

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
JULY 19, 2005**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:08 p.m., Tuesday, July 19, 2005, in the Town Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road, Boone, NC. Mayor Velma C. Burnley presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Loretta Clawson, Lynne Mason, Graydon Eggers, and Bunk Spann. Members of the Water Study Committee present were Mary Ruth McRae, Phil Templeton, and Steve Owen. Town staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Rick Miller-Public Utilities Director, John Spear-Development Services Director, and Kim Tester-Deputy Town Clerk. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive information from the Water Study Committee subcommittee regarding water conservation and to review draft language regarding sewer-only hook-ups for possible inclusion in Ordinance 05-01.

Mayor Burnley welcomed everyone to the meeting. She invited Council member Spann to begin presentation of the subcommittee's recommendation.

Council member Spann thanked all who participated in the subcommittee meetings. He noted that the subcommittee consisted of himself, Phil Templeton, Steve Owen, Public Utilities Director Rick Miller, and Patrick Beville, a special consultant to the subcommittee. He also thanked Megan Wilson, of the Public Utilities Department, for her help in research and record-keeping. Council member Spann informed the group that the subcommittee was tasked with the study of both voluntary and mandatory water conservation efforts. He stated that the subcommittee decided to focus on voluntary water conservation efforts and will meet again in the fall of the year to discuss the pros and cons of a mandatory water conservation policy.

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller informed the group that the draft (**Attachment A**) contained in the meeting packet was prepared by Committee member Owens. He stated that the intent of the subcommittee was to present the draft to the full committee for feedback and as a possible recommendation to the Town Council. Committee member McRae asked if the town has a tiered pricing system for water customers. Mr. Miller stated that the town does not use a tiered pricing system at this time. He indicated that the subcommittee will consider this issue at a later date, but felt that, due to a recent rate increase, a change in the billing system would not be appropriate. Committee member Owen stated that the subcommittee suggests that an educational process be the first step in introducing water conservation to the public. He offered that any water conservation policy should include input from the public.

Council member Mason asked if the subcommittee had discussed water conservation methods utilized by other communities. Council member Spann stated that the group did explore policies of other communities in the state. Public Utilities Director Rick Miller presented information from the City of Greensboro including a colorful and informative brochure containing water conservation information. He further stated that the list of water conservation tips (**Attachment B**) included in the meeting packet could be printed on monthly water bills. Mr. Miller stated that the subcommittee recommends a media blitz including newspaper, radio, and television coverage along with features on the Mayor's Report and the Cable TV information channel as a way to introduce the idea of water conservation to the public. Furthermore, he suggested that the town initiate a water audit on all of its facilities. Committee member Templeton stated that the town would need someone to be responsible for this program. Mr. Miller suggested having a program coordinator, such as the Public Works Department who oversees the adopt-a-street and recycling programs. Committee member McRae pointed out that the water problem is not as visible to the public as is trash or recycling needs. She stated that the town needs to take a very serious approach to explaining the current water situation to the citizens. Council member Spann indicated that a conservation ethic needs to be established to carry on even after the current water situation is remedied.

Upon a motion by Committee member McRae, seconded by Council member Clawson, the Water Study Committee agreed to recommend to Council the initiation of a voluntary water conservation education program.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele presented the committee with a draft proposal (**Attachment C**) concerning sewer-only connections. He offered that a statement be included which indicates that the applicant will connect to water at the request of the town. Mr. Furgiuele pointed out that this statement would be formatted so as to be recorded at the Register of Deeds. Council member Mason stated that the Council may need to further study this policy as it relates to hardship cases.

Upon a motion by Council member Mason, seconded by Council member Clawson, the Water Study Committee agreed to recommend the proposed draft prepared by Sam Furgiuele be sent to the Town Council for consideration.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

Town Manager Greg Young stated that Phase I of the water study has been completed and asked if the committee would like to receive a status report from the engineer at the next meeting. It was the consensus of the committee to invite the engineer to the next meeting for a status report.

Upon a motion by Council member Clawson, seconded by Council member Mason, the next meeting of the Water Study Committee was set for Monday, August 15, 2005, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

VOTE: Aye - All
 Nay - None

With no further matters before the committee, Mayor Burnley adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk		Mayor