

# MINUTES

## Town of Blowing Rock

### Board of Commissioners

September 15, 2005

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners attended a luncheon on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at noon at Chetola Resort given by representatives of the Mariam and Robert Hayes Performing Arts Center. The purpose of the luncheon was to update Council on the progress made in the construction of the new Performing Art Center located on Valley Boulevard. Those in attendance were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Terry Lentz, Rita Wiseman and David Wray. Town Manager Scott Hildebran and Town Clerk Sharon Greene also attended. Performing Arts Center representatives were, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chip Williamson, Executive Director Jeff Clark, Manager of the Blowing Rock Stage Co., Ken Kay, Wachovia Bank's Community Banker Jason Triplett, and Wachovia President of Credit Underwriting, Kirby Alderman.

A slide presentation was given, highlighting various stages of construction of the arts center. Mr. Williamson spoke of the groundbreaking ceremony held on July 10, 2005.

Mr. Williamson also spoke of the great economic impact the performing arts center would have on the Blowing Rock community.

Mr. Williamson presented Council with information regarding the arts center's budget. He stated that 62.8% of their budget was from individuals, 24% from the foundation, 7.5% from corporations, 4.7% from the federal government, and 1% from local government.

Jeff Clark, Executive Director, spoke of the up coming schedule for their 20<sup>th</sup> season. He also addressed future plans once the new arts center was finished; which would include, having the capability of presenting more plays each season, and also being able to present more than one play daily. Mr. Clark stated the art center would be used in various other ways, such as, for educational meetings, conferences, festivals, etc. He also stated that organizations within the surrounding area had expressed an interest in renting the arts center for other cultural events.

Wachovia Representative, Jason Triplett, stated that Wachovia felt very confident in the future of the arts center. He also stated if for some reason, construction should cease, Wachovia would finish the project.

In concluding the luncheon meeting, Mr. Williamson asked if Council had any comments or concerns they would like to share. Mayor Lawrence inquired if an opening date had been set. Mr. Williamson stated the anticipated opening date was June 15, 2006.

Commissioner Wiseman asked if Blowing Rock's seasonal weather would impact the attendance at the arts center. Mr. Williamson stated that the strongest months would be May through October, but there would be several different programs during the winter months also.

Mayor Lawrence asked what their expectations of Council were. Mr. Williamson stated that they would appreciate Council's unified support as well as support from the community.

Commissioner Ball wished the project much success, and stated she felt they had full support from the Board.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 1:35p.m.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**J.B. Lawrence**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sharon H. Greene, Town Clerk**