

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
October 14, 2025

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, NC. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson, Council Members Cat Perry, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett and Pete Gherini. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Town Attorney Joey Petrack, Town Engineer Jared Wright, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Nathan Kirk, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Finance Director Tasha Brown, IT Director Thomas Steele, Landscape Director Cory Cathcart and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sellers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mayor Sellers verified attendance via roll call.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTE APPROVAL

Council Member Gherini made the motion to approve the minutes from September 9, 2025, regular session and closed session, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ADOPTION

Council Member Harwood made a motion to adopt the regular agenda, seconded by Council Member Perry. Unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Budget Amendment - #2025-17**
- 2. Fireworks Permit – Blowing Rock Country Club**
- 3. Daughters of the American Revolution Proclamation for Constitution Week**

Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Trisha Aiken – 252 Heather Ridge LN spoke regarding safety concerns with traffic and speeding on Greenhill Road. She explained the traffic has changed since the “Greenhill Traffic Study” was done in 2021 and that road is used as a cut through for people going from Boone to the other side of Highway 321. Ms. Aiken further explained she and many of her elderly neighbors walk and with no sidewalks on Greenhill Road, there is no choice

but to walk on Greenhill Road to get to Wonderland Drive or Heather Ridge Lane. She noted this is a residential neighborhood, a very narrow road and the speed limit is 25 on Greenhill Road. She further noted the previous traffic study only addressed the Blowing Rock portion of Greenhill Road and Ms. Aiken would like to request Council do more to get the state to help with this issue and asked if the Police Department could set up speed traps or speed signs. In conclusion she pleaded for Council's help to alleviate this issue.

Lynda Lasseter – 559 Morningside Dr thanked Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown for allowing the Tai Chi classes to take place in the Rec Center every Tuesday morning at 10:00 A.M. and thanked the Town Crew for vacuuming up the leaves on Morningside Drive.

Melissa Tausche – 1741 Sunset Dr concurred with Ms. Aiken about the danger of Greenhill Road. Ms. Tausche explained she had been doing research on ongoing topics Council has addressed over the years and wanted to offer her suggestion. She further explained when Council hires consultants to look into a particular topic, she and the citizens would appreciate feedback and would like to see action taken as town money is being spent to hire these consultants.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Manager Shane Fox recognized the recent retirement of Tim Everhart with forty (40) years of service to the Town of Blowing Rock at the Water Plant.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Valley View Bid Award

Town Manager Shane Fox stated on September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene caused a catastrophic slope failure on Valley View Road at the intersection of Old Orchard, completely severing access to the Old Orchard community. The Town, in coordination with a contractor, successfully constructed a temporary access road to allow residents to reach their homes. Since then, Town Staff has worked diligently with FEMA and Town engineering firm McGill Associates to develop a comprehensive scope of work for the permanent repair of the slope and road access. After numerous meetings and months of collaborative effort, the scope was finalized, allowing the Town to move forward with the bid solicitation process.

The Town began soliciting bids for the permanent repair project on August 26, 2025. The initial bid opening was held on September 25, 2025. Unfortunately, the Town received only one bid at that time. The project was subsequently rebid with a second bid opening held on October 9, 2025.

At the October 9th bid opening, the town received and opened one bid from Mountain Crest, LLC in the amount of \$985,000.

Town staff, in consultation with McGill and FEMA, recommend that the Town Council approve the bid received from Mountain Crest, LLC in the amount of \$985,000 for the

permanent repair of the Valley View Road slope failure.

Manager Fox stated this is a five hundred (500) plus length slide and approximately three hundred (300) feet in elevation change just to give an idea of the severity of the slide.

Town Engineer Jared Wright stated this was a catastrophic road failure and when McGill began looking at the project, they also consulted Geotechnical Engineers with Catawba Valley Engineering and Testing to assist McGill with testing and determining the best replacement method for this roadway. He explained they had explored building the road back as it was before, but unfortunately due to bedrock and conditions underground that was not a valid option. Instead, they had to investigate a more permanent solution which Mr. Wright explained the process. Mr. Wright concluded both McGill and FEMA feel very confident in the method of repair.

Manager Fox noted staff has worked with FEMA daily over the last year and this is the last remaining project left to be completed and this project is fully reimbursable from FEMA. Approving this bid will allow the Town to move forward with the permanent restoration of critical infrastructure and ensure safe, reliable access to Valley View and Old Orchard. Manager Fox further noted the timeline for work may take some time due to the timing of the year and going into the winter months.

Council Member Gherini made a motion to approve the bid from Mountain Crest LLC in the amount of \$985,000 as presented, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

OFFICIAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

- Mayor Sellers – Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He encouraged everyone to have patience and be very careful with lots of visitors and traffic in Town. Reminded all that election day is November 4th and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.
- Council Member Perry – None
- Council Member Harwood – He thanked the Town Staff, Council, Manager Fox, Attorney Joey Petrack and everyone who extended their condolences to him and his family with the passing of his mother. He expressed his gratitude for living in such a small town that is so warm and caring. It meant so much to him and his family.
- Council Member Pickett – None
- Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson – Gave an update from his RISK Management Conference he recently attended which included Cyber Ransom (going up), Commercial Auto Liability (going up), FEMA will be restructured, House Bill 369 – the parking- is still out there, House Bill 627 – accessory housing is still being discussed, Senate Bill 382 – downzoning is looking to come back in the spring, Humana letters have been sent out and body armor grants are still being offered.
- Council Member Gherini – As Chairman of the Economic Development the board has been given notice the owners of the Boone Golf Course held a meeting recently to say the property is going to be sold and the possibility of condos and

cutting the course down to a nine-hole golf course. Early voting starts October 16th, and you can vote at the courthouse or student union and election day, November 4th at the American Legion.

- Town Attorney Joey Petrack – None
- Town Manager Shane Fox – Gave an update on Memorial Park, Audit, Website, Big Weekend Ahead – Valle Fair, Wolly Worm Festival and APP State Homecoming Football Game, and a “Thank You” to Bob and Susan Hambright and the Village Foundation for lunch.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:35 p.m. Council Member Perry made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11.(a)(5) – discussion of potential property acquisition and NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) - personnel, seconded by Council Member Gherini. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. Council returned to open session. With no further action, Council Member Gherini made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

Attachments

Budget Amendment #2025-18 – Attachment A

Project Ordinance – Attachment B

Tax Releases – Attachment C