

**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes – April 10, 2007**

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Present were Mayor JB Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Terry Lentz, and Rita Wiseman. Commissioner Tommy Klutz was out of town. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Finance Director Margaret Pierce, Building Inspector Jesse Horner, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Eric Brown, Assistant Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, and Payroll Administrator Alicia Kellam.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion received from Commissioner Wiseman, seconded by Commissioner Tester, the minutes for the March 6, 2007 meeting with corrections and the minutes for the March 13, 2007 meeting as written were approved. Unanimously approved.

**Public Hearing**

**1. CUP #2007-03 – Chetola Resort Conference Center – Major Amendment**

Planning Director Rothrock presented Council with a draft major amendment to CUP #2007-03 to allow expansion and improvements to Chetola Lodge Conference Center. Commissioner Tester questioned if everything would meet town code and if there were any request for waivers. Director Rothrock affirmed everything will meet town code and there are no requests for waivers.

Randy Jones, the architect for the project, reviewed in detail the changes that were to be made if approved by Council. The changes discussed were filling in the “pit” area, putting in a lift/loading dock type area, expanding the front desk, the laundry room, and adding a 130-seat conference room.

Kent Tarbutton, representative for Chetola, stated the “pit” area was wasted real estate and was dangerous during the winter months. Mr. Tarbutton spoke in detail of the expansions to the laundry room and the meeting room area. Commissioner Tester questioned if the meeting room expansion was to support the hotel environment or sell the use of the meeting facility to the public. Mr. Tarbutton affirmed 85% of the usage of the meeting facility was by those lodged at Chetola but that it was also used by the general public.

With no other comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Lentz, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve CUP #2007-03 as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. **(CUP #2007-03 Attachment #1)**

## **2. Troyer – Annexation Petition (Ordinance #2007-02)**

Planning Director Rothrock presented Council with Ordinance #2007-02 regarding the annexation petition of the Troyer Lot (0.73 acres) located at the end of Gideon Ridge Lane.

Mr. Kevin Troyer submitted a petition of voluntary annexation for Council consideration in March which initiated the annexation process. If approved as presented, the annexation will become effective on June 30, 2008 to coincide with the Gideon Ridge Area annexation.

With no other comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Wiseman, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Unanimously approved. A motion was made by Commissioner Wiseman to adopt Ordinance #2007-02 with the amendment it will be recorded with the Caldwell County Register of Deeds, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Unanimously approved. **(Ordinance #2007-02 Attachment #2)**

## **New Business**

### **1. Watauga County Zero Waste Project – Jasmine ShoShanna**

Ms. ShoShanna presented to Council the Watauga County Zero Waste Project and explained the importance it holds to preserving the environment. Zero waste is the practice of the following:

- Reduce consumption – living simply is a better way to protect natural resources
- Reuse – donate unwanted items to reuse stores
- Compost – 60%-90% of waste can be composted. Composting has the largest impact on zero waste. There are two ways to compost; back yard composting and municipal composting. Compost becomes the main ingredient in topsoil and puts carbon back into the soil instead of in then atmosphere.
- Recycle – rates have been dropping because fewer materials are recyclable. Recycling is only fourth in this hierarchy, the previous three are essential along with recycling to achieve the zero waste concepts.

She urged Council to adopt a resolution to support the creation of a Zero Waste Project Plan for the Town.

Mayor Lawrence thanked Ms. ShoShanna for her presentation and asked Town Manager Hildebran to draft a resolution for zero waste for consideration next month by Town Council.

## **2. Blowing Rock Winterfest**

Winterfest Committee Representative David Wray presented information on the 2007 Winterfest. He stated that Winterfest brought approximately 3,000 visitors to Blowing Rock with a positive influence on the retail, occupancy and restaurant areas in Town. Winterfest netted approximately \$10,000.00, with \$6,100.00 of the proceeds being returned back to the community.

Winterfest Committee Representative Earl Horne presented Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown with a check for \$1,500.00 to assist in offsetting the cost incurred for the new picnic shelter and also presented Emergency Service Director Kent Graham with a check for \$1,500.00 for Fire and Rescue. The Emergency Services Department will also receive a \$400.00 donation from Meadowbrook Inn.

Commissioner Wiseman questioned if the majority of the funds came back to Blowing Rock and Mr. Wray stated the majority of the proceeds were kept in the Town of Blowing Rock. He also requested that Council approve the 2008 Winterfest dates of January 24-27.

A motion to approve the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 2008 Winterfest activities on January 24-27, 2008 was made by Commissioner Lentz, seconded by Commissioner Tester. Unanimously approved.

## **3. Employee Health/Dental/Life Insurance Plan Renewal**

Town Manager Scott Hildebran presented the new rates for insurance and requested approval to renew the contracts with the current insurance providers. There is a 4.6% or \$15,675.00 increase in health insurance, down from 20% before negotiations, and an 8% increase in dental insurance. Modifications to the health insurance plan include co-pays, pharmacy co-pays, and deductibles. Both renewal prices are well within market standards.

Town Manager Hildebran discussed the continuance of pursuing the state health plan for another year. The Town must be with its current insurance provider for three years to be eligible for the state health plan. Town Manager Hildebran stated this year will be the third year with the current provider for the Town.

A motion to execute both insurance contracts was made by Commissioner Wiseman, seconded by Commissioner Lentz. Unanimously approved. (**Cigna HealthCare Group Benefits Renewal, Companion Dental/Life/AD&D Attachment #3**)

### **Departmental Reports**

Town Manager Hildebran announced that the Town Clean-Up Day is April 21 at 9:30 a.m. The DOT was contacted about cleaning up 321, Valley Boulevard with inmates to allow volunteers to concentrate more on the residential parts of town.

Town Manager Hildebran also stated the picnic shelter is almost complete and he thanked Earl Horne and Winterfest for the donation made to Parks and Recreation for the shelter. He also recognized Blowing Rock Renovators for donating their time and skills to build the shelter.

Planning Director Rothrock stated the Planning Department is taking proposals from private planning firms to assist in updating and clarifying the Land Use Code.

Commissioner Tester reviewed with Council the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Vision 20/20 mission statement and potential initiatives. The taskforce is designed to assist the Chamber in focusing more on economic development and support for downtown businesses. (**Vision 20/20 Attachment #4**)

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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**J.B. Lawrence, Mayor**

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**Alicia M. Kellam**

**Attachments**

**#1 – CUP #2007-03-Major Amendment**

**#2 – Ordinance #2007-02**

**#3 – Cigna HealthCare Group Benefits Renewal Contract & Companion Dental/Life/AD&D**

**#4 – Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Vision 20/20**