

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock

Board of Commissioners

December 12, 2006

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J. B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Terry Lentz, Rita Wiseman and Tommy Klutz. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Police Chief Eric Brown, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

Call to Order

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Ball to approve the minutes for meetings held on November 14 and 17, 2006, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Commissioner Wiseman stated there was one correction needed for the minutes of November 17th on page two, paragraph four. "Town Attorney" needed to be changed to "Town Auditor". With the recommended correction, Commissioner Ball made a motion to approve the minutes for November 14 and 17, 2006, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Unanimously approved.

Presentation – Update on Blowing Rock Art & History Museum

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum President Wellborn Alexander and Executive Director Joanne Mitchell were present to update Council on the status of the museum project to be constructed on town property.

Ms. Mitchell thanked Council for the opportunity to speak regarding the museum. She stated that BRAHM was now in their 4th year of operation with an active membership of approximately 600 people. Ms. Mitchell stated they remained committed to their mission of promoting the visual arts and history and celebrating the rich heritage of the mountains.

She informed Council of a new program in collaboration with the Blowing Rock Elementary School called "Young at Art" for Kindergarten thru 2nd Grade, funded and staffed by BRAHM.

Ms. Mitchell stated they fully anticipated meeting their deadline of August 2008 to break ground for the construction of the museum and efforts to raise funds informally began in the spring. Ms. Mitchell stated that BRAHM was pleased with the level of support they had received, and would continue to solicit donations. A formal public announcement regarding their campaign would be during their Annual Meeting held in June 2007 according to Ms. Mitchell.

Ms. Mitchell informed Council that Mr. John Calvin a member of the Board of Trustees had agreed to serve as the Project Manager for the building. Mr. Calvin would select a Construction Manager at Risk by asking a group of contractors to make proposals. Mr. Calvin also agreed to manage the construction of the Parking Structure for the Town at no cost should the Town so desire. Ms. Mitchell inquired if steps had been taken by the Town in order for this parking structure to happen.

Ms. Mitchell also stated that Conceptual/Preliminary Design drawings had been obtained and within 90 days of reaching their fundraising target, the architect would be instructed to begin preparation of construction drawings.

Ms. Mitchell stated that BRAHM was committed to a "campus concept" of three structures on one location each supporting the purpose of the others.

In closing, Ms. Mitchell stated that BRAHM looked forward to participating in the beautification of South Main Street.

Commissioner Wiseman inquired if the proper steps had been taken with the North Carolina Legislature regarding the parking structure. Town Manager Hildebran stated a bill allowing the parking structure to be constructed without formal bidding and via a non-profit had been approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. U.S. Forest Service – Globe Project (Resolution #2006-17)

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with a draft Resolution # 2006-17 Opposing the USDA Forest "Globe Project".

Commissioner Ball stated that efforts were being made by several people to raise awareness regarding the proposed "Globe Project". She stated that approximately 1200 letters and emails were delivered to the Forest Service during the 1st Comment period, with approximately 95% of them stating they were not in favor of the "Globe Project".

Commissioner Ball informed the audience the new proposal from the forest service would affect 19 acres less than the original proposal.

She stated, at the present time, all that could be done was to continue writing letters hoping the forest service would not continue with their "Globe Project" efforts. Commissioner Ball also hoped to get support from a local representative in getting a local bill approved by Congress for a Scenic Area Designation. Commissioner Ball recommended that Council adopt another resolution taking the "No Action" stance regarding the "Globe Project". She also asked that the Town of Boone and Watauga County be approached regarding the adoption of another resolution also opposing the "Globe Project" with the deadline for comments being December 20, 2006.

Commissioner Tester agreed with Commissioner Ball's summary stating the new alternative proposed by the forest service did not dramatically change the perimeters of the project.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2006-17 was made by Commissioner Tester, seconded by Commissioner Wiseman. At this time, Mayor Lawrence suggested the word "widely" be removed from paragraph three of the proposed resolution. Commissioner Tester amended his previous motion to reflect the recommended change, receiving a second from Commissioner Wiseman. Unanimously approved. **Resolution Opposing the USDA Forest Service "Globe Project" #2006-17 (Attachment 1)**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Memorial Park Picnic Shelter

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with a proposal from the Parks and Recreation Department for construction of a picnic shelter on the north side of the park restrooms. The Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan (2004-20024) recommended that additional shelters be added in the Memorial Park as well as the Robbins Memorial Pool. The proposed shelter would encompass four (4) tables and would be approximately 18 feet wide by 24 feet long with a hip roof and 18-inch eave overhang. The shelter would have architectural shingles to match the Town Hall

building, and the support post and trim would be stained to match Town Hall and other park structures also.

A preliminary sketch and scaled drawings were presented to Council for their review.

According to Town Manager Hildebran, the estimates for the project, including labor were approximately \$12,000. Mr. Hildebran stated that Blowing Rock Renovators had made a very generous offer to construct the shelter at cost with labor being donated to the Town. Their estimation for materials was between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

Mr. Hildebran also stated the Winterfest Committee was interested in contributing a portion of Winterfest proceeds to fund construction of the shelter.

During the November 16th Planning Board meeting, a recommendation was made for approval of the shelter with a hip roof design, an ADA-accessible picnic table, and an ADA-compliant picnic area surface. They also recommended if funds allowed, that rock be added to the post bases to match the park restroom building.

Commissioner Wiseman recommended that a rock or cedar clad abutment be used along the columns base instead of just posts. She felt this would enhance the appearance of the shelter. Commissioner Klutz recommended that diagonal corner braces be used on the roof.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wiseman, with the recommended changes to accept the proposed picnic shelter in memorial park, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

2. FY 2006-2007 Audit Contract

Town Manager Hildebran requested that Council consider the FY 2006-2007 Audit Contract with Combs, Tennant & Carpenter, PC not to exceed \$19,000 which included all GASB #34 audit standards.

A motion was received from Commissioner Lentz to accept the FY 2006-2007 Audit Contract, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. **FY 2006-2007 Audit Contract (Attachment 2)**

Speakers from the Floor

None

Departmental Reports

Council inquired if department heads had anything they would like to discuss or problems to report. With no further discussion, Mayor Lawrence extended his wishes for everyone to have a Happy Holiday.

At this time, Commissioner Wiseman requested that Council move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters by authority of North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(6), seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

The meeting reconvened and with no further business to discuss, Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MAYOR _____

J.B. Lawrence

Attest: _____

Sharon Greene, CMC

Attachments:

#1 Resolution #2006-17

#2 FY 2006-2007 Audit Contract

