

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting-May 11, 2010

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. In attendance were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Phillip Pickett, Tommy Klutz, Douglas Matheson, and Jim Steele. Others attending were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Police Captain Justin Wood, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Building Inspector Jesse Horner, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Finance Director Nicole Norman, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene. Planning Director Kevin Rothrock was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Council was given a correction to the April 13, 2010 minutes. Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve the minutes for meetings held on April 12 & 13, 2010 with the correction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matheson. Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION - Watauga County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Mr. Phil Trew, Planning Director for the High Country Council of Governments, came before Council in reference to the Watauga County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. He stated that during the most recent Intergovernmental Meeting, a suggestion was made to form a committee to select an alternative to the Daniel Boone Parkway. Mr. Trew stated after speaking with the NC Department of Transportation, the Thoroughfare Plan for the entire country needed to be updated. Mr. Trew mentioned that a steering committee would be formed with an elected official and staff member from each entity such as Blowing Rock, Boone, ASU, etc. He commented the process of updating the Thoroughfare Plan would take at least 2 years. Mayor Lawrence asked if anyone on Council wished to volunteer as a member of the steering committee. Commissioner Steele agreed to represent Council on the committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Klutz to appoint Commissioner Jim Steele to the Thoroughfare Plan Steering Committee. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Telecommunications Ordinance Resolution (Res. #2010-11)

Town Manager Hildebran presented Ordinance #2010-11 to Council for their approval. Mr. Hildebran stated Town staff in coordination with Caldwell and Watauga County officials, and the NC State Highway Patrol were investigating the possibility of placing a communication tower beside the Green Hill water tank. With the proposed change and tower addition a wireless communications antenna could be installed. The existing Land Use Ordinance allows non-commercial individual use towers in all zoning districts. Therefore Town staff recommended an amendment to the Table of Permissible Uses that would allow non-commercial towers to be shared in all zoning districts through the approval of a conditional use permit. The proposed ordinance change would allow for flexibility to add antennas on other government towers. Mr. Hildebran advised that even though this was a joint venture, Blowing Rock would have control over who was allowed on the tower.

A motion was received by Commissioner Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Steele to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Klutz, seconded by Commissioner Pickett to approve Ordinance #2010-11 as presented.

Telecommunications Ordinance Amendment (Ord #2010-11) – Exhibit A

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oasis Shriners Spring Ceremonial Resolution (Res #2010-07)

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with Resolution #2010-07 recognizing the Oasis Shriners and welcoming their Spring Ceremonial to Blowing Rock.

According to Mr. Hildebran, the event was scheduled for June 4-7, 2010 with Chetola Resort serving as their host headquarters. A parade would be held on June 5th on Main Street with up to 200 participants and at least 1,000 visitors were expected during the event.

Mr. Hildebran also gave a brief history regarding the Shriners Hospital for Children being a one-of-a-kind international health care system of 22 hospitals that are dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing specialty pediatric care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs.

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve Resolution #2010-07 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Matheson. Unanimously approved.

Oasis Shriners Spring Ceremonial Resolution (Res #2010-07) - Exhibit B

2. Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Resolution/Honor Representative (Res #2010-08)

Town Manager Hildebran introduced Resolution #2010-08 celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway and a request to select community Honor Representative(s) to officially represent Blowing Rock during the celebration on September 11, 2010 at the Cumberland Knob Visitor Center.

According to Mr. Hildebran, the Honor Representative(s) will participate in an on-stage “Community Roll Call” and have five minutes to describe the unique and special qualities of our community and why the Parkway is special to Blowing Rock.

Mr. Hildebran advised a suggestion had been made to ask Ginny Stevens and Janice Burns to be the Honor Representatives for Blowing Rock.

A motion was made by Commissioner Matheson to accept Resolution #2010-08 as written and to ask Ms. Stevens and Ms. Burns to represent Blowing Rock on September 11, 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.

Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Resolution #2010-08 – Exhibit C

3. Surplus – Vehicles (Res. #2010-09)

Council was presented with Resolution #2010-09 authorizing the disposal of surplus vehicles pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-270(c) by electronic auction for approval. Resolution #2010-09 would authorize Town Manager Hildebran or his designee to sell an ambulance and sedan via electronic auction on www.GovDeals.com.

With no further comments, Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve Resolution #2010-09 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

Surplus Vehicles Resolution #2010-09 – Exhibit D

1. Budget Amendment (Ordinance #2010-12)

Town Manager Hildebran presented a Budget Amendment Ordinance for fiscal year 2009-2010 for Council’s consideration. The following synopsis of accounts affected by the proposed budget amendment was given:

Section 1 (General Fund) was to grant proceeds received/to be received from the NC Rural Center, on behalf of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce to reimburse them for the completion of a Wine & Culinary Arts Study as well as to account for the proceeds and cost associated with the demolition of the Arlon McLean house.

Section 2 (General Fund) was to allocate funds to be reimbursed for the 2009 ice storm from the Federal Government (75%) and State (25%). Three categories of reimbursement funded by FEMA and the State consist of Emergency Expenses (clean-up during and directly after the storm, for safety), Utility/Facility Repair Expenses (repair of water lines, etc.) and debris removal (clean-up after the storm).

Section 3 (Water/Sewer Fund) would allocate funds to be reimbursed for the 2009 ice storm from the Federal Government (75%) and State (25%). The three categories of reimbursement funded by FEMA and the State were Emergency Expenses (clean-up during and directly after the storm, for safety), Utility/Facility Repair Expenses (repair of water lines, etc.) and debris removal (clean-up after the storm).

Commissioner Yount made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Ordinance #2010-12 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Steele. Unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment Ordinance #2010-12 – Exhibit E

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Town Manager Hildebran gave the following updates:

- Bi-annual clean up to be held on May 17-21.
- Storm debris pick-up was completed. Town Crews will do a final sweep in order to pick up brush that had been put out recently.
- Recent promotion of Justin Woods to Captain and Hank Bixby to Lieutenant of the Police Department.
- May 28th a Ribbon Cutting ceremony would be held at the new Robbins Pool Complex from 5-7 p.m.
- Land exchange approval by the U.S. Congress

Commissioner Steele asked for an update regarding the water interconnection between Blowing Rock and Boone. Town Engineer Doug Chapman stated approximately 1/3 of the bore casing had been done, and the pipe would be installed later.

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with the proposed 2010-2011 Budget for their review. He advised that budget meetings would be held on May 18, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. and May 19, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. and May 25th, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. if needed. He stated the budget increased by \$18,945 from last year's budget with no property tax increase proposed. However, a \$0.50 per month increase in water/sewer charges was proposed which would be off-set by a decrease of \$1.00 per month interconnect fee. Also, a \$3.00 per month curbside recycling fee was proposed. He stated a public hearing would be held on June 8, 2010 to receive comments regarding the proposed budget. Mayor Lawrence commended Mr. Hildebran and Town Staff on the outstanding job they did preparing the budget.

Commissioner Yount suggested a special meeting be held to discuss how the Hwy 321 widening project will affect the tax base for Blowing Rock, and to receive an update on the status of the Blowing Rock Commons Project. He also wished to speak about the effect the current economy was having on TDA funds.

Commissioner Steele advised that he would like to discuss parking on Main Street during parades and Phase II of the Streetscape Plan.

It was agreed that these items would be discussed at the May 25th, 2010 work session.

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (May 11, 2010)

Telecommunications Ordinance Amendment (Ord #2010-11) – Exhibit A
Oasis Shriners Spring Ceremonial Resolution (Res #2010-07) - Exhibit B
Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary (Resolution #2010-08) – Exhibit C
Surplus Vehicles (Resolution #2010-09) – Exhibit D
Budget Amendment(Ordinance #2010-12) – Exhibit E