

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners Intergovernmental Meeting-September 22, 2008

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners attended an Intergovernmental Meeting hosted by Appalachian State University. The meeting took place in the Helen Powers-South Room at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center. In attendance from the Town were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, and Phillip Pickett. Unable to attend were Albert Yount and Tommy Klutz. Staff members in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene

Also attending were various representatives from Watauga County, Appalachian State University, Town of Boone and the Town of Seven Devils. Mr. Michael Trew from the High Country Council of Government was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

A.S.U. Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs, Mr. Greg Lovins called the meeting to order at 5:11 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Lovins suggested the agenda order be changed in order for subcommittee groups to break out into teams at the end of the meeting. Everyone concurred.

PRESENTATION OF POWER-POINT – BOONE’S WATER NEEDS

After introductions were made, Boone Town Council Member Rennie Brantz gave a power-point presentation regarding Boone’s water needs. Mr. Brantz stated the Town had a responsibility to supply clean water to their residents. According to the town’s water supply study, the population would double in the next 50 years and a solution was needed regarding water supply. He also stated the Town of Boone was doing a number of things in order to conserve water.

In the presentation Mr. Brantz stated the South Fork of the New River located in Todd, N.C. has enough water to meet the growing needs of the area and would be reviewed by the State to insure the river would not be environmentally harmed. Mr. Brantz advised the town of Boone needed a maximum of 4 million gallons per day and the New River would be affected very little.

Mr. Brantz also stated the water would be better protected due to the state watershed restrictions and would be cleaner when it returned to the New River than when it was taken out.

Mr. Jimmy Deal inquired what Blowing Rock's water needs were. Town Manager Hildebran stated presently 500,000 gallons per day was the average daily demand. However, summer and fall require a greater demand. Town Engineer Doug Chapman agreed with Mr. Hildebran and stated the Town of Blowing Rock was doing a number of things to conserve water as well.

Boone Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason stated a 4-year study had been completed by the Town of Boone that reviewed several options regarding water needs of the area, and the use of the New River in Todd was the best option. Ms. Mason also spoke regarding the continuous rise in costs for future updates that would be needed, such as building another water treatment plant, etc.

UPDATE ON ASU CAPITAL PROJECTS

Dr. Lorin Baumhover addressed student housing at ASU. He stated presently ASU houses approximately 34% of their student population on-campus and their goal was to house at least 40%. He also stated currently there were approximately 50 students admitted to ASU that did not have housing. He also stated that at least 50 new freshmen were enrolled at ASU each year.

Dr. Baumhover stated the cost of new construction was approximately \$30 million per facility and ASU did not receive State funds for the new construction, the cost was generated by student receipts only. He also advised updates to various buildings on campus would cost approximately \$10 million per facility.

Mr. Deal stated growth was inevitable and the goal was to preserve the community and still plan for growth.

A power-point presentation was given by Mr. Lovin regarding capital projects planned for ASU that were already in progress or planned in the near future. He advised that ASU was currently in the process of updating their Campus Master Plan.

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Dr. Todd Cherry, Professor of Economics stated data was collected in 2006 regarding the economic impact ASU has on the surrounding area to include Watauga, Ashe, Caldwell and Wilkes Counties. Areas impacted would be income, business tax, jobs, etc.

Dr. Michael McKee presented a power-point version of the study that showed the economic and tax revenue impact of ASU to the area. In the study, Dr. McKee

advised the University impacted the area with 5,121 jobs, \$125 million in earnings, \$506 million in general output and \$39 million in additional indirect business taxes.

Economic Impact Study- Attachment A

DUSCUSSION ON HOW TO BEST HANDLE INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISPUTES DIPLOMATICALLY

Boone Council Member Mr. Stephen Phillips spoke regarding the need to handle intergovernmental disagreements between entities in order to find a common ground. He asked for input from others on “how to agree to disagree.” Mr. Deal stated many times entities interests are the same and good communication is needed between each group in order to work together in finding solutions to problems they face.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE FACILITATION AND COORDINATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RETREATS

Blowing Rock Town Manager Scott Hildebran suggested that future retreats be handled by the High County Council of Government (COG) and advised Mr. Phillip Trew was present to answer questions. Mr. Trew stated the COG would be willing to offer their services at no charge if everyone agreed and that he would be their primary contact.

After further discussion, it was consensus of all entities to allow the High Country Council of Government to facilitate future retreats. It was suggested that each entity designate members of their staff to work with Mr. Trew on issues of concern they would like to see discussed at future retreats.

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m. and those present regrouped into their designated teams to discuss various issues.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

Attachments (09-22-08)
Economic Impact Study-Attachment A

