

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers, Nancy LaPlaca, Joan Brook and John Prickett.

Town Council Liaisons Present: Sam Furgiuele and Marshall Ashcraft

Staff Members Present: Jane Shook-Director of Planning and Inspections and Marlene Crosby-Committee Secretary

Others Present: Mr. Jimmy Isaacs, Director of the Boone Fire Department

Call to Order

Chairperson Quint David called to order the Boone Sustainability Committee, held in the Planning and Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room located at 680 W. King Street at 5:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-Chairperson Ayers made a motion, seconded by Member LaPlaca to adopt the agenda as written.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Prickett made a motion, seconded by Member LaPlaca to approve the August 8, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:
Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Town Department Operations/Fire Department

Mr. Jimmy Isaacs, Director of the Boone Fire Department gave a presentation on department usage for natural gas, propane, electricity, apparatus and fuel for the Boone Fire Department, including Station 1, 2 and 3 (permanently attached). He noted that there are 30 full time employees and 18 volunteers at these three stations. He explained the fire department initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint as well as additional initiatives the department wanted to work on as funding becomes available. He also talked about data network initiatives to reduce the Town's carbon footprint.

Mr. Isaacs indicated that the information presented at this meeting was based on a budget-fiscal year. He explained that he did not base the information in this report on miles driven, he based it on hours versus mileage because the fire trucks continue to run while being stationary. He noted that they need to keep an apparatus functional over long periods of time. He said that they can use electric vehicles for fire inspections and other non-emergency uses. He said one of the issues with the electric vehicles is they have no way to re-charge the vehicle battery when the vehicle is outside of the fire station.

Mr. Isaacs explained that the training classes for the firemen are being held inside the fire stations via video conference to help reduce the time the firemen are away from their stations. He said this type of training is allowing the firemen to save on response time on emergency calls.

Mr. Isaacs explained that they have had a maintained solar thermal unit for about 12 years at Fire Station 2 and it has worked properly.

Mr. Isaacs explained that Fire Station 1 and 2 have been re-roofed. He said they left the old insulation and put in additional insulation on both roofs to make the building more energy efficient.

Mr. Isaacs said that solar water heaters may not be able to keep enough hot water for the cleaning of the trucks, he said an “on demand” hot water heater would still be needed to clean the trucks. Member LaPlaca asked about the cost of the solar-water heaters. Mr. Isaacs said he has not priced them.

Council Member Furguele joined the meeting at approximately 5:56 p.m.

Council Member Furguele asked about the response time for fire calls when a fire station is located at the new location on the Bolick property. Mr. Isaacs explained that the fuel usage and time spent out of the station will be reduced substantially.

Mr. Isaacs explained the reason the Fire Department used trucks instead of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) was because after a fire the firemen would have to carry their dirty and contaminated gear inside the vehicle with the firemen back to the fire station which then couldn’t be cleaned out as easily as a truck plus the contaminated gear was in the same space as the firefighter.

Discussion ensued on emergency preparedness and resilience. Member Brook asked about hazard preparedness. Mr. Isaacs talked about the hazards of flooding, fire and wildfire, and the hauling off of debris. He talked about the emergency communication plan.

Chairperson David talked about the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System program having a section on response time to measure their sustainability performance. Mr. Isaacs said when he is looking to reduce costs, he looks at the cost benefit and tries to get a tangible benefit from it.

Council Member Furguele asked Mr. Isaacs how many times the Boone Fire Department has been asked to give aid to areas outside their jurisdiction. Mr. Isaacs said they do not receive a lot of requests.

After completing the fire department presentation and answering questions on it, Mr. Isaacs left the meeting at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

Member LaPlaca welcomed new Member Joan Brook to the Committee. Member Brook gave a brief history of her experience with sustainability.

Council Member Furguele talked about asking Mr. Ward to speak on more sustainable technology when it becomes available and replacing the non-LED street lights. He said the street lights would pay for themselves as they are changed out.

Chairperson David said the date for the Town of Boone Litter Sweep is September 14 through 28, 2019. He also noted that there will be walk audits starting at the Watauga County Health Department on October 2, 2019.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers and Member LaPlaca said they will participate in the September 20, 2019 Climate strike held at the Community Garden on Howard Street from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Council Member Furguele suggested that the committee look for ways in which the Town could incentivize employees to promote more sustainable personal behavior.

Adjournment

Chairperson David adjourned the meeting at 6: 34 p.m.

Quint David, Sustainability Committee Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary



Boone Fire Department Sustainability Report

Locations: Station #1 - 721 West King St
Station #2 - 1075 State Farm Rd
Station #3 - 3228 Bamboo Rd

Natural Gas: Station #1 1575 Therm \$1,757.96
Station #2 1093 Therm \$1,268.52

Propane: Station #3 – 536 Gallons \$830.41

Electricity: Station #1 - \$5,989.82 NRLP
Station #2 - \$4,234.11 BREMCO
Station #3 - \$3,777.67 BREMCO

Staff: 30 Full Time
18 Volunteers

Apparatus: 5 - Pickups Ford f-150
3 - Type 6 Engines
4 - Type 1 Engines
2 – Tankers
1 - Heavy Rescue
1 – 100' Platform Truck
1 – 77' Ladder Truck

Fuel: Diesel – 6,071.08 gallons \$14,269.75
Gasoline – 3,037.05 gallons \$5,905.53
Non-Ethanol Gasoline – 138.29 gallons \$451.11

Fire Department Initiatives to reduce carbon footprint:

- Modification of response protocols.
- Diligent fire prevention and inspections.
- Solar water heater - Station #2.
- Additional Roof insulation Station #1 and Station #2
- On-demand water heater – Station #1 and #3.
- Installation of motion sensing light switches.
- LED Lighting change out at in living and office areas of Station #1 and #2.
- HVAC change out at Station #1 and #2 to higher SEER rating.
- Use of trailers for specialized needs such as Water Rescue and HazMat.

Additional Initiatives as funding becomes available:

- Electric vehicle to conduct fire inspections and travel to training (non-Emergency use)
- Increase preparedness and planning.
- Video Conference for stations to allow training to be conducted without movement of apparatus between stations.
- Solar water heater for Station #1 and #3
- Continue the upgrade of lighting to LED in apparatus storage areas.

Network Initiatives to reduce carbon footprint:

- Virtualization of servers.
- Improved connectivity between facilities.
- Centralized locations.