

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Watauga County Administration Building at 814 West King Street. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Rennie Brantz, Jamie Leigh and Stephen Phillips. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also present. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young, Town Clerk Freida Van Allen, Police Chief Dana Crawford, Public Utilities Director Rick Miller and Planning Director Bill Bailey.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with members of the Watauga County Board of County Commissioners to discuss the following topics:

DISCUSSION OF ETJ APPOINTMENTS

County Attorney Stacy Eggers IV opened the discussion by charging that the recent UDO amendment adopted by the Town, which allows the Town Council to appoint ETJ representatives to the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission, is in violation of state law 160A-362. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele disagreed and said a recent court of appeals decision grants the Town the authority to make the ETJ appointments. Commissioners Jim Deal and Vince Gable agreed that it was a failure of the Commissioners to appoint Boone residents instead of ETJ representatives earlier this year and that the Commissioners will appoint ETJ representatives in the future. After some discussion regarding the Town's application form and the need to amend the form to accurately reflect qualification statements made in the UDO, the Town Council agreed to amend the UDO to allow the County to, once again, appoint the ETJ representatives for the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission. The County Commissioners agreed to receive and consider all applications received from the Town of Boone.

DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION OF WATER ALLOCATION FOR OLD HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller explained that the Town had reserved 150,000 gallons per day for the old Watauga High School site to assist the County in marketing the property for sale. Mr. Miller reminded all that the reservation will expire on December 31, 2011. Commissioner Deal asked if the County should request an extension of the water reservation. Mr. Miller said yes. After little discussion, the Town Council agreed to continued cooperation in the marketing of that property and to consider extending the water reservation.

DISCUSSION OF CENTRALIZED DISPATCH

Commissioner Vince Gable said the Department of Homeland Security is recommending consolidated dispatch centers and that the Town and County should consider consolidation for safety and cost-saving reasons. Mr. Gable explained that a new law will require two dispatchers and one supervisor on-duty during each shift in order to receive 911 funds. These additional personnel costs will be a tremendous burden to all the municipalities in the county. Mr. Gable envisioned an autonomous agency with a governing board consisting of all the entities served by the consolidated center (i.e. Boone, Blowing Rock, Watauga County, ASU.) The Town Council agreed to its willingness to work together and pointed out that several representatives from the Town have been appointed to a Consolidated 911 Committee as established by Watauga County.

DISCUSSION OF GREENWAY EXPANSION

Council member Phillips requested that the County Commissioners consider the expansion of the Town's Greenway from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to County property located off Brookhollow Lane. Mr. Phillips said the Town can not expand the greenway outside its jurisdiction. Council member Mason said it is a "much needed" connector. After little discussion, the County Commissioners agreed to hear a report from the Watauga County Tourism Development Authority about this greenway connector project, including plan specifics and right-of-way acquisition costs.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council member Brantz, seconded by Council member Mason, Council moved to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

VOTE: Aye-All
 Nay-None

Town Clerk

Mayor