

**MINUTES -SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
JUNE 13, 2007**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 8:15 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2007 in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Rennie Brantz, Janet Pepin, Bunk Spann and Dempsey Wilcox. Staff members present were Town Manager Greg Young; Town Clerk Freida Van Allen; Deputy Town Clerk Kim Tester; Assistant to the Manager Jim Byrne; Fire Chief Reggie Hassler; Development Services Director John Spear; Public Services Director Blake Brown; Public Utilities Director Rick Miller; Human Resources Director Peri Moretz; Police Chief Bill Post and Finance Director Amy Davis.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Town Manager Greg Young presented a powerpoint outlining the various funds within the Town of Boone budget (**permanently on file**).

Council member Spann said the Town should investigate “long-term” energy conservation in a way to reduce budget costs.

Town Manager Greg Young said that 22% of property in the Town of Boone is tax-exempt. Council requested that analysis be compiled comparing the Town of Boone with other municipalities that have tax-exempt property.

Town Manager Young said that the outside agency process went well this year and that the recommendations were made objectively.

Mayor Clawson declared a break at 9:48 p.m. Council reconvened at 10:04 a.m.

DBDA Director Tuesdae Rice explained why the DBDA had recommended a 6.5¢ tax increase for the fiscal year 2007/2008 budget. Ms. Rice said the tax increase will be used for hiring additional personnel and for additional facade grants. Council suggested that staff educate the DBDA membership on their upcoming projects and accomplishments. Council agreed with the tax increase.

Watauga County Arts Council Director Cherry Johnson updated Council about the grant application for the fencing project. The Town was awarded \$4,000 of the \$5,500 request. Ms. Johnson discussed the need for continuing the landscaping project, the need for a paint job on the Jones House and the need for a 5% increase of the contracted services line allocation. Council member Brantz requested \$5,000 funding for an exhibit that would provide a history of the Jones House. Council agreed to the 5% increase of the contracted services line. Council agreed to make a special allocation of \$7,000 for the painting of the Jones House. Council also agreed to make a special allocation of \$2,000 to finish the stone facade on the marquis.

Council member Mason asked the status of the lobbyists’ actions and if the Town has seen any progress on their efforts. Town Manager Greg Young said we are paying the federal lobbyist \$6,000 a month and the state lobbyist \$5,000 a month. Council requested that the lobbyists’ provide more detail on their activities and the number of hours spent lobbying for the Town of Boone. Council agreed to continue the contracts until after the budget cycles are complete.

Council member Mason requested that the Neighborhood Conservation Task Force convene to look at the rental program and its progress. Council discussed at length being more proactive in the Town’s enforcement program in the future and requested that Development Services staff think about areas in which a program of this type could be implemented.

Council discussed the need to increase water and sewer fees in order to offset the cost of a new water intake.

Mayor Clawson declared a break at 12:15 p.m. Council reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Council discussed at length the funding of the Howard Street Project. Council agreed that the general fund would lend the water and sewer fund \$1,000,000 for raw water land acquisition and have the \$100,000 loan payment, over 10-years, be used for the repayment of the Howard Street Project loan. Council agreed that unless all the right-of-way easements are obtained soon, the Howard Street Project may not go forward.

Council agreed to allocate \$100,000 from the Water and Sewer fund toward affordable housing in the installation of sewer lines to the Elk Motel. While discussing the elective projects allocation, Council agreed to allocate \$185,500 toward the Ann Marie/Elizabeth Drive park from the \$500,000 elective project allocation. Council discussed at length the Horn in the West and the deteriorating problems the facilities are facing. Council agreed to await the engineer's report before discussing the problems at length. Council agreed to allocate \$100,000 toward sidewalks. Council also agreed to allocate \$33,000 for the smart growth audit and \$20,000 for storm water. Furthermore, Council agreed to allocate \$100,000 toward the UDO/Comp plan update. The complete elective projects allocation is as follows:

JONES HOUSE PAINTING	7,000.00
JONES HOUSE MARQUEE/ROCK FAÇADE	2,000.00
JONES HOUSE FENCE	5,500.00
ANN MARIE / ELIZABETH DRIVE	182,500.00
SIDEWALKS	100,000.00
SMART GROWTH AUDIT	33,000.00
STORM WATER	20,000.00
STREAM BANK RESTORATION	50,000.00
UDO / COMPRENSIVE PLAN UPDATE	100,000.00
TOTAL	\$500,000.00

To finalize the meeting, Council agreed to allow staff to develop a method to fund a truck for the Facilities Maintenance Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Clawson adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor