

## MINUTES

### Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

On Wednesday, June 12, 2002, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for the Town of Blowing Rock reconvened at 7:00 p.m. to continue the meeting of Tuesday, June 11. Present were Mayor J. B. Lawrence, Barbara Ball, Keith Tester, Rita Wiseman, and David Wray. Terry Lentz was still sick and could not attend. Also present were Town Manager Don Holycross and Town Clerk Barbara Beach.

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order and announced that though the public hearing on the budget was closed the previous evening, he would still welcome any comments from the assembled citizens. Ms. Janice Coffey Herblin spoke against any tax increase. There were no other comments. Though some Council members wanted to delay action on the budget until Mr. Lentz could attend, the majority felt that Council should continue because of the uncertainty that Mr. Lentz would be able to attend a meeting the next day.

Mr. Tester stated that he saw no support for a progressive budget for the year, and Council members agreed to discuss ways to cut the budget to lower the tax rate. Each member outlined his or her priorities for the year, suggesting items that could be cut or modified to reduce the tax rate.

Members began compromise debate on the following motion proposed by Mr. Tester: Reduce the transfer from the General Fund for the swimming pool from \$72,000 to \$12,000; reduce the transfer from General Fund for sidewalks from \$95,000 to \$40,000; reduce the transfer from General Fund for Emergency Services from \$225,000 to \$100,000; appropriate \$195,000 from Fund Balance to cover the expected amount of state shared revenue that may be withheld by the state during this fiscal year; deletion of \$13,000 from the Recreation Department budget for a maintenance building; deletion of an error in the amount of \$3,250; and leave the Recycling Department budget intact for the first six months of the fiscal year. These changes would result in a tax rate of \$0.29. Mrs. Ball seconded the motion.

Ms. Wiseman stated that she does not agree with the appropriation of \$195,000 from Fund Balance, and she does not want to cut the transfer for Emergency Services. Mr. Wray believed it was important to fund Recycling for the full year, but reduce the number of employees from three to two. Mr. Lawrence called for a vote on the motion. Voting for the motion: Mr. Tester and Mrs. Ball. Voting against the motion: Mr. Wray and Ms. Wiseman. Mr. Lawrence broke the tie by voting against the motion.

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Ms. Wiseman indicated that she would accede to the original motion if the transfer for Emergency Services remains at \$225,000. Mr. Wray reiterated the motion as follows: Reduce the transfer from the General Fund for the swimming pool from \$72,000 to \$12,000; reduce the transfer from General Fund for sidewalks from \$95,000 to \$40,000; appropriate \$195,000 from Fund Balance to cover the expected amount of state shared revenue that may be withheld by the state during this fiscal year; deletion of \$13,000 from the Recreation Department budget for a maintenance building; deletion of an error in the amount of \$3,250; and leave the Recycling Department budget intact for the first six months of the fiscal year. This would produce a tax rate of \$0.305. Ms. Wiseman seconded the motion, and the vote was called. Voting for the motion: Mr. Wray and Ms. Wiseman. Voting against the motion: Mr. Tester and Mrs. Ball. Mr. Lawrence cast the tiebreaker by voting in favor of the motion.

**1. NCDOT Enhancement Project**

Mr. Holycross presented information about the North Carolina Department of Transportation Alternative Transportation Enhancement Program. The deadline for the submittal of preliminary applications for funding by the program is June 28. Town Engineer Marion Rothrock presented cost estimates for the construction of a sidewalk on the east side of Morris Street from Blowing Rock School to Chestnut Drive, and from Chestnut Drive to the hospital property. Members reviewed the estimate of \$367,020. Upon motion of Ms. Wiseman, second by Mrs. Ball, members voted unanimously to endorse the project and submit an application to NCDOT for the grant.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Lawrence expressed appreciation to the members of Council for their work in reaching a compromise on the difficult matter of the budget. There was no further business, and he adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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J. B. Lawrence,  
Mayor

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Barbara G. Beach, Town Clerk