

Minutes-Special Meeting of the Boone Town Council
Water Use Committee
July 10, 2012

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m, Tuesday, July 10, 2012, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were: Mayor Pro-Tem Jamie Leigh, Lynne Mason, Alan Scherlen and Rennie Brantz. Members of the Water Use Committee Present were: Dr. Kristan Cockerill, Dr. Fred T. Badders, Dr. James Buchanan, Pam Williamson and Bunk Spann. Staff Members present were Greg Young- Town Manager, Rick Miller- Public Utilities Director, and Lane Weiss-Water Conservation Program Coordinator, Committee Secretary. Town Attorney Sam Furguele was also in attendance.

Mayor Clawson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Discussion of Possible Changes to the Toilet Rebate Program

Mayor Clawson opened the meeting by acknowledging that there were currently 3 issues that needed to be addressed concerning the Town's Toilet Rebate program. Mayor Clawson then turned the meeting over to Public Utilities Director Rick Miller. Mr. Miller stated that the rebate program would only issue a rebate check to the individual listed on the water account. However, there had been a recent request that the rebate be issued to the person or entity that actually purchased the toilet. After continued discussion Committee Member Cockerill made the following motion, "That whomever comes to the Town with a receipt for the purchase of a Watersense toilet and has a legitimate water account will qualify for the toilet rebate." This motion was seconded by Committee Member Buchanan and had a unanimous vote.

Council Member Mason requested that the current applications be updated to have a signature line for the property owner and/or landlord approving of the replacement of the current toilet and if it is the tenant who wishes to take part in the rebate program and replace the toilet. Utilities Director Rick Miller stated that he thought that this request would be an easy fix.

Committee Member Williamson discussed re-separating the rebate accounts to their original status of \$5,000 for residential rebates and \$5,000 for commercial rebates, with an unlimited amount of rebates for commercial accounts. After continued discussion Committee Member Williamson made the following motion "That the Water Use Committee recommend to Town Council that the \$10,000 allocated for the Toilet Rebate program be evenly split, \$5,000 for residential rebates and \$5,000 for commercial rebates, with the understanding that that the ratio can be changed at any time, and that we continue with a maximum residential rebate of 3 toilets per application while the commercial rebates have no maximum." Council Member Leigh made the following amendment "That there is no limit for residential rebates." The motion as amended was seconded by Bunk Spann.

Vote: **Aye**-(9) L. Clawson, L. Mason, J. Leigh, P. Williamson, A. Scherlen, K. Cockerill, R. Brantz, F. Badders and B. Spann
Nay-(1) J. Buchanan

At this time Committee Member Spann left the meeting.

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller pointed out that during the past year it had come to staff's attention that there were WaterSense labeled toilets that cost less than \$100, which highlighted discrepancies in informational material, the rebate application and the advertising for the rebate program. Some applicants were under the impression that the rebate was always \$100, despite the fact that the application clearly states *cost of up to \$100*. However, since the informational material and advertising implied \$100, the rebates given were \$100. Public Utilities Director Miller stated that he wanted to clarify this with Committee Members and update all informational material and advertising. After some discussion Committee Member Williamson then made the following motion "That all rebate information, applications and advertising will

state *cost of the toilet up to \$100.*” Committee Member Kristan Cockerill amended the motion by adding that commercial applications should also be worded *cost of the toilet up to \$50.* This motion was seconded by Council Member Brantz and had a unanimous vote.

Discussion of Water and Sewer Policy

Mayor Loretta Clawson stated that over the past month the Town had been in a limbo stage, referring to two bills that had been introduced in the NC Legislator, if passed these bills would have sought to take away the Town’s regulating authority in the ETJ, SB 929 and would have killed the Town’s new intake project, HB 1227. She continued that at the last meeting the Committee decided to recommend to Town Council that if SB 929 were to pass that no water and/or sewer connections or extensions would be granted into the ETJ until the ramifications of the law were fully known. The recommendation was not sent to Town Council at the last meeting; at the time the recommendation was still unclear if either bill would pass the General Assembly. Mayor Clawson then informed the Committee that currently neither of the bills passed the General Assembly and thus discussion was unnecessary.

At 6:35 Committee member Williamson made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Council Member Mason and had a unanimous vote.

Loretta Clawson- Mayor

Lane Weiss- Committee Secretary