



Wednesday, February 01, 2017

Mr. Ed Evans  
Town manager  
P O Box 47  
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

Re: Old Firehouse Proposal Feedback

Dear Ed,

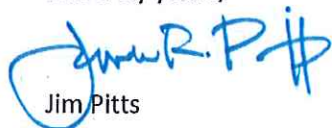
On behalf of the Economic Development Committee of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce (the "EDC"), I am responding to Scott Fogelman's letter of January 20, 2017 to John Aldridge of the Village Foundation. The EDC will be overseeing this undertaking, and it is anticipated that The Village Foundation will be the funding organization if the project moves forward.

First, we thank the Town for offering us the opportunity to conduct due diligence on the Old Firehouse to determine whether it is feasible to convert the facility into a multi-purpose cultural center for Blowing Rock. If this project should move forward, we anticipate that the facility will be used as a home for a stage company, for small concerts and music events, for a movie theatre, for businesses conferences, for overflow town meetings and the like. We look forward to working with the town to accomplish this much needed project.

We find the letter from Scott to be satisfactory, with two exceptions. First, we ask that the deadline for delivering the memorandum of agreement be extended to May 1, 2017. We plan to present this opportunity to the Chamber Board at its March 1, 2017 meeting and to the Village Foundation Board at its next Board meeting on March 23, 2017. A number of the principals, who will be working on this project, including Mr. Aldridge, will be traveling in February and early March, so we will appreciate this extension. Second, we ask that the Town proceed with engineering structural evaluation on the firehouse building. This building is owned by the Town, and that evaluation must be done regardless of whether this project proceeds. Mr. Aldridge has indicated to me that he very much doubts that the Foundation Board would approve funding an engineering study on a Town facility which may not be used as a cultural center in the future and with respect to which the Town is not obligated to proceed even if the project proves to be feasible. We hope you will understand our position on this particular point.

We will appreciate you discussing this response with the Council and responding to me with a copy to John Aldridge and Charles Hardin. Again, we thank you for giving us this opportunity, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Pitts". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Jim" written in a cursive-like font and "Pitts" in a more blocky, capital-letter style. There is a blue circle around the first few letters of "Pitts".

Jim Pitts

Co-Chair, Economic Development Committee

Cc: John Aldridge

Charles Hardin