



## Minutes

### Town of Blue River Board Retreat

Blue River Town Hall

September 12, 2020

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mayor Babich called the Board Retreat to order at 8:00 a.m.

Toby Babich, Mayor

Dan Cleary

Joel Dixon

Kelly Finley

Mark Fossett

Ted Pilling

Ken Robertson

Also present: Town Manager, Michelle Eddy; Town Attorney, Bob Widner

#### 8: 00 a.m. Strategic Planning

##### Identify Key Issues to be addressed\*

##### Examples:

**Code Compliance**

**Enforcement**

**Staffing (Cost/level)**

**Tarn Use**

**Roads/Speeding**

- Town Attorney Widner facilitated the strategic planning session. He noted that this process is one of the most important items the Board needs to do. A strategic plan provides the road map for priorities and the future.
  - Each was asked to identify five key issue or problems.
    - Items identified for discussion:
      - Community relations and sense of bonding within town. Building a stronger sense of community.
      - Traffic on Hwy 9.
      - Trails/Trails Plan
      - Town “internal” roads/improvement beyond grading
      - Wildfire mitigation and enforcement
      - Protecting National Forest access
      - STR challenges
      - Internal road speeding
      - Bus stop safety
      - Population/demographic change tracking/monitoring
      - Cisterns-proactive

- Vision of understanding of what we want to be and who are. What residents want and what is our strategy to get there.
- Internal Challenges
  - Competitive Compensation package to attract candidates
  - Understand Town needs and staff needs
  - Housing
  - Understanding what the demands are related to new populations
  - Staff succession plan
  - Understand COVID impact on residents and staff.
- Long Range
  - Where do we want to be in competition with other towns? How do we market ourselves as a residential community of choice.
  - Annexing to grow tax base and attract areas to Blue River
  - Research potential feasibility of commercial zone
  - Proactive control of land surrounding town.
    - Land purchases to protect residential footprint.
  - Tarn rights preservation/donut
  - Trail access plan
  - Demonstrate pride in what the community does offer (Park)
  - Enhance park
- 2021 Priorities
  - Fire Plan
    - Mitigation; Cisterns
  - Hwy 9 safety
  - Land Use Planning
  - Park enhancements-work with landscape architect
  - Compensation packages and succession planning in writing and detail

10:00 a.m.

**Financial Goals**

- Review of any additional budget priorities set aside from those listed above.
- Discussion of overall forecast of taxes.
- Discussion to be prepared for any potential purchase of Tarn land.
- Land acquisition long term and having funds available.
- Discussion to look at conservation funding for existing town owned land.

10:30 a.m.

**Review Roles/Responsibilities**

- Bob did an education and review of roles and responsibilities.
- Overall general discussion in current state of the Town.
- Discussion of formally establishing an emergency plan.

**\*A worksheet has been distributed along with the agenda. Please fill it out and be prepared to discuss.**