

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL/MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT
SPECIAL TASK FORCE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council/Municipal Service District Special Task Force was called to order at 5:49 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Watauga County Administration Building. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Andy Ball, Rennie Brantz, Jamie Leigh and Stephen Phillips. MSD Special Task Town Attorney Sam Furguele was also present. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young, Town Clerk Freida Van Allen, Finance Director Amy Davis, and Intern Matthew Farley. Municipal Service District Special Task Force members in attendance were Jill Reeves, Marsha Walpole, Ethel Simpson, Andy Stallings, Nancy Rivenbark and Cherry Johnson. Mary Baker of the DBDA was also in attendance.

Facilitator Janet Pepin divided the members into four groups to play “Downtown Jeopardy.” Ms. Pepin pointed out that the purpose of this task was to examine facts and opinions as they relate to downtown Boone. The Task Force discussed the answers to the game at great length and decided it would be useful to see all the monies, as well as expenses, invested in the downtown area.

AREAS OF CONFUSION

Ms. Pepin then reviewed some areas of confusion that she, as well as the Task Force, identified in regards to the Town Council, downtown area and DBDA.

1. The purpose of MSD funds. Town Attorney Sam Furguele clarified that MSD tax funds can be used for salaries. Mr. Furguele felt that the main area of contention is the MSD boundary.
2. Contractual language and performance expectations. Town Attorney Furguele agreed and reported that original contract language includes the phrase “included, but not limited to.” Town Attorney Furguele felt that phrase allowed the DBDA to use MSD tax revenues outside the MSD boundary. Ms. Pepin commented that when an entity has more than one identity, then usually there are problems.
3. Terminology among the various programs affecting downtown needs to be same.
4. Who benefits from what happens downtown? Who is the Main Street member? The Town of Boone or the DBDA.
5. The mixing of Main Street and MSD functions.
6. Priorities of MSD and Main Street programs.
7. How to evaluate meeting minimum standards and legal obligations?
8. Do citizens know about the Main Street program?
9. What is the chain of communication among the entities?
10. Accountability of funds (fund accounting). What is the law on spending and contractual agreements?
11. What are the governance requirements for the entity that manages MSD funds?
12. Who delegates how MSD funds are spent by the entity?

Facilitator Pepin said at the next meeting the Task Force will prepare for establishment of decision making criteria using the gaps identified above. The next meeting of the MSD Special Task Force is Monday, September 27, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

