

## New Theater Proposed for Blowing Rock

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The High Country area could soon have another theater—and in very short order, if the Blowing Rock Town Council agrees. A number of elements would have to fall into place for that to happen, first with the town adopting a long-term agreement with Ensemble Stage, the Blowing Rock theater group seeking to make use of the former Blowing Rock Fire station as their more permanent home. Artistic Director Gary Smith's request includes a plan to renovate the building into a 125 seat performance auditorium as well as ancillary theater rehearsal and prep areas, but also allowing community use of restrooms and such during business hours. Town Manager Scott Fogleman's note in the agenda says that approval of the town board comes with a number of questions to be answered from Gary Smith, plus the board would have to look at action taken in October to look at the building as a year-round Farmer's Market and a look at what the building might bring in a sale. Gary Smith's proposal would be to have the building operating as a theater by summer 2014, providing 30 weeks of entertainment and educational programming. That meeting is at 5 this afternoon.