

Town of Blowing Rock

Request for Council Action

FROM: Ed Evans – Town Manager
SUBJECT: Early Voting Site for Watauga County Residents of Blowing Rock
TO: Town Council
DATE: August 3, 2017
REQUESTED BY: Sue Sweeting – Council

BACKGROUND:

Early voting in Watauga County begins on October 19 with Election Day occurring on Tuesday, November 7. The early voting concludes on Saturday, November 4 at noon. This is a total of seventeen and one-half voting days. Some interest has been expressed in having an early voting site in Blowing Rock. The process to move this forward is for the Town to request, in writing, to have such a site. This would be considered by the Watauga County Board of Elections, who may or may not allow an alternate site. The number of days can be shorter than the seventeen days. If we could have an early voting site, we would have five people from the County assigned and four of those individuals would earn \$10.50 per hour and one would earn \$12.00 per hour. For an eight-hour day, the fee to Blowing Rock would be \$432.00 per day times the number of days, or \$7,560 for the seventeen and one half days. The Town could ask for a shorter period than seventeen days.

Blowing Rock residents who live in Caldwell County would not be able to participate in the early voting in Blowing Rock. They would still have to vote at one of the two early voting sites in Caldwell County, by absentee ballot or wait until Election Day.

In 2015, twenty-nine Blowing Rock citizens voted during the early voting schedule in Boone.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council discuss whether they want early voting or not. If the decision is yes, send a letter to the Watauga County Board of Elections. Sample letter attached.

COUNCIL ACTION:



August 9, 2017

Mr. Matthew Snyder, Director
Watauga County Board of Elections
842 West King Street, Suite 6
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Mr. Snyder:

In an effort to increase voter turnout for the upcoming 2017 Town of Blowing Rock municipal elections, the Blowing Rock Town Council would like to request that the Watauga County Board of Elections implement an early voting "one-stop" location this fall in addition to the one located at the Watauga County Administration Building.

The Town Council requests that this early voting site be located at Blowing Town Hall, 1036 Main Street during the same early voting time period designated by the state.

If you have any questions concerning this recommendation, please feel free to contact Town Hall at (828) 295-5200.

Respectfully,

J.B. Lawrence
Mayor