

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners Special Work Session-May 18, 2010

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special work session on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting took place in the Town Council Chambers at 1036 Main Street Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Phillip Pickett, Tommy Klutz, Doug Matheson. Commissioner Jim Steele arrived at 5:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Finance Director Nicole Norman and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Town Manager Hildebran began discussion regarding the FY 2010-2011 Recommended Budget. He advised the budget totaled \$6,396,970 and there was no projected tax increase; property taxes would remain at \$0.28 per \$100 valuation. He also mentioned there was a proposed \$3.00 per month fee to all residential solid waste customers to cover costs associated with the implementation of a twice-a-month curbside recycling program, as well as changes to water/sewer fees, which would increase \$0.50 per month in both water and sewer fees. A reduction would be made in the water interconnection fee of \$1.00 per month, which would result in no net change. All other town charges/fees would remain unchanged. Mr. Hildebran stated there was an increase of only \$18,945 over last year's adopted budget of \$6,378,025.

He further discussed the proposed \$3.00 per month fee for solid waste curbside collection. Mr. Hildebran advised that after checking the cost of a drop-off site which would exceed \$100,000, bids for curbside pick-up had been received. Garbage Disposal Services (GDS) was the low bidder. Mr. Hildebran stated the Town would purchase one container (hunter green) per residential customer and additional bins could be purchased by the resident from the town.

Mr. Hildebran advised with the current status of the economy, balancing the proposed FY 2010-2011 Recommended Budget was challenging mainly due to decreases in revenues generated by sales tax, occupancy tax, interest income and building permit fees. He stated the proposed budget for Ad Valorem Tax revenues was projected at \$3,010,150 and that property taxes were the only significant source of income that the State allowed local governments to control.

Mr. Hildebran listed some expenses such as utilities, gas, material/supplies, postage, etc. that had increased slightly, and stated there would be an 8.9% increase for the cost of employee health insurance. He reviewed each department's operating budget with Council and discussed their Capital Outlay Request for 2010-11.

Mr. Hildebran commented an update to the Comprehensive Plan Survey for a cost of \$10,000 was also included in the recommended budget. The Paving Plan Schedule for 2010-11 was presented to Council for their review and approval. He mentioned that approximately \$200,000 was earmarked for paving of which the Town would likely receive approximately \$75,000 in Powell Bill money. A motion was made by Commissioner Klutz, seconded by Commissioner Pickett to approve the Paving Plan Schedule as presented. Unanimously approved.

Paving Plan Schedule – Exhibit A

Several items were discussed such as the drainage problem in front of Town Hall, Right-of-Way maintenance, beautification efforts at the Water Treatment Plant, possibly purchasing lids for garbage receptacles on Main Street, maintenance at Davant Field restrooms and continuing with the removal of dead trees in town.

Commissioner Steele suggested that staff consider increasing Parks & Recreation fees in the future to aid in covering program costs.

Debt Service requirements and the Capital Improvements Plan were also reviewed. Mr. Hildebran stated that cost would dictate what the Town could accomplish. He stated the Public Works garage and the safety of other Town buildings were the first priority. Council requested that Mr. Hildebran obtain a proposal for a Facilities Feasibility Study for the Police, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works departments.

Mr. Hildebran updated Council regarding the water interconnection project between Blowing Rock and Boone. He stated this project was scheduled for completion by December 31, 2010.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. and would continue Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (05-18-10)
Paving Plan Schedule – Exhibit A