

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock

Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting

October 5, 2004

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on October 5, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Town of Blowing Rock's water resources. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Rita Wiseman, Barbara Ball, and Keith Tester. Commissioners Terry Lentz and David Wray were unable to attend due to prior engagements. Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Andy Lovingood from McGill and Associates, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene also attended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tester for the new Finance Director Margaret Pierce to be sworn into office by Mayor Lawrence, seconded by Commissioner Wiseman. The motion was unanimously approved.

Andy Lovingood a member of the town's engineering firm presented to Council his understanding of a meeting the Town of Boone held on September 27, 2004, regarding their water situation, and how this would affect the proposed interconnection between the Town of Blowing Rock and Town of Boone. He felt an interconnection with the Town of Boone could not be pursued as originally planned.

Mr. Lovingood gave a review of the current water supply issues. Some of the things he talked about were raising the dam impoundment height to gain additional raw water storage, the Middle Fork raw water intake off Payne Branch Road, and the prospect of building another storage tank.

Council discussed many issues concerning the Middle Fork raw water intake and if this would be the best choice for the Town. Mr. Lovingood advised he would do a more in-depth study concerning this option.

Also, the need for another storage tank was discussed. Mr. Lovingood stated there wasn't a need for another 3 million-gallon tank like we have now, a smaller one would suffice. He stressed the water quality was of utmost importance. Various site options were talked about for the placement of a new storage tank. Commissioner Wiseman asked if an underground water tank could be an option. Mr. Lovingood and Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, both stated it would cost more money and if problems occurred and there was additional expense digging below ground. Mr. Lovingood also stressed the need to keep the system simple and cost effective which minimize pumps or valves.

An increase of the raw water reservoir capacity was discussed briefly. The length of time to raise the reservoir level and the associated costs were also issues.

Mr. Lovingood stated he did not anticipate any major problems with the water treatment plant. He stated the capacity of the plant was two million gallons a day, which was sufficient.

Ms. Wiseman asked if there were any grant money available for these projects, Mr. Lovingood stated he would continue to pursue grant possibilities.

It was consensus of the Board that McGill & Associates do a comprehensive growth study for the town and a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) prioritizing the needs of the town's water system.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

MAYOR _____

J.B. Lawrence

Attest: _____

Sharon H. Greene, Town Clerk