

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Special Meeting-April 12, 2010**

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, April 12, 2010 at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Phil Pickett, Tommy Klutz, Doug Matheson and Jim Steele. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Yount advised that he had spoken with Mr. Andy Whatley regarding concerns that he and his wife, Annie Whatley, had during the Hanna building construction on Main Street. Mr. Yount stated their concerns were regarding an easement to bury a power line beneath the sidewalk leading to their business and erosion problems. Mr. Yount requested that Council address these issues in order to find a resolution.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Klutz to move forth with a Condemnation Easement in order to bury 3 feet of power line in that area. The motion failed for lack of a second.

It was consensus of the Council that the option to bury the 3-foot section of power line that would run under the sidewalk at the Village Café was the most preferred route. Council requested that Mr. Hildebran and Mr. Rothrock discuss this once again with Mr. & Mrs. Whatley and if this was not feasible, the only other option would be to bury conduit under a section of the public sidewalk between the Hanna building and Kilwin's, and install conduit along the side of the Kilwin's building.

Commissioner Yount requested that Mr. Hildebran ask for a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Whatley stating their concerns had been resolved to their satisfaction after the work was completed.

Mr. Hildebran updated Council regarding several items. He mentioned that Caldwell County was contemplating coming before the Board to request permission to install a 70 foot tower on the Green Hill water tank. He stated this would enhance several telecommunication efforts in the area. Mr. Hildebran advised that Council would be notified of a balloon test that was planned in the near future.

Mr. Hildebran also advised that Blowing Rock Commons would be proceeding with their project on North Main Street in the near future, as a conditional grading permit was pending.

Recycling was also briefly discussed. Mr. Hildebran stated he had received one bid regarding twice-a-month residential curbside recycling and would be receiving another one later in the week. Approximately \$3.00 per month could be applied to residential water bills to cover the costs, excluding Chetola, which is currently handled by a private contractor. Materials to be collected at the curbside included – plastic, glass, paper and metal cans. Commissioner Yount asked if curbside collection would allow the drop-off site at Davant Field and/or a possible new Clark Street site to be discontinued. Town Manager Hildebran responded yes. It was the consensus of Council to have the Town Manager move forward with receiving bids for Board consideration.

Council requested the parking lot at Davant Field be restriped and that possible district boundaries in the Town Center be determined.

Commissioner Klutz stated there were several empty buildings along Main Street and suggested that the Town do away with the \$15,000 parking fee because he felt this was hindering new businesses from coming into Blowing Rock. Mr. Hildebran stated a Planning Board subcommittee had been formed to study parking regulations in the Town Code with possible lessening of parking ratio requirements. Mr. Rothrock further clarified that new businesses were not required to pay into the parking fund or to supply parking unless there was a change in use. For example, if an office space was converted into a restaurant or other more intense use, the applicant could provide; a) onsite parking, b) satellite parking within 600 feet, or c) in lieu payment into the Parking Fund. Mr. Rothrock confirmed that payment into the Parking Fund runs with the land.

Commissioner Steele suggested that a payment plan for paying into the fund be considered as an option.

Mayor Lawrence responded that both parking ratio reductions and payment plans might be a way of achieving a compromise on the issue.

Commissioner Steele commented that he would like target dates to be set for accomplishment of priority items discussed during the retreat.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_  
**J.B. Lawrence**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**