MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2012

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012, in the ASU Athletics Center, ASU Campus. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were Lynne Mason, Rennie Brantz, and Allan Scherlen. Staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Kimberly Brown-Town Clerk, Police Chief Dana Crawford, Fire Chief Jimmy Isaacs, Finance Director Amy Davis, and Blake Brown-Public Works Director. 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, High Country Council of Governments, and members of various media outlets of the area.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold an intergovernmental retreat.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE – MADELIEINE HENLEY, NC LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

Madeleine Henley with the NC League of Municipalities discussed projected revenue and expenditure items for local governments. Major points included:

- State income tax collections are ahead of projections
- Compared to taxable sales in 2008, sales were down $13 billion in 2010 and $10 billion in 2011
- Sales are rebounding except in construction-related activities
- County vehicle tax now tied to registration renewal, so collections should be 100% (compared to 85% in the past)
- Final sales tax projections should be received by Towns by the end of March
- Workers Compensation – a combination of reduction in employment and steady WC claims is likely to result in rise in rates
- In 2014, provisions of the Affordable Healthcare Act will start that require employers with <50 employees to begin contributing to employee health insurance.

WATAUGA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE – CRAIG HUGHES, HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Craig Hughes with High Country COG gave an update on the Watauga CTP process. Major points included:

- Work on the CTP began in September 2010
- Goals and objectives have been developed, and were approved by local governments in November 2011
- Population and employment growth projections have been developed, and were approved by local governments in November 2011

- Watauga County's population expected to grow from 51,000 in 2010 to 81,000 in 2040
- Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit elements of CTP have been developed
- Recent meetings have focused on highway deficiencies and recommended alternatives to alleviate deficiencies
- Recommendations discussed to date have all come from previous planning documents (previous transportation plans, and comprehensive plans from Watauga County and the Towns)
- Once recommendations are made, public workshops will be held
- Once draft CTP is developed, it will be presented to local governments for adoption.

COORDINATED DISPATCH SERVICES – OPEN DISCUSSION

Vince Gable, Watauga County Commissioner, and Deron Geouque, Watauga County Manager, presented information on the proposed consolidated dispatch system. Major points included:

- US Department of Homeland Security and State 911 Board encourage consolidated dispatch
- Watauga County desires to have a consolidated dispatch system operated by a new County agency by July 1, 2012
- Town of Blowing Rock has passed a resolution of interest to consolidate with Watauga
- Town of Seven Devils has no dispatch system
- The proposed budget for a consolidated dispatch system that was distributed was based on a split between the local governments based on proportion of 911 calls originating in each jurisdiction (County-46%, Boone-38%, Blowing Rock-16%)
- Watauga County has adequate existing hardware for a consolidated system.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Kimberly S. Brown, Town Clerk

Loretta Clawson, Mayor