BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2007

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Thursday, June 14, 2007 in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Rennie Brantz, Janet Pepin, Bunk Spann and Dempsey Wilcox. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also present. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young, Deputy Town Clerk Kim Tester, Finance Director Amy Davis, Fire Chief Reggie Hassler, Public Utilities Director Rick Miller, Special Assistant to the Town Manager Jim Byrne, and Police Chief Bill Post.

Mayor Clawson welcomed all in attendance and invited Town Manager Greg Young to present the budget information.

FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Town Manager Greg Young presented the fund summaries and said the total budget for this fiscal year is $21,888,229.

Mayor Clawson opened the budget public hearing at 6:37.

The first speaker was Angie Miller, of WAMY Community Action. On behalf of WAMY and Oliver Adams, the Weatherization Services Director, she thanked the Council for its support of this organization. She informed them that the $5,000 will help fund the Energy Outreach Education Program and low-energy packets that include such items as carbon monoxide detectors and low-volume shower heads.

Jennifer Herman, Director of OASIS, thanked the Council for fully supporting its funding request. She stated that with help from matching grants, OASIS will be able to fully cover staffing and shelter operations costs.

Kay Borkowski, on behalf of the Hospitality House of Boone, expressed appreciation for the Council's allocation of funding to help those in unfortunate situations regain their former status. She stated that the Hospitality House provides shelter for an average of 43 persons each night.

Robert Cox, on behalf of New River Behavioral Health and Serenity Farms, thanked the Boone Town Council for its monetary support in helping to meet housing needs in the community. He invited each of the Council members to the annual picnic being held on Saturday, June 16th.

Kit Olsen, on behalf of the Daniel Boone Native Gardens, thanked the Council for its support of the gardens. She stated that the funds will be used to pay a part-time gardener to help with weeding and grooming duties at the gardens. Mayor Clawson noted how wonderful the gardens looked during the Arbor Day festivities in May.

With no further persons to speak, Mayor Clawson closed the public hearing at 6:44p.m.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT - FUNDING FOR HIGH COUNTRY VISITORS CENTER

Upon a motion by Council member Mason, seconded by Council member Pepin, Council moved to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR
THE HIGH COUNTRY VISITOR CENTER

WHEREAS, the North Carolina High Country Host has served as an information source for the traveling public to the North Carolina Mountains since being formed in 1980; and

WHEREAS, the High Country Host has operated a Visitor Center in Boone, North Carolina, for many years as funded by an annual $150,000 appropriation from the North Carolina

Department of Transportation (NCDOT); and

WHEREAS, this Visitor Center serves the citizens who travel on Highways US 421, 321, 221, 105, and 194 at their confluence in Boone, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Boone, North Carolina is the destination location that serves as the hub of the High Country area; and

WHEREAS, the Visitor Center as operated by the High Country Host is long-established and has about 45,000 visitors per year; and

WHEREAS, continued NCDOT funding for the Visitor Center located in Boone, North Carolina, is vital to economic health of the region and the convenience of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT plans to cease funding for the High Country Visitor Center in 2009 with the opening of a new center in Wilkes County; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Boone Town Council respectfully requests continued funding for the operation of the High Country Visitor Center located on Blowing Rock Road in Boone, North Carolina.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that even though a new Visitor Center is planned for Wilkes County, the two centers should be operated cooperatively, as a sole Visitor Center in Wilkes County will only serve a small portion of the High Country's traveling public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Goss, Representative Tarleton, NCDOT Board Member Arnold Lackey, and NCDOT Secretary Lyndo Tippett.

ADOPTED this the 14th day of June, 2007.

ATTEST: Mayor

Deputy Town Clerk

(RESOLUTION TO BE TYPED IN BOOK 3 , PAGE 33)

VOTE: Aye - All
Nay - None

Upon a motion by Council member Pepin, seconded by Council member Mason, Council moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

VOTE: Aye - All
Nay - None

_____ _____

Deputy Town Clerk Mayor