

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL MAY
7, 2010**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 12:23 p.m., Friday, May 7, 2010, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Andy Ball, Rennie Brantz, and Jamie Leigh. Staff members present were Deputy Town Clerk Kim Brown and Assistant to the Manager Jim Byrne. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was present. Steve and John Metcalf of The Policy Group and Brad Edwards of the Jenkins Hill Consulting LLC were also present.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and prioritize legislative issues for the Town of Boone. Mayor Clawson welcomed all in attendance.

Assistant to the Manager Jim Byrne introduced Steve Metcalf of The Policy Group to begin discussion. Mr. Metcalf presented the following report:

***Town of Boone
Report to the Mayor and Town Council
March 31, 2010***

- I. *Introduction*
- II. *2009 Legislative Session*
- III. *2009 Legislation*
 - 1. *Boone Occupancy Tax*
 - 2. *Housing Authorities/Moderate Income Persons*
 - 3. *Boone Water Intake Easement*
 - 4. *Appropriations for Boone Fire Truck*
- IV. *Infrastructure Funding*
 - 1. *Rural Center Grant Award of \$168,000 to fund the Town of Boone's portion of the Boone-ASU interconnect project*
 - 2. *Rural Center Grant Award of \$1,000,000 to fund the Town of Boone's portion of the Boone-Blowing Rock interconnect project*
 - 3. *Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Award of \$178,000 to fund the Clawson Burnley Park wetland project*
 - 4. *Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Award of \$50,000 to undertake Phase I of Boone's Storm Water Management Program*
 - 5. *Rural Economic Development Center Grant Award of \$445,000 to acquire land on the South Fork of the New River where the Town of Boone's future water intake will be located; and purchase new water intake pump station*
 - 6. *The Town was able to secure \$200,000 for the addition of sidewalks to the new Watauga High School. This funding came through Speaker Hackney and President Pro Temp Marc Basnight at the request of Representative Tarleton and Senator Goss.*
 - 7. *\$500,000 grant from the Rural Economic Development Center for Winkler's Creek intake restoration*
 - 8. *\$600,000 CDBG grant from the Division of Community Assistance for Winkler's Creek intake restoration*
 - 9. *Rural Center Grant of \$30,650 for Water and Sewer Capitol Improvements Plan*
 - 10. *Preserve America Communities designation award*
 - 11. *Worked to insure that state would provide 25% match form FEMA 1871-DR-NC Grant*
- V. *Ongoing Projects*
 - 1. *NC DOT Pedestrian Planning Grant - \$31,500*
 - 2. *Rural Center Grant application for water and sewer for Hwy 421 U-4020 Project-\$500,000*

Discussion ensued concerning the change to the occupancy tax which increased the tax from 3% to 6%, but did not include language that allowed a 3% discount to lodging owners to cover the cost of collecting and processing the tax. At the February meeting, the Council had voted to adopt a resolution of support for reinstating this language in the bill during the May session of the General Assembly. Member Mason stated that there was some concern from the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) regarding reinstating of the language. Mr. Metcalf stated that he

would like to discuss this matter with a representative from the TDA to learn of the concerns that the body has.

Brad Edwards of Jenkins Hill Consulting LLC presented the following memorandum to the Mayor and Council:

MEMORANDUM TO: Greg Young, Town Manager
Jim Byrne, Assistant to the Town Manager
FROM: Brad Edwards, Jenkins Hill Consulting LLC
DATE: March 29, 2010
RE: Town of Boone Federal Report

111th Congress:

The Town of Boone worked with members of their congressional delegation, Senators Kay Hagan, Richard Burr, and Representative Virginia Foxx, in supporting the Preserve America Communities effort that the Town of Boone recently received. Jim Byrne and I met with staff from the congressional offices and asked for letters of support for this designation to the National Historic Trust. All three offices sent letters of support on behalf of the Town of Boone's designation.

The FY2011 appropriations submissions have been submitted on behalf of the Town of Boone for the following requests:

- 1) The Horn in the West Powder Horn Theater - requested \$400,000 for renovations to the current facility through the Transportation/HUD appropriations bill in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) account.*
- 2) Population exemption for the decennial census for 2020 for the Town of Boone for the purposes of eligibility for Rural Utilities Service water and waste loans and grants. This submission follows the legislative language that the Town of Boone received in FY2008 for assistance in waste water treatment facility. This request is being made in case the Town of Boone does not receive its final approval from USDA, Rural Development prior to the end of this fiscal year (Sept. 30, 2010) because of the final permits needed from NCDENR and Army Corps of Engineers and will allow the Town of Boone to maintain the current anticipated funding of grants and loans.*

In addition, Jenkins Hill Consulting has been working with the NC Rural Development office in obtaining the necessary funding that may be needed for acquisition of a new platform/ladder fire truck for the Town of Boone through USDA Rural Development. We have discussed this with the appropriate congressional offices too and asked for their support in our outreach to USDA. These discussions are ongoing, and Jenkins Hill Consulting will keep the Town of Boone updated.

The FY2011 appropriations schedule is currently under way with preliminary hearings from the various federal agencies and likely to start the process of formulating bills for the respective appropriations committees in May-June of this year.

John Metcalf, son of Steve Metcalf, introduced himself and stated that he is now working with The Policy Group. He stated that he is working with members of the General Assembly in the western part of the state and with local municipalities.

Discussion ensued concerning the following topics: funding for Horn in the West, internet sweepstakes, a cultural museum, an increase in the retirement population in NC, wind energy, the relationship between ASU and Boone, and the need for two new firetrucks for the Boone Fire Department. Council indicated that the renovation of the Downtown Boone Post Office is a top priority for the next fiscal year.

Jim Byrne summarized the presentation by stating that the Town Manager is proposing a conservative budget for the next fiscal year, the Town has a healthy fund balance, and that the Town Council is setting reasonable priorities for the next fiscal year. He further stated that the Town has benefited by a positive flow of outside funding, and that both the state and federal lobbyists have played a very significant role in obtaining that funding.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items for consideration, Mayor Clawson adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor