**Minutes-Special Meeting of the Boone Town Council**
Water Use Committee
July 23, 2013

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:38 p.m, Tuesday July 23, 2013 in Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were: Lynne Mason, Andy Ball and Jamie Leigh. Members of the Water Use Committee present were: Dr. James Buchanan, Dr. Kristan Cockerill, Pam Williamson, Patrick Beville, Emily Bish and Joanna Weintraub. Committee Member Tim Wilson arrived at 6:10pm. Staff Members present were: Town Manager Greg Young, Public Utilities Director Rick Miller, Planning and Inspections Director Bill Bailey and Committee Secretary Lane Weiss. Town Attorney Sam Furguiele was also in attendance.

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

**Distribution of the Code of Ethics**

During this time Public Utilities Director Rick Miller handed out copies of the Town's current Code of Ethics Policy. Town Attorney Sam Furguiele pointed out that in the 2012 North Carolina Legislative Session laws were put in place requiring that all Cities and Towns adopt a Code of Ethics policy; further stating that the Code of Ethics went on to cover Boards and Committees as well. After a brief review of the Code, the Committee then moved to the next agenda item.

**Discussion of Legislative Review**

At this time the Mayor turned the discussion over to Town Attorney Sam Furguiele for a legislative review. Attorney Furguiele reviewed the bills that had made cross over in the General Assembly that may possibly effect the proposed New River Intake; addressing bills that may possibly effect water, zoning, the Town's municipal power and possible regionalization of utilities. After Attorney Furguiele's review, lengthy discussion ensued regarding the differing opinions of Committee members and what effects the proposed bills may have on the aforementioned intake.

**Discussion of and Possible Action of Blowing Rock and Watauga County Responses**

Town Mayor Loretta Clawson opened the discussion by stating that it is her interpretation from the letters of response from both Watauga County and Town of Blowing Rock, both entities wish to have a meeting with Town Council to discuss the proposed New River Intake. After some discussion, there was general consensus that the Water Use Committee cannot fully provide any recommendations to Town Council until the meetings take place with Watauga County and the Town of Blowing Rock. Members requested the item be placed on an upcoming agenda and moved on to the next agenda item.

**Discussion of and Possible Action for Questions Determining the Inclination of Water Use Committee Members**

Town Mayor Loretta Clawson opened the discussion by reviewing the questions submitted by Committee Member Pam Williamson at the last Water Committee meeting and holding a straw vote on each question. Committee Member Williamson noted that these votes were not binding but rather a gauge to see where the individual Committee Members stand regarding the proposed new intake.

1. Do we as a Committee believe that we want to supply water through Boone's proposed New Intake into unregulated growth areas?

   After short discussion the vote was as follows:

   **Aye (1)** - P. Beville

   **Nay (8)** - L. Clawson, E. Bish, L. Mason, A. Ball, J. Weintraub, J. Buchanan, J. Leigh, P. Williamson

   **Undecided (2)** - K. Cockerill, T. Wilson

2. Do we want to continue financing a new water intake if there is reasonable evidence that the State will confiscate the intake once completed?

   Discussion ensued concerning the exact wording of the question. After brief clarification the question was modified to state "Do we want to continue financing a new water intake if it is *reasonably possible* that the State *could* confiscate the intake once completed?"

   **Aye (6)** – E. Bish, A. Ball, P. Beville, K. Cockerill, T. Wilson, J. Buchanan

   **Nay (3)** – L.Clawson, P. Williamson, J. Leigh

   **Undecided (2)** – L. Mason, J. Weintraub

3. Do you want to continue to use limited resources to expand capacities instead of bringing the current system into better shape?

Discussion ensued concerning the conflicting implications of the question itself. Town Staff clarified the capitol needs versus the construction of the proposed new intake. After continued Committee discussion, it was decided that a vote not be taken. The Committee then went on to discuss the perceived conflict among the votes as well as brief discussion of future water needs.

At 7:55 pm, Committee Member Patrick Beville made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Committee Member Pam Williamson and had a unanimous vote.

_____ _____

Town Mayor- Loretta Clawson Committee Secretary- Lane Weiss