

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting-April 1, 2010

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Phillip Pickett, Tommy Klutz, Doug Matheson and Jim Steele. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Memorandum of Agreement w/NCDOT for Storm Debris Removal

Town Manager Hildebran presented Memorandum of Agreements between NC Department of Transportation and the Town of Blowing Rock for approval regarding the storm debris removal. He pointed out that one agreement was specifically regarding the ice/snow storm that occurred between December 18 and December 25, 2010 and the other was a standard agreement granting the Town authority to remove debris during a State of Disaster and be reimbursed by the State should another storm occur.

Commissioner Steele made a motion to accept both agreements as presented, seconded by Commissioner Matheson. Mayor Lawrence called for discussion.

Commissioner Klutz voiced his desire that the storm debris clean up to be done by local contractors. Town Manager Hildebran advised this was governed by NC General Statutes and the Town would be in violation if bids were not received. He mentioned that Planning Director Rothrock had sent 32 proposals regarding this issue and the Town received only nine (9) responses.

Commissioner Klutz also commented that town streets were going to look horrible during the Easter holiday because the debris had not been cleared and he felt the Town has had ample time to clean them. Mr. Hildebran advised that if work had already begun without FEMA approval, they would not reimburse the Town for the debris clean-up and the estimated cost would be approximately \$200,000.

Commissioner Yount also mentioned his concerns with the Town being reimbursed by Federal & State government for the debris clean-up. Mayor Lawrence emphasized, during a State of Emergency and Federal Disaster Declaration such as this, the Town could be reimbursed for any costs associated with the storm and he did not feel that Council wanted to increase taxes in order to pay these costs.

Commissioner Yount asked for permission to refrain from voting on this item. Mayor Lawrence stated this would not be allowed and any non-vote was automatically counted

as an affirmative vote. Commissioner Yount asked why the Town's reserve funds were not used to pay for these costs. Mayor Lawrence commented the reserve funds were set aside for other emergencies that were not eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Yount advised his vote would be a reluctant yes.

With no further discussion, Mayor Lawrence called for a vote on the motion. In favor of the motion were: Steele, Pickett, Matheson and Yount. Against the motion: Klutz. Motion carried 4-1.

Memorandum of Agreements with NCDOT – Exhibit A & B

2. Bid Award – McLean Demolition

During the March 8th Council meeting, an ordinance was adopted directing the Town Manager to receive bids for the demolition of the McLean property located at 777 Possum Hollow Road. Mr. Hildebran advised that bid invitations were sent to the following:

DH Griffin Wrecking Co.	\$6,135.00
Chris Estes Grading	\$9,540.00
Dee Hodges	No Bid Received
Terry Lentz Construction	No Bid Received
Enterline and Russell Builders	No Bid Received

Town Manager Hildebran advised that a lien would be placed on the property for any costs associated with the demolition and he recommended the Town accept the lowest bid of \$6,135.00 from DH Griffin Wrecking Co.

Commissioner Yount made a motion to accept low bid of \$6,135.00 as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

3. Participation Agreement w/NCLM Environmental Assessment Coalition

Town Manager Hildebran stated in December the NC League of Municipalities had contacted the Town regarding the formation of the Environmental Assessment Coalition. This agreement would support an engineering analysis to examine the ramifications of the proposed "triennial review" surface water quality rules. According to Mr. Hildebran, this would affect wastewater treatment processes, require implementation of storm water programs, mandating development rules such as riparian buffer zones and further regulate the land application of biosolids.

Town Manager Hildebran stated the cost for this analysis would be approximately \$250.00 based on Blowing Rock's population.

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to accept the agreement as presented. The motion received a second from Commissioner Steele. Unanimously approved.

NCLM Municipal Environmental Assessment Coalition Agreement – Exhibit C

Council voiced concerns regarding the salt that's used during ice/snow storms on town roadways and the affect it was having on the trees, etc. Council suggested that staff look into the Town taking over the scraping and salting of Main Street during inclement weather.

Commissioner Yount recommended that Council have a work session in the near future to discuss various items of interest. A date of Monday, April 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. was agreed upon.

4. Watauga County High School Tour

At 3:25 p.m. all Council Members with the exception of Commissioner Klutz proceeded on their scheduled tour of the new Watauga High School project in Boone.

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (4-1-10)

Memorandum of Agreement w/NCDOT – Exhibit A & B

NCLM Environmental Assessment Participation Agreement – Exhibit C