

**MINUTES-SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
JUNE 16, 2011**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:32 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2011, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Jamie Leigh, Andy Ball, and Rennie Brantz. Staff members in attendance were Town Manager Greg Young, Deputy Clerk Kim Brown, Assistant to the Manager Jim Byrne, Police Chief Dana Crawford, Fire Chief Jimmy Isaacs, Finance Director Amy Davis, Public Works Director Blake Brown, Public Utilities Director Rick Miller, Planning Director Bill Bailey, and Human Resources Director Peri Moretz. Town Attorney Sam Furguele was also in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct two public hearings.

Mayor Clawson pointed out that the Clerk had distributed the meeting packet and additional materials for the regular meetings of the Council on June 21st and 23rd. Town Attorney Sam Furguele noted that the agenda includes an appeal of a notice of violation that will be conducted as a quasi-judicial hearing and that a packet of information regarding the matter has been submitted and distributed along with the meeting packet. He indicated that the applicant will be given a chance at the hearing to explain or object to any materials submitted during the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING - SUBMISSION OF CDBG GRANT

Mayor Clawson opened the public hearing at 6:34 p.m. Assistant to the Manager Jim Byrne presented the following information:

The South Fork of the New River located in Boone, NC has been impaired the past three decades resultant from increased development in the watershed , and large storm events that have caused river instability including streambank failure and lateral migration of river channels. Streambank erosion, common throughout the river reach project, is caused by an increase in peak discharges, channel realignment, removal of riparian vegetation, and loss of floodplain. A variety of river restoration techniques will be considered to address the severely eroding and failing riverbanks and degraded habitat. The project would be a partnership of Appalachian State University (ASU), The Town of Boone, and the National Committee for the New River (NCNR). NCNR would provide technical assistance and coordinate the project on behalf of all partners. The Town of Boone would be the sponsor. The US Army Corps of Engineers completed a detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment in 2009 and is ready to go forward when funding is secured. The study was conducted under the authority USACE Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996, as amended, Public Law 104-3030.

The proposed aquatic restoration project is being proposed in the Town of Boone, Watauga County, North Carolina, along 4,000- feet of the South Fork of the New River, a National Heritage River. The proposed restoration work is located adjacent to the recreational property of the Appalachian State University and Town of Boone on the east side of Boone. The estimated project cost is \$2.375 million, \$1.485 million of that being Federal dollars; and the other coming from the non-federal sponsor. The sponsor's (Town of Boone) is responsible for a contribution of \$890,000 to the project. The town is applying for a \$600,000 CDBG grant to be used toward the local grant match.

Without this project, the processes of destabilization and degradation are expected to continue within the reach of the South Fork of the New River, resulting in increased economic costs and additional environmental degradation.

There was no one present to speak during this public hearing. Mayor Clawson closed the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET

Mayor Clawson opened a public hearing at 6:37 p.m. to hear public comment on the proposed

Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Town of Boone Budget.

The first speaker was Melissa Selby of the Community Care Clinic. She expressed her appreciation for the funding recommendation of \$20,000 for the Community Care Clinic. She noted that the clinic has experienced a very big increase in the number of persons that it is serving.

Jill Kurkendall of the Hospitality House expressed sincere appreciation for the funding allocation.

Molly Russell and her daughter, Fiona, appeared before the Council to voice their support of the Watauga Library and asked the Council to continue funding support for the library.

Monica Caruso, director of the Watauga County Library, presented the following statistics:

- In 2008, the Library's allocation from the Town was \$19,230; the recommended allocation is a 47% decrease.

- 100% of the town allocation goes toward youth books and audio/visual materials for the Watauga County Library in Boone. Other than donations, that is all of the funding received.

- 82% of Boone residents have a library card, yet the request is only 2.6% of the library's budget.

- The average cost of children's books/audio/visual materials is \$25.00.

She asked that the Council reconsider funding the full amount of the request.

Judith Winecoff, Youth Services Librarian, voiced her appreciation for the Town's continued support and pointed out the need for continued funding due to rising book prices.

Joan Hearn asked the Council to continue to support the Watauga County Library and noted that funds are used for the youth reading services and many other programs offered by the library.

Audrey Hartley, a retired librarian from the Watauga County School system, stressed how valuable it is to maintain current materials and voiced her support for the Watauga County Library.

Sunny Mohr appeared before the Council to express appreciation on behalf of Mountain Alliance for the continued support of the Boone Town Council. Sarah Mohr read a letter into record from Dana Landress expressing her appreciation for support for the program(**Copy of letter permanently on file in the June 2011 meeting information file.**)

Tammy Jolly, chair of the Board of Directors for Mountain Alliance, thanked the Council for its support of the program and noted that the program serves approximately 150-170 students per year.

Mike Wise, president of the Watauga County Arts Council, voiced his concern in regard to the lack of funding recommended for the Watauga County Arts Council (WCAC) which has received funding from the Town for many years. He listed the programs offered by the WCAC and benefits of those programs. He stressed the importance of the funding from the Town for the WCAC.

Doyle Hayes voiced her concern about the lack of funding support from the Town. He stressed the importance of the music lessons for young musicians and the benefits of the "Concerts on the Lawn" series. He stated that the folklorist position funded by the Town should not be a consideration in the decision to allocate funding to the WCAC.

JoAnn Hallmark pointed out that other non-profit organizations have received grants from the WCAC from the funding allocated by the Town. She stated that a lack of funding support from the Town will severely limit the number of programs that can be offered by the WCAC.

Jimmie Owen expressed her disappointment about the recommendation for no funding to the WCAC and asked the Council to reconsider the decision not to allocate funds to the WCAC. She reiterated that a lack of funding from the Town will restrict the activities of the WCAC.

Tyler Deal spoke about the effect of no funding for the WCAC on local artists. She stressed the importance of the use of funding for venues for local artists' work. She asked the Council to reconsider the funding allocation to the WCAC.

Eric Reichard stated that he has served on both local and state arts boards and that the WCAC is a well-functioning program which serves the community to the fullest extent.

Barbara Quatrano pointed out that the lack of funding for the WCAC by the Town of Boone will result in a negative impact on the local economy. She stated that the arts are an economic engine which brings money into our community and has a positive economic impact on downtown Boone.

Bruce Richter explained the influence that the arts programs provided by the WCAC has had on both his children. He voiced his support of the WCAC.

With no other public comment, Mayor Clawson closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Mason, Council moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

VOTE:Aye - All
Nay - None

Deputy Clerk

Mayor