

# Town of Blowing Rock

## Request for Council Action

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FROM: Charles Hardin & Ed Evans  
SUBJECT: Park Avenue Improvements  
TO: Town Council  
DATE: November 13, 2018  
REQUESTED BY: Manager

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Public Hearing  Yes  No  Not required  NA  
Properly Advertised  Yes  No  Not required  NA

### BACKGROUND:

The Town Council approved and allocated money in the FY 2018-19 Town Budget to make improvements on Park Avenue which included new sidewalks, curb and gutter, new drainage pipes, and repair of asphalt adjoining these areas on the south side of the street. That construction and planning began on October 15.

We have now received a request from the Blowing Rock Chamber to consider adding curb and sidewalk to the north side of Park Avenue from the Chamber's eastern-most driveway to the corner of Park Avenue and Main Street.

Initially, the Chamber had requested permission to add sidewalk and curb from their eastern-most driveway to the driveway at Blowing Rock Market at their own expense. This fell through due to the Chamber not having adequate financial resources, so that option was never requested of Council. The Chamber has now asked the Town to consider this portion of the north side of Park Avenue.

If Council were to consider the north portion, we will need to confirm there are no right-of-way issues and confirm the property boundaries of the Blowing Rock Market. However, initial research reveals the road is on town property and the ROW is established and belong to the Town of Blowing Rock. Therefore, we don't think there is a problem with these concerns. If Council approves moving forward with the project, we will get an legal opinion.

The south portion of Park Avenue quote and projected cost is \$91,500. The total approved in the FY2018-19 budget was \$123,250. The difference is \$31,750. Iron Mountain, Inc. has provided a quote for the work on the north side of Park Avenue and it is \$14,820. This would provide a sidewalk and curbing. With this addition, the remaining funds after working on the south and north side is estimated to be approximately \$16,930 after both sides are complete. This leaves a reserve for any unforeseen issues that should arise.

Iron Mountain Construction, Inc. has already told us they can do the north side of Park Avenue job while they are here if we notify them in time before the completion of the south side of Park Avenue.

The Chamber receives frequent visitors. Currently, most people walk on Park Avenue instead of on the existing sidewalk. With the improved sidewalk on the south side of Park Avenue, our hope is that people will stop walking in the road. Visitors to the Chamber will either have to cross the road at the Chamber, perhaps necessitating a cross-walk, or have a sidewalk on the north side of the road, or both.

ATTACHMENTS:

GIS map of Park Avenue with illustrated area of additional work.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Council consider the merits of the request from the Chamber and safety of visitors. Staff recommends completing the identified portion of the north side of Park Avenue.

