

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Town Council**  
**Special Meeting- July 19, 2016**

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting to discuss the Bid Award Consideration for Ditchline Repairs, Road Repairs, and Resurfacing and Overnight Parking Status and Options on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence (who arrived 15 minutes after the meeting started), Mayor Pro-Tem Albert Yount, Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Police Chief Tony Jones, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro-Tem Yount called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated that a public hearing would not be held.

**Discussion Agenda**

**1. Bid Award Consideration for Ditchline Repairs, Road Repairs, and Resurfacing**

Town Engineer Doug Chapman stated the first item to discuss is the Road Resurfacing. Mr. Chapman reviewed the list of streets that scored the lowest and were in the most need of repair. Mr. Chapman advised two (2) bids were received, with Tri-County Paving being the low bidder with a total bid of \$1,217,803.40. Mr. Chapman explained this was higher than the amount that had been budgeted, resulting in eliminating some of the extra streets that had been added to the list. Mr. Chapman stated that based on the list using the scoring system, Town Staff met and created the current list of streets in need of the most repair. Mr. Chapman advised based on that current list it is recommended the bid award go to Tri-County Paving in the amount of \$1,059,174.32 with a 2.7% contingency.

Mr. Chapman stated that only one bid was received for the Ditchline Repairs, which was from Tri-County Paving in the amount of \$350,765.00. Mr. Chapman advised he felt this bid was within the amount that could be expected for this project and he felt the bid was competitive. Mr. Chapman recommended that the bid be awarded to Tri-City Paving with a 2% contingency.

Mr. Chapman advised Thomas Construction was the low bidder for the Road Failure Repairs in the amount of \$472,683.89. Mr. Chapman stated this bid was a little higher than expected, but this was due to Cone Road and Laurel Park Road being two of the

streets with the most significant repairs needing to be done. Mr. Chapman explained Laurel Park Road is not as dangerous as Cone Road and not in as much need of repair as Cone Road. Mr. Chapman further explained that it was his recommendation at this time not to award a contract for the Laurel Park Road repair. Mr. Chapman stated that he recommends the bid award be to Thomas Construction and a 10% contingency fee be added.

Council Member Sweeting asked why there was such a large gap in the amount bid between Thomas Construction and Mountain Crest, LLC. Mr. Chapman explained that the person who bid for Mountain Crest wasn't as comfortable with the project so he bid a much higher amount. Council Member Steele and Mayor Pro-Tem Yount stated this indicates this is nothing more than a courtesy bid.

Council Member Steele stated that some of the ditches he felt are a safety issue and pretty deep, one being up Sunset Drive near Cornish Road, are not on the list. Mr. Chapman stated if there is an area like that missed he would be glad to take a look at it for consideration.

Council Member Steele asked Mr. Chapman to explain why a contingency was needed for paving. Mr. Chapman explained it is due to an unexpected area having to be cut out or extra stone needing to be added underneath.

Council Member Sweeting asked if any of the streets will be milled. Mr. Chapman explained a few areas will be and also bad sections of road will be cut out and redone. Council Member Sweeting further asked if the heights of the neighbor's driveways will be looked at because that has been an issue in the past with it being paved and left too high and causing drainage issues. Mr. Chapman said they are factored in.

Council Member Matheson asked if a guard rail would be added on Cone Road. Mr. Chapman stated the current plan is not to add any guard rails in Town, but in this area a 3 to 4 foot shoulder will be built.

Council Member Matheson asked Mr. Chapman how far out Council can bid in terms of timing. He explained he felt if the bidding was done earlier it might help eliminate contractors getting busy and not giving as competitive of a bid. Mr. Chapman explained the bids can be done earlier, but it is a possibility that the asphalt costs will be much higher, as they vary with the price of oil.

Council Member Pickett asked if all the ditchlines to be repaired are on the Resurfacing List. Mr. Chapman advised that all the ditchlines that have been identified are on the list, not to say some could have been missed. Council Member Pickett further asked if anything is being done in the steep ditchlines to slow the water down. Mr. Chapman stated not in the current plan, but the Rip Rap does help with that issue.

Council Member Pickett made a motion to accept the bid from Tri-County Paving for the Road Reurfacing and Ditchline Repairs and Thomas Construction for the Road Failure Repairs, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved. **Powerpoint – Attachment A**

## **2. Overnight Parking Status and Options**

Town Manager Scott Fogleman reviewed with Council the current overnight parking ordinance and asked for feedback on some additional options.

Mayor Lawrence commented that he had gotten more phone calls on this parking issue than he has gotten on any issue in his entire time on Town Council. He further stated that if Council has made a mistake with this ordinance, now is the time to correct it.

Council Member Pickett stated he felt that Council has learned that this issue has caused a lot of hardships for people, but he felt as though commercial vehicles should still not be allowed to park in public spots overnight.

Mayor Lawrence stated that a lot of the issues with the current parking were created way back when Council didn't have strict parking enforcement and parking wasn't an issue in Town. He further stated it is hard for residents who have been accustomed to doing something for twenty plus years and all of a sudden being told they can no longer have that option.

Council Member Sweeting commented she would like to hear what the people present to speak have to say about the parking issue.

Town resident and apartment owner Mr. Randy Rupard explained to Council that he and his wife own an apartment on Maple Street and their tenant has been impacted by the parking issue. Mr. Rupard advised his tenant is a young lady, her parents visited and loved the Town as well as her location and the fact she could park in front of her apartment and be safe. He explained that this apartment has been in his family since the 1950's, back when there was no parking issue and he feels that it's not right that after all these years it has to change.

Mayor Lawrence commented that he feels that it is wrong that someone can park in any of the public parking areas all day and at night they are not permitted to park there.

Council Member Steele commented that other Towns charge for parking and you pay by the month for parking.

Ms. Darlene Rupard stated the young people that live and work in this Town don't make a lot of money and it is expensive to live in Blowing Rock so having them pay for a parking pass isn't right. Ms. Rupard further explained that there are buildings like this

all over Town in this situation because the buildings were built long before this parking ordinance was put into place.

Hotel Owner Debora McDowell stated that she wanted people that patronize the bars at night to be able to keep their cars parked and not be drinking and driving due to the fact they can't leave a car in a parking spot overnight. Mrs. McDowell further explained that she and her husband have limited parking at their business, Mountaineer Inn, and from time to time when they are full they will move their cars or have a guest park in the public parking area. Mrs. McDowell stated this is not a frequent occurrence but from time to time it has happened. Mrs. McDowell commented that she doesn't feel this should be an issue when people are here spending money in our Town and there are empty parking decks. Mrs. McDowell felt as though the Town's public parking should be used for the people visiting the Town.

Hotel Manager Lorry Mulhern stated she felt something needed to be done to help with this situation and her main concern was people being overserved at a restaurant and drinking and driving.

Council Member Matheson asked Police Chief Tony Jones his thoughts on the issue. Chief Jones stated, in his opinion, the ordinance should be repealed. He further explained he has talked to a lot of people whom have been effected and what initially was thought to be a very small group impacted has turned out to be a very large amount of people. Mr. Jones commented he agreed with Mayor Lawrence that it is best to admit that a mistake has been made and move forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Yount stated he felt that the money paid for overnight parking tickets should be refunded.

Council Member Matheson commented that he felt as though the Police Department knows who abuses the parking and he trust Chief Jones opinion.

Council Member Sweeting asked if the ordinance was changed to state no commercial parking overnight if that would open the Town up to legal action. Town Manager Fogleman stated he had spoken with Town Attorney Allen Moseley and he felt it would be fine.

Council Member Pickett made a motion to amend the current Ordinance to state No Commercial vehicles can park overnight, by inserting the word "commercial" in the existing ordinance. Seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Yount stated again he felt as though anyone who paid a overnight ticket should be reimbursed. It was the consensus of Council to refund the money.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_  
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

Attachments  
Powerpoint – Attachment A