

Minutes-Special Meeting of the Boone Town Council

Water Use Committee

September 25, 2013

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m, Wednesday September 25, 2013 in Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present: Lynne Mason, Rennie Brantz, Allan Scherlen and Andy Ball. Members of the Water Use Committee present: Dr. James Buchanan, Dr. Kristan Cockerill, Pam Williamson, Patrick Beville, Emily Bish, Dr. Fred Badders, Tim Wilson and Tom Purpur. Staff Members present: Town Manager Greg Young, Public Utilities Director Rick Miller 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.

Discussion of Legislative Update.

Mayor Loretta Clawson opened the discussion by turning the floor over to Town Attorney Sam Furguiele. Mr. Furguiele recognized that the legislative body has been closed for the last two Water Committee meetings noting that nothing has changed since the last meeting. Town Attorney Furguiele then took this time to review with the Committee a variety of bills that may possibly affect the Town's proposed raw water intake in the upcoming legislative short session.

Discussion of and Possible Action of the Expiration of Ordinance 11-01.

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller opened the discussion by reminding the Committee that on December 31, 2013 Ordinance 11-01 is set to expire, stating that traditionally the Committee has extended Ordinance 11-01 in accordance with the peak usage numbers collected every October. Director Miller stated that he will gather the appropriate data and have it ready for a future meeting, if that is the Committee's wishes. Committee Member Beville requested detailed information concerning the status of the proposed New River Intake. Director Miller stated that at the moment there were several hurdles remaining and asked for further instruction regarding the expiration of Ordinance 11-01. After a brief discussion of estimated time lines Committee Member Pam Williamson noted that while her comment was not directly related to the current agenda item she would like to stress the importance of previous discussions concerning the proposed New River Intake. Stating that her previous concerns were still relevant, Mrs. Williamson requested that the following be noted in the minutes, "That I still have concerns with proceeding without more information regarding some of that, I think that it's tough to make decisions about things of this importance and where we are looking to represent all the people in the town and their money it's hard to make sound decisions without all the information." Committee Member Williamson also stated that she felt it is appropriate to review and extend Ordinance 11-01. Public Utilities Director Miller questioned the review portion of her statement, asking if she had specific suggestions or questions concerning Ordinance 11-01. After brief discussion clarifying the request for a review of Ordinance 11-01, Committee Member Beville stated that the Water Use Committee has worked diligently to put together Ordinance 11-01 and didn't feel an overhaul is warranted, unless there are suggested changes from Town Staff. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller stated that he is quite comfortable with Ordinance 11-01. Committee Member Williamson stated that some Committee members might have a few questions or concerns regarding Ordinance 11-01 and requested a date by which the Committee members may contact Mr. Miller to log their concerns and have them addressed at the next meeting. After brief discussion concerning when questions will need to be submitted, Council Member Lynne Mason stated for the record that she does not like to have to allocate water, stating that the proposed New River intake has taken far longer than ever projected, reminding the Committee that it is the Town's obligation to provide water to its citizens. Further recognizing that the allocation process can be difficult at times, highlighting the importance for the Town to secure the proposed New River Intake to meet daily and future demands. She went on to point out that these delays are continuing to increase costs and ultimately the water users will pay. She continued that there is a balance that needs to be achieved between the different competing needs with a limited supply, and if a new source isn't secured then the community will face a great hardship. As discussion ensued, Committee Members expressed frustration regarding a lack of detailed information concerning the ongoing proposed New River Intake. Committee Member Tim Wilson asked specifically if there are any issues with the right of ways along Brownwood Road. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller and Town Staff were unable to answer this and many other specific questions posed by Committee Members. Committee Member Williamson stated that she respected the delicate

handling of some information regarding the proposed New River intake and requested a list of what is remaining to be completed on the intake. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller stated that he did have some hesitance in providing a list due to the sensitive nature of some items and the continued emergence of obstacles. After continued requests for information and discussion, Committee Member Williamson made the following motion, "That the Committee Members take until October 15, 2013 to submit any comments, suggestions, changes or questions to Public Utilities Director Rick Miller to address at the November Water Use Committee Meeting when the vote is taken on Ordinance 11-01". Committee Member Dr. Fred Badders seconded the motion and had a unanimous vote.

Discussion of and Possible Action of the County Request for the Old High School Water Reserve

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller opened the discussion by distributing a copy of the letter sent by County Commissioner Nathan Miller requesting that the Town continue with the 150,000 gallon per day reserve, noting that the reserve expiration coincides with Ordinance 11-01 and is set to expire on December 31, 2013. Brief discussion ensued concerning any news of the possible sale of the property. At this time Committee Member Williamson made a motion that the Town sell the 150,000 gallon per day reserve for two millions dollars. The motion failed to garner a second. After continued discussion and speculation of what buildings will necessitate that large an amount of water as well as a review of how the initial 150,000 gallons per day was reserved, Committee Member Patrick Beville made a motion that a letter be sent to the County requesting their calculations for the maximum daily usage amount for the Old High School property, stating that the letter be in the spirit of getting the property sold but explaining that in order to move forward clarification is needed. This motion was seconded by Committee Member Pam Williamson. Council Member Brantz expressed some worry that this might make the property more difficult to sell. Committee Member Beville explained that he felt an accurate picture of the water needs will in fact make the property more marketable. Mr. Beville went on to point out his frustrations with reserving an arbitrary amount of water when the Town may face water demand challenges in the future. After continued discussion the Committee took a vote on the standing motion.

Vote: Aye-(12) L. Clawson, L. Mason, A. Scherlen, A. Ball, J. Buchanan, K. Cockerill, P.

Williamson, P. Beville, E. Bish, F. Badders, T. Wilson, T. Purpur.

Nay-(1) R. Brantz

Discussion of and Possible Action of the Use of Storage Tanks for Water Needs.

Committee Member Tim Wilson opened the discussion by stating that the proposed water intake is taking much longer than originally planned and questioned why can't the Town pull the full amount available from its current intakes and store that water. Mr. Wilson went on further questioning the cost of putting up storage tanks as opposed to the current proposed intake. Committee Member Beville noted that storage tanks were considered in the original engineering proposal but were ruled out and he felt that from an engineering and an economical perspective they were not any solution to the Town's future water demands. At this time Committee Member Beville excused himself from the meeting. Committee Member Wilson noted that he was aware that stale water may become an issue but stated there were a variety of ways to prevent staleness or the Town may formulate some pumping and dumping system to keep the water from getting stale. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller stated, that he could foresee a problem with the amount of water needed to continually fill tanks, explaining that if it is decided to pull the eligible 3 million gallons per day, that will in turn hit the 90% threshold which will mandate that the Town be in the active stages of building for a new water source. Mr. Miller continued by reviewing the current Town's process for pumping and filling storage tanks, adding that the Town currently had more storage capacity than required by the State. Committee Member Purpur stated that he didn't see how adding storage tanks will be able to increase the Town's capacity which the Public Utilities Director confirmed that it will not be able to increase the Town's current capacity. After continued discussion reviewing the possible pros versus cons of storage tanks, the Committee took no action. However at the end of discussion, Committee Member Williamson requested that Public Utilities Director Rick Miller bring a list of the different site locations reviewed in the engineering report and the corresponding water available at each location.

At 7:10pm Committee Member Pam Williamson made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Committee Member Emily Bish and had a unanimous vote.