

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners Special Work Session-May 19, 2010

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special work session on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 3:30 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 and Jim Steele. 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 3:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Town Manager Hildebran began by giving updates on the status of several items. He advised the radar units had been repaired and that McGill Associates were in the process of completing the proposal for the facility feasibility study which would be presented to Council during the work session scheduled later in the month. Mr. Hildebran suggested that Council submit questions they had regarding the Blowing Rock Commons project in writing so staff could submit them to Blowing Rock Commons representatives to have them answered. He also mentioned that he would request a financial update from BRAHM.

Mr. Hildebran further reviewed the proposed FY 2010-2011 Recommended Budget with Council. He mentioned due to the instability of the economy and revenues such as sales tax, occupancy tax, etc., items in the General Fund and the Water Fund had been identified to be held back. He advised that 61% of budgeted revenues were property tax.

He further stated that fiscal year to date occupancy tax was approximately 12% below fiscal year to date collections for this time of year in 2009. He did state that totals for April were showing improvement and the Town's debt service which is funded by the TDA would be covered before other budgeted items to cover shortfalls.

Next, Mr. Hildebran discussed the fee schedule stating the only change would be the proposed \$3.00 a month fee for solid waste collection, the \$0.50 increase in water and sewer charges and the decrease in the interconnection fee. He also mentioned that Golf Cart fees would be added to the fee schedule. Commissioner Klutz requested the Town review the parking fund fee for new businesses. He felt it should be reduced from \$15,000 to \$7,500. Mr. Hildebran advised the Planning Board was currently working on parking ratios. He further explained that the only time a business had to pay into the

parking fund was with a change of use (such as retail to a restaurant), an increase in size, or construction of a new building, other businesses were “grandfathered in”. Mr. Hildebran suggested that Council first review the proposed changes from the Planning Board regarding parking ratios.

Mr. Hildebran continued by stating there were no salary increases in the proposed budget.

He also stated the 30-year sewer bond would be retired after two more yearly payments which would decrease debt service by approximately \$200,000 once retired.

Commissioner Klutz emphasized that he felt \$5,000 earmarked for tree planting was excessive. Mr. Hildebran explained, anytime a tree was removed the Town replaced it with another tree.

Mr. Hildebran also mentioned the Planning Department would be moving forward with putting any documentation pertaining to upcoming conditional use permits on-line.

Commissioner Steele suggested that a list of Retreat priority items be made with an expected date of completion and asked that Council receive quarterly updates on their progress.

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk