

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council
Budget Work Session
May 31, 2017

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council began their annual budget work session on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. The work session was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Mayor Pro-tem Albert Yount, Council Members Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson, and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans, Finance Director Nicole Norman, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Fire Chief Kent Graham and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner. Council Member Jim Steele was unable to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Fire Chief Kent Graham was present to discuss and answer any questions Council had regarding the Fire Department. Chief Graham explained the reasoning for adding six new positions was due to call volume and not enough staff. Chief Graham advised funding for the proposed position's will be funded out of the Fire Department's budget which funds are received from Watauga County and Caldwell County.

Town Manager Evans advised that Town Engineer Doug Chapman was present to answer any questions Council might have regarding capital improvements. Mr. Chapman reviewed items completed during the first phase of the General Obligation Bond. Town Manager Evans advised that bond paper work for the second phase of the bond will begin in the fall (FY 17-18), and projects will likely begin in the spring of FY 17-18.

Town Engineer Chapman discussed the Bass Lake sidewalk project. Council discussed options of doing the project in phases. Mr. Chapman advised he would have to discuss with NCDOT as the Bass Lake sidewalk project is a NCDOT project. Council Member Sweeting advised she would like to see this project get started as soon as possible as its almost a year behind schedule.

Town Manager Evans advised Council that the FY 17-18 Recommended budget for the General Fund increased from the FY 16-17 adopted budget. Town Manager Evans reviewed the budget summary by each line.

Town Manager Evans reviewed an overview of the fourth and final installment of the class and pay study and with Council.

Town Manager Evans advised the increase in Water and Sewer Capital is due to the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Town Manager Evans reviewed the details of

implication of the AMI. Council discussed various options to educate the consumer and advised they felt it would be helpful to have a formal presentation from the company for residents to attend.

Town Manager Evans began his review of General Fund Expenditures of each department.

ADJOURN

At 9:10 p.m., Council recessed the work session to continue the following day beginning at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR _____ **ATTEST** _____
J.B. Lawrence **Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk**