

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
July 27, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Rennie Brantz presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro Tem Lynne Mason, Loretta Clawson, Jennifer Teague and Jeannine Underdown Collins. Town Attorney Allison Meade was also in attendance. Staff present were Town Manager John Ward, Town Clerk Christine Pope and Public Works Director Rick Miller.

REQUEST OF TOWN STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS

Town Manager John Ward advised the purpose of the special meeting called was for Council to address and take action on the request of Town staff to enter into negotiations on behalf of the Town with Garney Companies, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder for Division 4 - Raw Water Transmission Pipeline of the raw water intake project per direction by the USDA and as authorized per North Carolina General Statute 143-129. Mr. Ward reviewed the process used to receive bids for Divisions 1-3 and Division 4 of the project, noting that as directed by Council at the last regular Council meeting, the Town will be rebidding for Divisions 1-3. He asked that staff now receive direction from Council on whether or not to negotiate with the lowest responsible bidder for Division 4, noting that project leaders believe they can identify cost savings related to the transmission line construction. Mr. Ward added that entering negotiations with the bidder requires no obligation of funds. Council Member Mason stated she was in favor of entering negotiations for potential cost savings. Town Attorney Allison Meade noted that entering negotiations requires no commitment by the Town Council to anything, and staff would still need to come back to Council for approval of any negotiated cost reductions.

MOTION

Upon a motion by Council Member Mason, seconded by Council Member Underdown Collins, Council moved to authorize Town staff to enter into negotiations on behalf of the Town with the lowest responsible bidder for Division 4 of the raw water intake project.

Council Member Clawson stated she felt the Town was misled in 2005 to say it is running out of water, adding that her water rates have doubled over the years to cover this project. She also voiced her concerns with the status of the Town's extraterritorial jurisdiction and the possibility of the State taking over the water system. Council Member Clawson stated she could not support the motion.

With no further comments, Mayor Brantz called for a vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Lynne Mason, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Jeannine Underdown Collins, Council Member
AYES:	Mason, Collins, Teague
NAYS:	Clawson
ABSENT:	Mizelle

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Council Member Clawson, seconded by Council Member Underdown Collins, Council moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Loretta Clawson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jeannine Underdown Collins, Council Member
AYES:	Mason, Collins, Clawson, Teague
ABSENT:	Mizelle

Christine Pope, Town Clerk

Rennie Brantz, Mayor