

DRAFT
MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting- May 13, 2014

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 5:30 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, Dan Phillips, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Building Inspector John Warren, Police Officer Bobby Canter, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Pickett to approve the minutes for the April 8th, 2014 meeting as written, seconded by Commissioner Sweeting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lawrence called Mr. Perry Coffey forward to thank him for his recent donation of a little league baseball uniform from the early 1960's. The baseball uniform was placed in the historical display case located at Town Hall in memory of Mr. Coffey's twin brother Hoyle Coffey. Mayor Lawrence commented that Mr. Coffey's family had been an integral part of the Town's history for many years and expressed his gratitude to the Coffey family.

A brief update on the Highway 321 Widening Project was given by Planning Director Kevin Rothrock since Mr. Kipp Turner of Maymead Construction Company was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Rothrock updated everyone on the various retaining walls along the widening project route. He also mentioned the traffic change near the Fire Department had been delayed and that excavation on the south end of the project continued.

Ms. Lorrie Mulhern of the Green Park Inn stated large trucks involved with the widening project continued to speed along Highway 321 and asked if something could be done to help with this problem. Town Manager Fogleman stated that he would be in touch with Mr. Turner regarding this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Manager Fogleman reviewed the following Consent Agenda items:

1. ABC Board Donation of \$1,081.98 for Two Additional Field Breath Testing Instruments

The Blowing Rock ABC Board awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,081.98 to the Town of Blowing Rock to purchase two additional field breath testing instruments. Staff recommended that Council recognize the donation as revenue to the Town's General Fund and appropriate the amount for expenditure within the Blowing Rock Police Department budget for expenditure.

2. High Country Half Marathon Date of Saturday August 30, 2014

A representative of this event requested that Council approve this date for the event in 2014. The request letter, race route and related logistics were received and Town staff recommended approval of the date and associated utilization of Town streets on Saturday, August 30, 2014.

3. Amendments to Section 125 Plan for Employees Associated with Affordable Care Act Compliance

Two amendments would be necessary for the Town of Blowing Rock's Section 125/Cafeteria Plan in order to comply with changes specified under the Affordable Care Act. The changes were regarding the transitional relief status and changes regarding eligibility. Staff recommended that Council approve the amendments. **Amendment to Eligibility and Effective Date and Transitional Relief Change in Status – Exhibit A**

Commissioner Yount made a motion to approve all Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Presentation of the Manager's Recommended Fiscal year 2015 Budget

Town Manager Fogleman advised that budget work sessions would be held on May 20th, 21st, 22nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. in order for Council to thoroughly discuss and review the budget recommendations. A public hearing would then be held at the June 10, 2014 Council meeting prior to the formal adoption of the budget.

A power point presentation was given by Town Manager Fogleman that reviewed several aspects of the recommended budget. He stated after the recent Watauga County tax revaluation, property values in Blowing Rock had decreased by \$24,148,865 or 2.34 percent. The Town's tax rate of \$0.28 per \$100 value was the lowest rate of any of the surrounding areas such as Beech Mountain, Boone, Watauga County, etc. However, the proposed budget reflected a recommended increase for fiscal year 2015 of 1.8 cents over the revenue neutral rate of 28.7 percent making the recommended rate of 30.5 cents; an increase of 6.3 percent. (For example: a tax increase of \$90.00 per year for a home valued as \$500,000.)

Mr. Fogleman also advised the recommended FY 2015 Budget included increases and adjustments in utility service rates as well.

Mr. Fogleman mentioned there were many infrastructure improvements needed within the Town as well as several governmental buildings in need of improvements. Mr. Fogleman specifically mentioned the Public Works Facility located on Cone Road and stated the Town's Comprehensive Plan had included plans for that facility and the construction of a salt bin (Phase I) had been completed.

Mr. Fogleman mentioned the possible need for a bond referendum as early as fall of 2014 for citizens to vote on priority items they would like to see completed.

Mr. Fogleman ended his presentation by stating the Recommended FY 2015 Budget presented to Council was balanced for a total of \$9,399,667.

Council extended their gratitude to Mr. Fogleman on a job well done.

SPEAKER FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Pat Kingsbury a resident of Laurel Park Road spoke regarding her safety concerns while exiting the Post Office and making a left-hand turn onto Main Street. After her presentation, Ms. Kingsbury proposed a traffic mirror be placed on the Reinhardt Building across from the exit to help alleviate the problem. Council thanked Ms. Kingsbury and expressed this issue would be evaluated further.

At 6:05 p.m., Commissioner Phillips made a motion to move into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143.318.11A(6), seconded by Commissioner Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

At 6:30 p.m. Council re-entered their regular meeting and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was then adjourned.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENT (05-13-14)

Amendment to Eligibility and Effective Date and Transitional Relief Change in *Status* – *Exhibit A*