

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Budget Work Session**  
**May 21, 2014**

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners continued their annual budget work sessions on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. The work sessions were held 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, Finance Director Nicole Norman and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Town Manager Fogleman updated Council on some recent General Assembly discussions regarding Schedule "B" Business License billing and advised that the Town should keep its current billing structure in place at this time with no changes.

Mr. Fogleman advised the recommended 2014-2015 budget included narrowing the market salary gap as identified in the Classification and Pay Scale Study that had been completed in recent months.

Council discussed the results of the study and the most feasible way to begin implementation as well as other employee benefits. Council requested that Mr. Fogleman bring to tomorrow's work session some other options for implementation. It was also recommended that Council's compensation remain unchanged.

Mr. Fogleman then discussed technology infrastructure improvements that were proposed in the budget. He stated the improvements could be completed in three phases as identified in the ten-year capital improvement plan.

An Underground Utility Study, in order to find out how much it would cost to bury utilities along Main Street, was discussed as a solid next step to be considered, since the exact scope and project parameters have not been quantified.

Mr. Fogleman then reviewed debt funding and other aspects of the proposed budget with Council. He also stated that Fund Balance remained at approximately 49.7 percent. Council further discussed the prospect of a bond referendum in order for residents to vote on the improvements they would like to see completed in the future. Council requested that Mr. Fogleman bring to tomorrow's work session additional estimates regarding various levels and resulting debt capacities.

Council also recommended a mid-year retreat be held on June 25, 2014 beginning at noon.

Mr. Fogleman advised the budget work session would continue the following day, Thursday, May 21, 2015 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting time was advanced to accommodate Council member schedules.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
**J.B. Lawrence** **Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**