

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Annual Departmental Meeting
March 26, 2018

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council continued their annual departmental meetings on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, N.C. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Albert Yount, and Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Virginia Powell. Others in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans, TDA Director Tracy Brown, Police Chief Tony Jones, Fire Chief Kent Graham and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, whom recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Yount called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE TDA

TDA Director Brown reviewed the activities and accomplishments TDA was a part of for 2017 and stated it was a record year. Mr. Brown also stated that the January 2018 occupancy report had a 24% increase over January of 2017.

Mr. Brown advised he will do new photos to reflect the updates that have been done to Memorial Park.

Mr. Brown briefly explained and discussed one of the new widget tools the TDA has implemented on the visitor website, "Jackrabbit", which is an online booking engine. Mr. Brown advised they are under contract for three (3) years and will see if this helps increase the bookings.

Mr. Brown discussed STR helper and in length the benefits this service will provide the Town to help with locating illegal short-term rentals in Town.

Council Member Matheson asked for TDA to help promote and advertise on their website and Facebook the "Sledding Hill" on Wallingford.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Tony Jones reviewed some highlights from 2017 for his department.

Chief Jones and Manager Evans reported that they had been asked by the Watuaga County School Superintendent Scott Elliott to consider providing a School Resource Officer for Blowing Rock Elementary in the new budget. Manager Evans advised this is something he and Tony were going to look into and gather more information to present at the budget. Mayor Sellers stated he felt this was something Council should really consider.

Council briefly discussed Dispatch, Manager Evans advised he and Chief Jones are working on exploring another option. Chief Jones briefly discussed with Council putting in for a few new positions in the upcoming budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Yount and Mayor Sellers were both in favor of considering this.

Chief Jones briefly discussed Parking Enforcement. His suggestion would be to add an extra day for the Parking Enforcement Officer. Instead of three (3) days, increase to four (4) days.

FIRE/RESCUE SERVICES

Fire Chief Kent Graham discussed at length with Council the current schedule and updated them on what is currently going on with the ambulance in Blowing Rock. Chief Graham advised he is continuing to provide Blowing Rock Fire’s standard of care and level of service.

Chief Graham advised they have become a part of Caldwell County EMS System Plan because Blowing Rock Fire is the primary transport provider for the Caldwell portion of the district.

Fire Chief Graham mentioned he was very proud of his Firefighters/EMT’s for completion of the oral exam boards they recently completed. He reported that Dr. McClinton, Caldwell County Emergency Services Director, was “blown away” with them and their knowledge and skills. Chief Graham reiterated how proud he was of his staff and advised that is just confirmation that what they are doing is working well and the right decisions are being made.

Mayor Pro-Tem Yount asked how our involvement with Caldwell County helps Blowing Rock. Chief Graham advised some citizens are located in Caldwell County, and the details in the training level and equipment and supplies benefit them, and the Watauga County portion of Blowing Rock. He further advised Blowing Rock Fire has equipment on their trucks today they didn’t have yesterday that is being provided by Caldwell County.

OTHER

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk