

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting-March 13, 2012

Prior to the meeting, a Volunteer Board Reception was held at 4:00 p.m. to show appreciation to all volunteers.

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Dan Phillips, Tommy Klutz and Doug Matheson. Commissioner Jim Steele was out of town and unable to attend. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Eric Brown, Finance Director Nicole Norman, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Jason Balcom and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENTATION

Mayor Lawrence asked Mr. Phillip Pickett to come forward to be recognized for his eight (8) years of service on the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). Mayor Lawrence thanked Mr. Pickett for his service and presented him with a plaque. Mayor Lawrence also recognized Mr. Web Alexander who was unable to attend the meeting for his five (5) years of service on the Planning Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to approve the minutes as written for meetings held on February 14, 2012 and March 5, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Blowing Rock Conference Center – Annexation (Ordinance #2012-02)

Planning Director Rothrock advised that the Blowing Rock Conference Center had submitted a petition of voluntary satellite annexation for Council's consideration. The 58.9 acre property located in the ETJ district on Goforth Road was just outside the Town's corporate limits and zoned O-I and R-10S.

Mr. Rothrock reviewed the following key points of the request:

- The applicant had submitted a petition of satellite annexation with the intention of connecting to Town sewer utilities. Consistent with Town policy, any property that desires connection to Town utilities must be located within the corporate limits.
- Blowing Rock Conference Center (BRCC) would be responsible for the costs of extending gravity sewer along Goforth Road to serve their property and for the availability fees for any buildings connected to the system.
- At this time, only the dining hall had an immediate need for sewer connection.
- BRCC shall be responsible for all costs associated with extension of public sewer to serve the subject property.
- BRCC shall also be responsible for all costs associated with extension of a 6" minimum public water line and associated appurtenances from the current corporate limits on Goforth Road into the subject property including public lines to serve each building on the subject property. Given that BRCC has sufficient wells and water supply to serve the subject property and its buildings, extension of public water would not be required at this time. At such time the Town plans to extend public water along Goforth Road, it shall require BRCC or current property owner to cover the costs as described herein. These costs may be spread over a ten (10) year period.
- BRCC would be responsible for payment of associated sewer availability fees for each building connected to the system. The availability fee may be spread over a ten (10) year period, with equal incremental payments made to the Town each year.
- BRCC or property owner shall reserve for the Town a sufficient area for a future water tank on the subject property that meets the needs of the Town.
- The Town will be responsible for any costs associated with the betterment of the future water line above a 6" minimum described herein.
- All other municipal services will be provided consistent with NC General Statutes concerning satellite annexation.

Mr. Rothrock advised if the annexation were to be approved it would become effective immediately and recorded at the Watauga County Register of Deeds as well as with the Secretary of State. He also advised that Mr. John Turner, Attorney for BRCC, was present to address any questions or concerns that Council might have.

Commissioner Yount asked if the BRCC was later sold to a profit making entity, would ad valorem taxes be charged by the Town at that point. Mr. Rothrock responded that taxes would then be charged.

Commissioner Phillips questioned why a water line was not being installed at the same time as the sewer line so the area would not be disturbed twice. Mr. Rothrock stated BRCC was a voluntary annexation and the Town did not have plans to extend water service at this time. Due to BRCC having adequate water and no other properties in the area requesting annexation, it did not become a priority for water extension. Commissioner Phillips stated that he had asked during the February meeting what long-term and short-term affect this annexation would have on the Town and was told the Town would benefit by expanding the water and sewer lines to accommodate growth in

that area. Commissioner Phillips stated from an efficiency point of view, it seemed there would be less expense if the water line was installed now instead of waiting until later. Mr. Chapman stated the expense would be marginal and the water line would be run on the opposite side of the street than where the sewer line would be installed. He mentioned the only reason to run a water line at the present time would be to enhance the flow of water for fire protection, but no revenue would be generated.

Commissioner Klutz asked if fire hydrants would be installed once the property was annexed into the Town. Mr. Rothrock stated since a water line was not being installed there were no plans for additional fire hydrants. Commissioner Klutz expressed his discomfort with no fire hydrants being located on the property.

Commissioner Matheson inquired if the sewer would be metered at the BRCC. Mr. Rothrock stated that it would be metered.

Ms. Brenda Fairbetter, a resident of Goforth Road voiced her concerns regarding a water tank being installed on the BRCC property. Mr. Rothrock stated the Town did not have immediate plans for a water tank, but if a tank were to be installed it would need to be on the highest point of the property. Ms. Fairbetter expressed her concerns with the tank being within sight of the residents who live in the area and the effect this would have.

Attorney John Turner spoke briefly regarding the proposed annexation. He stated that his client (BRCC) understood that they would be paying the cost of installing the sewer lines and the availability fees would be extended over a ten-year period. He also advised BRCC understood that at such time a water line is installed in the area fire hydrants would be placed on their property. Mr. Turner also commented should a water tank be placed on the property at a later date it would be placed in a discrete location.

With no further comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Klutz seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Yount made a motion to approve the Blowing Rock Conference Center – Annexation Ordinance # 2012-02 as presented. The motion received a second from Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved. **BRCC- Annexation – (Ord. #2012-02) – Exhibit A**

2. Amendments to Land Use Ordinance – Reformatting/Appendices (Ordinance #2012-03)

Planning Director Rothrock presented the final draft ordinance amendment reformatting Articles 6, 8 and 12 through 23 of the Land Use Ordinance. If approved as written or modified, the final draft of the ordinance would be sent to be printed for public copies including elected officials, board members and updated on the Town's website.

Mr. Rothrock continued by thanking everyone who had worked on the five (5) year process of reformatting of the ordinance.

Commissioner Phillips inquired if any decision-making powers had been taken from Council and placed with staff during the ordinance reformatting. Mr. Rothrock responded that no such changes had been made.

Mr. Rothrock then presented a power point presentation of the changes that had been made to the ordinance.

With no public comments, Commissioner Klutz made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved. A motion was then made by Commissioner Klutz to approve Ordinance #2012-03 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved. **Amendments to Land Use Ordinance – Reformatting/Appendices (Ord. #2012-03) – Exhibit B**

3. Golf Cart Ordinance Amendment (Ordinance #2012-04)

Planning Director Rothrock presented Ordinance #2012-04 to amend the ordinance on golf carts for Council consideration. He stated that in March 2010, Council adopted an ordinance allowing the use of golf carts on all Town streets on the east side of Hwy 321 (Valley Blvd) around the Blowing Rock Country Club and surrounding neighborhoods. The ordinance required that the following safety and liability provisions be included:

1. That golf carts must be equipped with headlights, reflectors and other safety features
2. May only be used during daylight hours with exceptions allowed by the Police Chief on special events such as July 4th
3. Must be operated by a licensed driver
4. May not be operated at speeds greater than 20 mph
5. All passengers must be properly seated
6. Violations subject offender to infraction and civil penalty of \$50.00

The amendment if approved, would allow golf carts on all Town streets with the exception of Valley Blvd. However, golf carts would be allowed to cross Valley Blvd at Sunset Drive and Green Hill Road/Rock Road intersections. Mr. Rothrock also mentioned with the completion of the Hwy 321 widening project, Council may wish to allow golf carts to cross at Skyland View Drive.

Mr. Lloyd Smith, a resident of Rankin Road spoke in favor of allowing golf carts on the west side of Valley Blvd. He stated that he lived on the east side and felt that the west side of town should have the same privilege. He also commented that he was not aware of any major problems since the ordinance was passed two (2) years ago. Mr. Smith commended Police Chief Brown for the great job he did policing and inspecting golf carts. Mr. Smith expressed that golf carts on town streets added to the quaintness of the town.

Ms. Regina Pelsmaeker a resident of Wallingford Street commented that she understood why golf carts would be allowed near the golf course but felt the west side of town was too congested with traffic to add golf carts to the mix.

Commissioner Matheson remarked that some residents had mentioned with the increase in gas prices, golf carts would allow them to travel around more economically.

Mayor Lawrence also expressed that in the past two years he had not heard of any incidents involving golf carts.

Town resident Karyn Herterich asked if golf carts would be ticketed the same as other vehicles if they were in violation. She also expressed her concern with parking requirements for golf carts. Mr. Rothrock advised that golf carts had to be registered with the Police Department and during the process, golf cart owners could be told of any parking requirements, but he didn't anticipate a rush of golf carts on Main Street. Mayor Lawrence asked Chief Brown the number of golf carts registered in town currently. Mr. Brown stated there were approximately forty (40) registered golf carts.

With no further comments, Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to close the hearing, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

A motion to approve Golf Cart Ordinance Amendment #2012-04 was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.
Golf Cart Ordinance Amendment (Ord. #2012-04) – Exhibit C

OLD BUSINESS

1. Chamber of Commerce – Fresh Market Event Location

Mr. Hildebran stated that during the February meeting, Council directed Town staff to review different options for the location of the Downtown Fresh Market. Mr. Hildebran presented the following three options and the pros and cons of each option to Council for review:

A) Current Approved Location – Wallingford Street

Pros – parking in close proximity, all routes to American Legion Parking Facility are accessible, no private property owner is directly affected by road closure, accommodates all vendors

Cons – farthest from Main Street, least visible and requires the most signage

B) Park Avenue (adjacent to old Fire Department)

Pros – closer to Main Street and accommodates all vendors

Cons – located in blind curve and mixes traffic with pedestrians, creating a safety hazard

C) Park Avenue (adjacent to Chamber of Commerce Building)

Pros- closest to Main Street (visible), on-site management of event, all private property owners have access to homes via Wallingford Street, requires the least signage and accommodates all vendors (with room for some growth)

Cons – limits direct access to American Legion Parking Facility, has some impact to Library

Mr. Hildebran stated that Town staff and the Chamber of Commerce were in favor of Option C.

Commissioner Matheson inquired if residents who would be affected by the proposed locations had been contacted. Ms. Dell Slack, Fresh Market Coordinator and Charles Hardin, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce both stated that the majority of residents had been contacted and most were in favor of Option C. Commissioner Matheson also inquired if the owners of Blowing Rock Market had been approached regarding the closure of their side entrance while the Downtown Fresh Market was in operation. Mr. Rothrock stated that he had spoken with the owners and they preferred to leave the side entrance open so that larger vehicles could enter and exit safely.

Wallingford Street resident, Ms. Regina Pelsmaecker spoke against Option C. She stated that residents on Wallingford Street were already inconvenienced during Art in the Park events and she didn't think they should be inconvenienced further. Ms. Pelsmaecker suggested other locations be used such as the Maple Street Parking Lot or the American Legion Building so that traffic would not be impeded on Wallingford Street and Park Avenue.

Commissioner Yount commented that in his opinion, the Fresh Market had suffered since it had to be moved from Wachovia Bank's parking lot and he was in favor of a more visible location.

Town resident Karyn Herterich said there were some inconveniences when you lived in districts close to Main Street when events were held, but she thought having the Fresh Market closer to Main Street was a win-win for everyone.

Commissioner Phillips then made a motion to approve Option C Park Avenue adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce Building as the location for the Downtown Fresh Market. The motion received a second from Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.
Option C Park Avenue (adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce Building) – Exhibit D

2. Memorial Park – Site Upgrades

Town Manager Hildebran stated that during the February meeting, two options were presented to Council regarding proposed improvements to Memorial Park. At that time, Council directed staff to have the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission (BRAAC) review the proposed improvements.

During their March meeting, BRAAC reviewed the two proposals and suggested a modification of Option #1. The modification included – concrete ADA ramps to the playground areas, pavers around the gazebo bench areas, a combination of sod and grass mat areas and construction of two wells around the large maple tree in order to maximize green space. They also agreed to fund the tree wells and assist with landscape and design/layout.

The estimated costs for the three options were:

Option #1) Pavers and Sod - \$1,516.78

Option #2) Stamped Concrete - \$6,544.00

Option #3) Modification of Option #1 with concrete walkways, tree wells and plantings - \$3,850.00

Mr. Hildebran also explained the affect each option would have on the Parks & Recreation Department's budget.

After hearing the options, Commissioner Klutz stated he would be happy with any improvements to the park, however; he thought Option #2 would be best. He further stated that it would be a waste of time and money to try and get grass/plantings to grow in the problem areas and stamped concrete would be the best long-term solution.

Commissioner Yount commented that BRACC wanted to leave as much green space as possible in the park.

Mayor Lawrence thought a Master Plan for Memorial Park should be completed by an expert in that field. Commissioner Yount and Phillips both agreed with Mayor Lawrence's suggestion.

Audience member Karyn Hertertich stated that stamped concrete had been used at her place of business and it had to be replaced with pavers because it did not hold up well. Mr. Rothrock stated the park already had stamped concrete in certain areas and it had held up well over the past several years.

Commissioner Yount made a motion to defer this item until a Master Plan could be done for Memorial Park, seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Southern Breezes Carriages – Carriage Rides Permit

Town Manager Hildebran advised that Mr. Bridger Medlin of Southern Breezes Carriages was present to request authorization from Council to conduct carriage rides in downtown Blowing Rock. Mr. Hildebran stated that based on Council policy from August 9, 1994, all carriage rides must be approved by the Board and include the following information prior to Council consideration:

1. Sponsoring party and/or company background
2. List of references
3. Valid certificate of insurance for the duration of license period with Town to be named additional insured
4. Valid Town of Blowing Rock business license
5. Proposed route, including pick-up and drop-off location
6. Days/hours of operation
7. Months of operation
8. Inclement weather plan
9. Safety/cleanliness plan
10. Housing/feeding plan
11. Animal treatment plan
12. Rate schedule

According to Mr. Hildebran, this issue came before Council in August of 2010 and was denied. Since that time, the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce coordinated complimentary demonstration carriage rides from Southern Breezes Carriages in August 2011 to elicit comments and receive feedback on a possible route and logistics.

Mr. Medlin advised that he had spoken with several businesses in town and the majority were receptive of having carriage rides downtown. He also mentioned that he was aware of traffic being detoured during the 321 widening project and he was open to discussion regarding whether or not to have carriage rides during the busiest/congested times. Mr. Medlin also advised that he was willing to try the carriage rides on a trial basis and give a percentage of his profits back to the Town. According to Mr. Medlin, the rides would be offered Friday through Sunday beginning at 11:00 a.m. with the last ride being at 5:00 p.m. Each ride would last approximately 25 minutes. Mr. Medlin also advised that he had received requests from several restaurants and inns in reference to offering private carriage rides from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Medlin remarked if at any time there were three (3) or more vehicles behind the carriage, it would pull to the side and allow traffic to continue.

Proposed staging locations were at the corner of Sunset/Main, in front of the Pictorial Museum, or at the corner of Park Avenue/Main Street. He stated the most desired location would be at the Pictorial Museum on Main Street. Mr. Medlin mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce had offered to allow the carriages to be stationed at their

location on Park Avenue but he felt a kiosk would be needed to direct patrons to that location since it was off of Main Street.

Town resident, Susie Greene commented that many residents used the back roads during the busiest times in the summer to get to their destination and she thought allowing carriages on the back roads would only add to traffic congestion. Ms. Greene remarked that she wasn't against carriage rides, but felt this wasn't the appropriate time to allow them.

Ms. Alice Roess, a resident of Wonderland Trail agreed with Ms. Green, she also thought this was not the appropriate time for carriage rides.

Mr. Kent Tarbutton stated he had just returned from the Governor's conference on tourism and statistics showed that tourism increased by three percent for the State, however; there was a slight decrease in Blowing Rock. Mr. Tarbutton stated that people were looking for a "distinctive experience" while on vacation and carriage rides would be a great addition to offer visitors while visiting Blowing Rock. Mr. Tarbutton felt that Mr. Medlin's request was a reasonable request and urged Council to allow the carriage rides to operate on a trial basis.

Mr. Medlin also said that his business was a family-owned business that had operated full-time in the Charlotte area for the past 11 years.

Ms. Chelsea Garrett commented that she was in agreement with Mr. Tarbutton. She also encouraged Council to allow carriage rides on a trial basis because she thought the benefits would outweigh any potential problems.

Audience member Ms. Ginny Stevens inquired how long the trial period would be. Mayor Lawrence responded that the proposed trial period was one (1) year. Mr. Medlin stated any time less than one year would not be financially feasible.

Commissioner Phillips asked if all the merchants in town had been polled regarding this issue. He felt that more research should have been done. Mr. Medlin reiterated that he had spoken with many businesses that were receptive of his proposal, or he would not have continued with the request. He also stated that originally he had a petition with names of the businesses that were in favor of allowing carriage rides, but did not feel it was appropriate to present the petition with his request.

With no further discussion, Mayor Lawrence called for a vote on the request. Commissioner Yount made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

2. Bids/Financing – 2011-12 Capital Equipment Purchases

Town Manager Hildebran presented the following to Council for consideration:

1) Bids – FY 2011-12 Capital Equipment

Police Vehicles/Camera

According to Mr. Hildebran, Police Chief Eric Brown distributed request for proposals to law enforcement dealerships for bids for two (2) Police SUV Vehicles (1) AWD SUV with camera (Marked) and (1) AWD SUV (Unmarked), which were included in the 2011-12 fiscal year budget as well as the Fleet Replacement Schedule.

The bids received were as follows:

(1) <u>Police AWD SUV w/camera (Marked)</u>	Bid
Bobby Jones Ford (2013 Ford Interceptor)	\$34,867.36
Capital Ford (2013 Ford Interceptor)	\$34,877.00
Light N Up LLC (2012 Chevy Tahoe)	\$38,650.90
Randy Marion (2012 Chevy Tahoe)	\$39,379.00
(1) <u>Police AWD SUV (Unmarked)</u>	
Capital Ford (2013 Ford Interceptor)	\$28,760.00
Bobby Jones Ford (2013 Ford Interceptor)	\$29,068.36
Light N Up LLC (2012 Chevy Tahoe)	\$32,673.40
Randy Marion (2012 Chevy Tahoe)	\$33,750.00

Mr. Hildebran advised that staff recommended the bid be awarded to low bidder Capital Ford for \$63,637.00, excluding tax, title and tags.

Also, staff requested approval to surplus two (2) police vehicles that are scheduled to be retired, which will further reduce the net costs (VIN#3115 & 7445).

Public Works Skid Steer/Backhoe

Mr. Hildebran stated that Public Works Director Mike Wilcox had received quotes for both a new and used Skid Steer and Backhoe, which were included in the 2011-2012 fiscal years' budget as well as the Fleet Replacement Schedule.

The following quotes/bids were received:

<u>(1) Skid Steer</u>	Bid	Less Trade-in	Net Total
- Bobcat of Lenoir 2012 S650 Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader	\$32,700.44	(\$10,500.00)	\$22,200.44
- Bobcat of Lenoir 2012 S650 Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader	\$33,940.14	(\$10,500.00)	\$23,440.14
- Kubota of Boone 2012 S6603 Kubota Loader	\$43,057.00	(\$15,000.00)	\$28,057.00

	Bid	Less Trade-in	Net Total
- James River Equip. 2011 326D John Deere (139 hrs.)	\$41,000.00	(\$12,000.00)	\$29,000.00
- James River Equip. 2009 332 John Deere (205 hrs.)	\$38,500.00	(\$12,000.00)	\$26,500.00

The purchase will include the trade-in of a 2003 Case 70XT Skid Steer.

Staff recommended the bid be awarded to low bidder Bobcat of Lenoir for \$22,200.44, excluding tax and authorization of the trade-in.

<u>(1) Backhoe</u>	Bid	Less Trade-in	Net Total
- James River Equip. 2012 310SJ Deere Backhoe	\$79,091.16	(\$19,500.00)	\$59,591.16
- Winston Tractor 2012 B95 New Holland Backhoe	\$77,488.00	(\$13,400.00)	\$64,088.00
- Carolina Cat 2009 416E Cat Backhoe (68 hrs)	\$78,900.00	(\$13,500.00)	\$65,400.00
- James River Equip. 2008 410J Deere Backhoe	\$78,500.00	(\$19,500.00)	\$59,000.00

The purchase will include the trade-in of a 2002 New Holland LB75B Backhoe (VIN# 5348).

Staff recommended the bid be awarded to James River Equipment of Wilkesboro for \$59,591.16, excluding tax and authorization of the trade-in.

2) FINANCING PROPOSALS

2 Year not to exceed \$95,500

Mr. Hildebran stated the Town had requested financing proposals from area banks to finance the acquisition of capital vehicles approved in the FY 2011-12 Budget.

The responses received were as follows:

Bank	Fees	Rate
BB&T	NA	1.31%
First Citizens Bank	\$150	2.45%
Community One	\$650	3.53%
Bank of America		No Bid
High Country Bank		No Bid
PNC (RBC)		No Bid
Wells Fargo		No Bid

Lifestore Bank	No Bid
United Community	No Bid

Staff recommended the financing bid be awarded to BB&T for 1.31%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Matheson, seconded by Commissioner Klutz to award the bid to low bidder Capital Ford for \$63,637.00 for the purchase of police cars; low bidder James River Equipment in the amount of \$59,591.16 for the purchase of the a backhoe; and award to low bidder Bobcat of Lenoir for \$22,200.44 excluding tax and authorization of the trade-in for the purchase of a Skid Steer. The motion also included authorization to award financing of the equipment to BB&T bank for an interest rate of 1.31%. Unanimously approved.

3. Budget Amendment (Ordinance #2012-04)

Mr. Hildebran presented the following Budget Amendment Ordinance for the fiscal year 2011-2012 to Council for their consideration.

Section 1 (General Fund):

- Transfers funds received from the Blowing Rock ABC Store to the general capital projects fund towards the construction of the Robbins Pool at Broyhill Park picnic shelter.
- Reduces amounts previously appropriated from Fund Balance for the construction of the BRAHM parking facility due to project savings associated with sales tax.

Section 2 (General Capital Projects Fund):

- Transfers back to the General Fund amounts previously appropriated from Fund Balance for the construction of the BRAHM parking facility due to project savings associated with sales tax.
- Completes the transfer of funds received from the Blowing Rock ABC Store to the general capital projects fund towards the construction of the Robbins Pool at Broyhill Park picnic shelter.
- Allocates contributions received from individuals/businesses in the community and BRAAC towards the construction of the Robbins Pool at Broyhill Park picnic shelter.
- Adjusts budget figures to final totals for the Robbins Pool at Broyhill Park Construction Project.

Section 3 (Water/Sewer Capital Projects Fund):

- Reduces budget figures to final totals for the Boone/Blowing Rock Interconnection Project.

Commissioner Klutz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Ordinance #2012-04 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved.
Budget Amendment (Ordinance # 2012-04) – Exhibit E

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Bill Walker came before Council regarding the Planning and Inspection Department. Mr. Walker commended Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Building Inspector Jesse Horner and Administrative Assistant Tammy Bentley for their professional and knowledgeable help during the construction of his new home in Blowing Rock.

Ms. Karyn Herterich voiced her concerns with a recent public notice that she had seen in the *Blowing Rocket* newspaper regarding a large expenditure made by the Fire Department. Ms. Herterich stated that she had approached three elected officials regarding this article and they were not aware of the expenditure. Ms. Herterich commented that the Town and the Fire Department needed to be more pro-active regarding Fire Department activities. According to Ms. Herterich, there was a need for better communication and clarity regarding Fire Department activities.

Mayor Lawrence advised that Council had discussed this issue at length during a recent meeting and going forward, the Town as well as Blowing Rock Fire/Rescue would strive to have better communication with the citizens of Blowing Rock as well as each other.

Commissioner Yount commented that he, Commissioner Phillips and Town Manager Hildebran had recently attended a class at the NC School of Government which had been very informative. He stated that he had learned there were three ways in which to govern a municipality. One being the Town Council-Manager form of government; which meant that Town Manager Hildebran was the CEO of the town and employees worked directly under the manager; the Town Manager worked directly under Council. Commissioner Yount said that sometimes this was not adhered to and the only way to remedy this problem would be censorship, and hopefully that route would not have to be taken.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Town Manager Hildebran congratulated Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown who had recently welcomed a new baby boy to her family.

Town Manager Hildebran also expressed his appreciation to everyone who dedicated their time as members on the volunteer boards.

Mr. Hildebran mentioned donations were still needed for the construction of the picnic pavilion at the Robbins Pool. He asked that anyone wishing to donate see Ms. Alice Roess who had so graciously offered to assist with building funding for this cause. Mr. Hildebran advised that the Watauga High School construction class was building the pavilion with no labor cost to the Town.

In closing, Mayor Lawrence reminded everyone that the **April through November Council meetings would begin at 5:30 p.m.**

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (03-13-12)

BRCC- Annexation – (Ord. #2012-02) – Exhibit A

Amendments to Land Use Ordinance – Reformatting/Appendices (Ord. #2012-03) – Exhibit B

Golf Cart Ordinance Amendment (Ord. #2012-04) – Exhibit C

Option C Park Avenue (adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce Building) – Exhibit D

Budget Amendment (Ordinance # 2012-04) – Exhibit E