

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting-April 12, 2011

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting took place 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 present were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Police Lieutenant Justin Wood, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, EMS Director Kent Graham and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. He then recognized TDA Director Tracy Brown who read a proclamation from Mayor Lawrence declaring May 2011 as Birding Month in Blowing Rock. Mr. Brown mentioned that two of the largest bird-watching organizations in North Carolina were coming to Blowing Rock for their annual statewide meeting in May. Mr. Brown thanked Council for their support. **Proclamation Declaring May 2011 Birding Month – Exhibit A**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve the minutes for meetings held on March 15 and 18, 2011 as written. Commissioner Klutz seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lora Elder – Rock the Blue Ridge Bike Ride

Town Manager Hildebran stated that Ms. Lora Elder was requesting Council's support of the Rock the Blue Ridge Bike Ride to be held on August 28, 2011. In Ms. Elder's absence, TDA Director Tracy Brown stated this request had received the support of both the Blowing Rock's and Watauga County TDA's. Mr. Brown felt the event would have less of an impact this year than in the previous year. After reviewing the route to be used, Mr. Brown thanked Council for their support once again this year.

With no further comments, Commissioner Klutz made a motion to approve the 2nd annual Rock the Blue Ridge Bike Ride to be held on August 28, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.

2. Middle Fork Greenway Resolution (Res #2011-03)

A Resolution of Support for the proposed Middle Fork Greenway Project was presented by Planning Director Kevin Rothrock. The proposed greenway would be a linkage between Blowing Rock and Boone and would serve as a safe route for pedestrians, joggers, bicyclist and other lovers of the outdoors. According to Mr. Rothrock, the linear park amenity was consistent with the Town of Blowing Rock Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Klutz to approve Resolution #2011-03 in support of the proposed Middle Fork Greenway. Unanimously approved. **Middle Fork Greenway (Resolution #2011-03) – Exhibit B**

3. Budget Amendment (Ord #2011-03)

Mr. Hildebran presented Budget Amendment Ordinance #2011-03 for fiscal year 2010-2011. He then briefly detailed the sections of the budget that would be affected by the proposed amendment. With no further discussion, Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve Ordinance #2011-03 as presented. Commissioner Klutz seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. **Budget Amendment (Ord. #2011-03) – Exhibit C**

OTHER

On April 11, 2011, Mr. John Aldridge, a member of the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, gave a presentation to Council requesting their support “in concept only” of a Wine and Culinary Center. After the presentation, Council directed Town Manager Hildebran to draft a Resolution of Support of the concept of a Wine and Culinary Center in Blowing Rock.

Town Manager Hildebran presented to Council a Resolution #2011-04 “Endorsing the Effort to Establish a NC Wine and Culinary Center in Blowing Rock”. Commissioner Klutz verbalized that he supported the Wine and Culinary Center in concept only, not financially. Commissioner Yount also commented that he would have preferred this report be presented during a regularly scheduled meeting in order to have more public involvement. Mayor Lawrence stated the meeting on April 11th was also a public meeting and there were more in attendance during that meeting than at the present meeting. Audience member Ruth Klutz commented if the special meetings were held in the larger Council room there might possibly be a greater attendance.

Commissioner Klutz made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-04 endorsing the effort to establish a NC Wine and Culinary Center in Blowing Rock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Steele. Unanimously approved. **Resolution Endorsing the Effort to Establish a NC Wine and Culinary Center in Blowing Rock (Resolution #2011-04) – Exhibit D**

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Clifton Bryan, an employee of the Village Inn in Blowing Rock spoke in reference to design concerns with the Hwy. 321 Widening Project. He felt the absence of a left turn lane would be detrimental to the economic interest of Blowing Rock. He advocated that a compromise be made that would accommodate the flow of traffic as well as safety. In Mr. Bryan's opinion, the absence of a center turn lane would increase traffic on side streets such as Church Street, Ransom Street, etc., because these streets would be used as cut-through areas. He mentioned that Boone and Lenoir had center lanes with a low rate of accidents. Mr. Bryan asked for Council's support and for them to request that a center turn lane with an intermittent landscaped median be installed along Valley Boulevard during the widening process.

Commissioner Steele encouraged Mr. Bryan to view a video link regarding this issue on the Town's website.

Town Manager Hildebran stated the Town would get in touch with NCDOT and facilitate a meeting so that citizens could come and voice any concerns they might have regarding the widening project with NCDOT. He also mentioned the window of time for project changes was getting smaller and NCDOT had almost finished the right-of-way acquisitions. Commissioner Steele suggested once the meeting was scheduled, that the public be made aware of same. Council thanked Mr. Bryan for his comments. **Clifton Bryan Handout-Exhibit E**

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Town Manager Hildebran reminded everyone of the Annual Town Clean-up scheduled for April 30th beginning at 9:30 a.m. and of the Celebrity Serve event that was happening immediately following the conclusion of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (04-12-11)

Proclamation Declaring May 2011 Birding Month – Exhibit A

Middle Fork Greenway (Resolution #2011-03) – Exhibit B

Budget Amendment (Ord. #2011-03) – Exhibit Resolution

Resolution Endorsing the Effort to Establish a NC Wine & Culinary Center in

Blowing Rock (Resolution #2011-04) – Exhibit D

Clifton Bryan Handout- Exhibit E