

MINUTES

Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Blowing Rock met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J. B. Lawrence, Commissioners Barbara Ball, Terry Lentz, Keith Tester, and Rita Wiseman. David Wray was out of town and could not attend the meeting. Also present were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Marion Rothrock and Town Clerk Barbara Beach. Other staff members attending were Assistant Director of Public Works Mike Wilcox, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Building Inspector John Warren, and Police Chief Owen Tolbert.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order and welcomed the assembled citizens. Upon motion of Mr. Lentz, second by Mrs. Ball, Council voted unanimously to approve minutes for the meetings held on September 9, and October 6.

Old Business

1. Country Club Drive – Acceptance of Street

In response to Council approval of Conditional Use Permit number 2003-04 at the September meeting, the Blowing Rock Country Club submitted a survey of Country Club Drive for review by Council. The street is approximately 776.22 feet in length with a minimum average width of 18 feet. Ms. Wiseman moved that the street be accepted into the Town street system. Mrs. Ball seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

New Business

1. NCDOT Bridge Inspection Agreement

Council members considered a municipal agreement with the NC Department of Transportation for bridge inspections for Sunset Drive and Cornish Road. Mr. Hildebran explained that the U.S Surface Transportation Assistance Act requires that municipal bridges be inspected every two years. NCDOT will fund 80% of the cost of inspections, and the Town is billed for the remainder of the costs, estimated at \$2,400 per bridge.

In response to questions from citizens, Council discussed the increase in storm water on Sunset Drive, and possible solutions to this problem. After further discussion, Mrs. Ball made motion that the agreement be approved. Mr. Lentz seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

October 14, 2003

Page two

2. Conservation Easements - China Creek Property and Broyhill Lake

Mr. Hildebran reviewed draft conservation easements for the China Creek Property and Broyhill (Mayview) Lake. These must be adopted and recorded to comply with guidelines of the N. C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The covenant pertaining to the China Creek property will be in effect until the land is exchanged to the U. S. Park Service for the Town reservoir site. Grant monies from the Fund are expected to be released this month, and the closing with the Conservation Trust on the 192-acre China Creek property will be held shortly thereafter.

Upon motion of Ms. Wiseman, second by Mr. Lentz, Council members voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Lawrence to sign the draft conservation easements on behalf of the Town.

3. Bids - Compact Utility Loader

Council reviewed bids received for the purchase of a compact utility loader for the Landscaping Department. The bids received are as follows:

Turf Care Equipment \$17,044

Right of Way Equipment Co. 18,134

Smith Turf & Irrigation Co. 18,301

Staff recommended that the bid be awarded to Turf Care Equipment, and that a financing plan for budgeted capital items will be submitted at a later date for Council approval. Mr. Lentz moved that this recommendation be approved, and Mr. Tester seconded the motion. Council members voted unanimously to ratify the motion.

4. Schedule of Council Retreat

By consensus, members approved the scheduling of the annual Council retreat for January 19 and 20, 2004.

Departmental Reports

Mr. Hildebran announced that Blowing Rock Methodist Church has donated \$300 each to the Blowing Rock Fire Department, Blowing Rock Rescue Squad, and the Blowing Rock Police Department.

Mr. Hildebran also advised Council that the Town has condemned the dilapidated structure at the intersection of Highway 321 and Ski Mountain Road.

October 14, 2003

Page three

Mr. Tester and Mr. Hildebran reported on the North Carolina League of Municipalities Convention that they attended the previous weekend.

Ms. Wiseman asked that a public hearing on the proposed increase in occupancy tax and the creation of a Tourism Development Authority be scheduled for the November 11 Council meeting.

Adjournment

There was no further business, and Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor J. B. Lawrence

Barbara G. Beach, Town Clerk