

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 16, 2004**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 4:34 p.m., Tuesday, November 16, 2004, in the Town Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road, Boone, NC. Mayor Velma C. Burnley presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Loretta Clawson, Graydon Eggers, Lynne Mason and Bunk Spann. Members of the Water Study Committee present were Phil Templeton, Rob Holton, and Mary Ruth McRae. Town staff present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Rick Miller-Public Utilities Director, John Spear-Development Services Director, Freida Van Allen-Town Clerk, and Kim Tester-Deputy Town Clerk.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss information relating to the immediate water systems needs of the town.

Mayor Burnley welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Trey Wingate, of W. K. Dickson, to present the information.

Mr. Wingate began by stating that the information in the *Water System Hydraulic Analysis & Master Plan* given to the Council (see **Exhibit A**, on file) was comprised using data from 1995 until the present time. This data includes peak days which may result from line breakages, leaks, or other reasons. He stated that the average amount of water expended on a peak day is 2.2 million gallons. Mr. Wingate noted that the Town does have a very good above ground storage system which provides a buffer to sustain the water needs on a peak day.

Council member Mason inquired if the water supply is compromised during a draught. Rick Miller answered by explaining that the Town has two water intakes: one behind the National Guard Armory on the south fork of the New River and one at Winkler's Creek. He stated that the intake at Winkler's Creek is currently clogged and that the town is primarily using the intake behind the armory. He noted the cost of cleaning out the Winkler's Creek intake at \$300,000. He also noted that the intake amount from the two sources could not exceed three million gallons per day due to the existing State permit. Mr. Wingate added that the intake amount could not affect what happens further downstream.

The group discussed a possible interconnection with Appalachian State University. Mr. Wingate suggested that an interconnection with ASU could take some of the burden off the Town system on peak water days if they do not coincide with ASU peak water days. Mr. Miller stated that the Town system would be able to connect with the ASU system with little or no difficulty. Council member Eggers suggested that the Town and ASU might create a mutually beneficial reciprocal agreement.

Council member Mason asked about the time period needed to obtain permits from the State to increase the Town's water intake sources and upgrade the water treatment plant. Mr. Wingate informed the Council that approximately eighteen months would be needed to obtain a raw water supply permit. He further stated that plans and permits for an upgraded water treatment system would also require up to eighteen months. Mr. Wingate listed several options the Council may want to consider:

- Stay with the current number of intakes and increase the amount of water pumped from the intake during peak days. Store the extra supply in a reservoir.
- Determine another withdrawal location.
- Work to obtain a permit to withdraw water from the Watauga River.

Mr. Wingate noted that the third possibility might be difficult to achieve due to environmental issues.

Council member Mason suggested that the Council create policies based on growth demands. She advised that Council members should plan carefully where they want utility lines in the future. Furthermore, she suggested prioritizing the remaining taps, studying the issue of pressure zones, and maximizing storage tanks as ways of dealing with the situation.

The Council and the Water Study Committee discussed ways of encouraging water conservation. Several suggestions included a voluntary conservation effort by water customers and the use of mechanical devices such as low-water consumption toilets and shower heads which help conserve water. Committee member Templeton suggested changing the rate structure for utility usage and charging for more water used. Committee member Holton suggested a change in the utility billing system which could alert customers to problems with leaks more quickly than current methods. Mr. Young replied that more personnel needed to change the billing system and changing to radio frequency meters would ultimately prove to be costly actions for the Town.

The Council asked for bottom-line numbers for the amount of taps available in the Town. Mr. Wingate stated that the 2.2 mgd figure translates to 2074 taps. Mr. Miller pointed out the current number of undeveloped property in the Town limits to be 576 properties. The remaining number of taps after the amount reserved for in-Town properties is 1498 taps. The Council discussed using the comprehensive plan to help administer the remaining taps according to the location of the property. Council member Mason stated that the properties in the Town limits should be given top priority before properties in the ETJ and properties outside the Town limits and ETJ. Council member Spann agreed that using the long-range plan as a basis would be appropriate due to the amount of citizen input utilized in the creation of the plan.

Mr. Young reiterated the fact that at 80% capacity the Town must begin planning for growth. He reminded the group that, once the water treatment plant nears 90% capacity, the Town may be subject to either fines and/or a possible moratorium. Council member Mason asked that information concerning water conservation be included with the monthly utility bills. Mr. Young suggested the Council accept and adopt the report presented by W. K. Dickson.

Upon a motion by Council member Mason, seconded by Council member Spann, the study performed by W. K. Dickson entitled *Water System Hydraulic Analysis & Master Plan (Exhibit A)* was adopted.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None
 Absent – 1 (Wilcox)

Council member Spann asked that the Water Study Committee consider the issue and prepare recommendations for the Council by the first of the year. Council members Mason, Spann and Eggers voiced a desire to participate in the discussions by the committee. Council member Mason asked that Mr. Young and Mr. Miller begin dialogue with ASU concerning emergency water interconnections and other issues.

The Council set a special meeting date for the Water Study Committee for Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Upon a motion by Council member Clawson, seconded by Council member Mason, and by unanimous agreement, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk		Mayor