

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
OCTOBER 8, 2008**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:10 p.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2008, in the Council Chambers, 1500 Blowing Rock Road. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Liz Aycock, Janet Pepin, Rennie Brantz, and Stephen Phillips. Members of the Water Use Committee present were Mary Ruth McRae, Patrick Beville, and Kristan Cockerill. Staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Kimberly Brown-Deputy Town Clerk, Rick Miller-Public Utilities Director, and Andrea Gimlin-Program Coordinator. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also in attendance.

Mayor Clawson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF DROUGHT TRIGGERS AND CONSERVATION LEVELS

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller began by stating that when Article VII of the Water & Sewer Code was revised, there was not enough information available to revise the conditions that trigger the various stages of the Water Shortage levels. Since that time, he stated that he has consulted an engineer and received a ballpark figure of approximately \$50,000-\$60,000 to install a system that will monitor the water level of the basin and stream level at various locations before the intake point. Mr. Miller said that there is currently no money funded for the installation of this type of system. He stated the information was calculated by the engineering firm of HSMM and that the offer has already expired. He explained that if the Council wants to pursue acquiring this system, then the Town will solicit RFQs (Request for Quotes) for the project. Council Member Mason asked how past triggers have been calculated. Mr. Miller stated that past triggers were calculated by observation from the Utility Department staff based on water levels of the stream and in the water tanks. Committee Member Beville pointed out that ground-water levels can also affect the level of water in a stream. Discussion ensued concerning the effect of the withdrawal of water from streams which supply water for the town by other entities which are allowed to withdraw up to 100,000 gallons from the stream without obtaining a permit. It was the consensus of the committee not to pursue an engineering system that will monitor water levels within the streams at this time. Furthermore, the committee agreed that the Town should send letters to state and federal representatives and to the group of officials appointed to study water issues emphasizing the need to regulate water withdrawals by private entities due to the effect on the entire water system. The committee also agreed that the effect of pharmaceuticals being dumped into water systems needs further study to determine any negative impacts on the quality of water. The water subcommittee agreed to further study the issue and report back to the committee.

The committee asked for an update on the progress of interconnection with ASU and the Town of Blowing Rock. Mr. Miller stated that an environmental assessment is currently being conducted by Blowing Rock engineers. He stated that ASU is in the design process at this time.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY WATER REPORT INFORMATION

Public Utilities Director Rick Miller explained that the Council currently receives information at the regular monthly meeting including a chart which details the maximum-use day of the month and comparison of the same month for the past 13 years. After brief discussion, it was agreed that the Council will receive a chart detailing the total usage for the month compared with the same month during the past five years.

OTHER MATTERS

The committee agreed to meet again in November to consider the annual report for water allocations. The meeting was set for Monday, November 24, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items for discussion, Mayor Clawson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor