

**MINUTES – EMERGENCY MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
October 2, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

An emergency meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Boone Town Hall staff breakroom located at 567 West King Street in Boone. Mayor Futrelle presided. Council members present included Mayor Pro-Tem Dalton George, Todd Carter, Eric Plaag, Edie Tugman, and Virginia Roseman. Staff present included Town Manager Amy Davis and Town Clerk Nicole Harmon-Church. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take potential action regarding disaster recovery and relief efforts related to the effects of Hurricane Helene.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION REGARDING DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS RELATED TO THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE HELENE

The meeting began with a check-in on emergency management and recovery efforts in Boone following Hurricane Helene's impact on September 27. Council member Plaag reminded Council to keep EMS personnel in mind, while Council member Tugman inquired about additional assistance for those in need. Manager Davis confirmed that FEMA was on-site conducting damage assessments and emphasized the importance of residents applying for relief, even if insurance is denied, as denial letters are required for FEMA claims. She noted that funds from water/sewer reserves would be used to replace the generator at the lift pump station and shared that the Town was financially sound despite ongoing recovery efforts. Mayor Pro-Tem George urged Council to explore rapid repair programs, like the STEP program, to expedite recovery. Council member Roseman stressed the importance of clear communication between the Town and County, and Manager Davis confirmed attendance at a County meeting to discuss funding applications. Additionally, Manager Davis shared that Andy Berke from the Samaritan's Purse had approved coordination of roadway entrance repairs, with a work order number provided for assistance.

Council then addressed event requests and scheduling. Manager Davis reported that two event requests—one from Lost Province and South End Brewing for this weekend and another from SAHA for October 12th—had been received but staff recommended postponing them due to ongoing recovery efforts and staffing issues. Council member Plaag mentioned that Oktoberfest at South End, including concerts, was still moving forward, but Mayor Futrelle encouraged businesses to consider the broader recovery efforts and comply with public health standards and curfews. Council member Roseman proposed suspending all events temporarily due to stress on infrastructure, and the Council reached a consensus to cancel all events through October.

Manager Davis proposed compensating exempt staff during the recovery period, consistent with FEMA reimbursement guidelines. Council member Roseman motioned to release funds for staff payments, and Council member Tugman amended the motion to allow discretion for Manager Davis in managing this process. Council member Roseman accepted the amendment. Council member Plaag then seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Next, Council discussed tenant issues following the storm. Mayor Pro-Tem George raised concerns about tenants' rights and responsibilities, and suggested directing Attorney Meade to draft a legal memorandum addressing these issues, visit impacted sites, and speak with tenants. He emphasized the importance of holding a Town-led clinic on tenants' rights and providing this information within three days. Council member Plaag suggested partnering with ASU to host a resource fair, while Mayor Pro-Tem George stressed the urgency of educating tenants on their rights and advising them not to sign agreements without consulting legal guidance. It was the consensus of Council to direct Attorney Meade to draft a one-page document outlining tenant rights, including requirements for floodplain disclosures and the legality of leases under Town ordinances. Council member Plaag also requested clarification from Attorney Meade on security deposit concerns. Mayor Pro-Tem George reiterated that many leases may be illegal and stressed the need to provide tenants with actionable knowledge of their rights.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Futrelle adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Tim Futrelle, Mayor