He stated that he was very grateful for the passion that people had for the Town and how he would miss being on Council. He also commended the Town Staff for the great job that they do.

Next, Mayor Lawrence called Commissioner Ball forward to receive her plaque of appreciation for her service on the Town Council. Mayor Lawrence commented that for the past 16 years he had been seated next to Ms. Ball and how difficult it was for him to see her leave. He stated that Ms. Ball had always been very committed to the job as Council Member and how she had served the citizens of Blowing Rock well. He wished Ms. Ball the best.

Ms. Ball stated there were many people present who had supported her from the very beginning and how she appreciated their support. She mentioned how many wonderful people she had been fortunate enough to work with over the past 16 years and how members of Council forged a bond with one another. Ms. Ball also commended Town Manager Hildebran and the Town Staff for their work and commented that one of the best things the Town had done was to hire McGill Associates as their engineers. She also commented that she would like to continue to serve the Town in same fashion in the future.

RECESS MEETING

Mayor Lawrence recessed the meeting at 7:10.

For ceremonial purposes, Mr. Lawrence was administered the Oath of Office by outgoing Council Member Bobby Ball for his upcoming term as Mayor. Mayor Lawrence then administered the Oath of Office to incumbent Council Member Tommy Klutz and newly elected Council Members Jim Steele and Doug Matheson. **Lawrence Oath of Office – Exhibit A, Klutz Oath of Office – Exhibit B, Steele Oath of Office – Exhibit C, Matheson Oath of Office – Exhibit D**

Mayor Lawrence reconvened the meeting at 7:18 p.m. and welcomed the newest members of Council.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Lawrence requested nominations for the office of Mayor Pro-tem. Commissioner Pickett nominated Commissioner Yount, seconded by Commissioner Steele. Mayor Lawrence called for other nominations. Commissioner Yount nominated Commissioner Klutz. Mayor Lawrence corrected his request for further nominations, stating that a motion was already on the floor and had received a second. He then called for a vote on Mr. Yount as Mayor Pro-tem. In favor: Pickett, Steele & Klutz : Opposed: 0 Non-voting: Yount & Matheson. Motion passed 5-0.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Town Manager Hildebran recognized Public Works Director Johnny Lentz for his 28 ½ years of service to the town and stated Mr. Lentz would be retiring the end of December. He also congratulated Mr. Mike Wilcox for his promotion to Public Works Director and being elected as Fire Chief. Mr. Matheson was also recognized by Mr. Hildebran on being elected as Assistant Fire Chief.

Mr. Hildebran then welcomed new Council Members Doug Matheson and Jim Steele.

Ms. Nancy Santay introduced herself to Council and the public, stating she was the newly elected President of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Santay also mentioned that she had been a member of the Chamber since 1998 and looked forward to working with the Town during her tenure as Chamber President.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (December 8, 2009)

Oaths of Office – Lawrence, Klutz, Matheson, & Steele – Exhibits A, B, C, & D