

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 28, 2010**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:36 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2010, in the Broyhill Room, Broyhill Inn & Conference Center, ASU. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Andy Ball, Rennie Brantz, and Jamie Leigh. Staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Kimberly Brown-Deputy Town Clerk, Rick Miller-Public Utilities Director, and Blake Brown-Public Works Director. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also in attendance. Elected officials and staff from the following entities were also present: Appalachian State University, Watauga County, Town of Blowing Rock, Town of Seven Devils, Town of Beech Mountain, Town of Banner Elk, Watauga County Board of Education, and members of various media outlets of the area.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold an intergovernmental retreat to receive updates on several projects within the area.

UPDATE ON NC DOT PROJECTS - Frank Gioscio, NC DOT Boone Resident Engineer

Frank Gioscio, resident engineer with the NC DOT, gave a brief presentation on the status of following projects in the area:

- \$ the construction on Highway 321 of a \$65 million dollar project which began in 2005 and is currently on-going;
- \$ the U-4020 project (King Street Widening): a \$15.25 million dollar project which began in 2009 and is currently on-going;
- \$ the replacement of several bridges in the area.

He also listed the following upcoming projects scheduled to begin in the near future:

- \$ the replacement of more bridges in the area
- \$ beginning of the third part of the Highway 321 project slated to begin in March 2011
- \$ US Hwy 221 widening project (a five-phase project).

WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVES - Dr. Marty Hemric, Superintendent

Dr. Marty Hemric, Superintendent of Watauga County Schools, stated that during the 2009-2010 school year, seven Watauga County Schools received the "School of Distinction" designation. He stated that Blowing Rock School received the "School of Excellence" designation. Dr. Hemric stated that more technology is being introduced into Watauga County classrooms as part of the global learning community. He explained the "Race to the Top" grant which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

ASU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION BUILDING - Greg Lovins, ASU Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs

Greg Lovins, Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs with ASU, stated that the College of Education building consists of 124,000 square-feet at a cost of \$35 million. He explained that the building will house the teacher education program and will provide additional office space and 20 additional classrooms.

ASU/BOONE WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION - Greg Lovins, ASU Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs

Greg Lovins, Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs with ASU, stated that the ASU/Boone Water System Interconnection is a \$310,000 project located on Hardin Street near Durham Park. The cost of the project was split by the Town of Boone and ASU. He stated the system is able to transfer 1,000 gallons of water per minutes between the entities.

BLOWING ROCK/BOONE WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION - Scott Hildebran, Blowing Rock Town Manager

Blowing Rock Town Manager Scott Hildebran updated the group on the status of the Blowing Rock/Boone Water Interconnection System. He stated that the process began in 2008 with the signing of an agreement between the Towns of Boone and Blowing Rock for an interconnection. He explained that the system will include over five miles of water line from the Blowing Rock Water Treatment Plant connecting to the Town of Boone's lines at Deerfield Road. Mr. Hildebran stated that the project is anticipated to cost 3.6 million dollars.

TOWN OF BOONE NEW WATER INTAKE PROJECT - Greg Young, Town Manager & Rick Miller, Public Utilities Director

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller began by listing background information on the need for a new water source for the Town of Boone. He stated that the Town has purchased property located on the South Fork of the New River for two intake locations. Mr. Miller stated that this is a 25 million dollar project which also includes upgrades to the current Water Treatment Plant. He stated that the environmental document required for the project has been completed. In regard to the financial aspects of the project, Town Manager Greg Young stated that a bond referendum for the project was passed by the citizens of Boone. He stated the Town is also waiting for the receipt of a letter of financial commitment for the project from the USDA Rural Development. Mr. Young stated that the Town has also raised the water and sewer rates over the past five years in order to help recoup costs for the project. He stated the next step in the process will involve reclassification of the river which is a one-to-two year process.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor