

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock

Board of Commissioners

October 25, 2005

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners attended a joint meeting with the Watauga County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Boone Town Council and Appalachian State University Representatives on Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Watauga County Extension Office in Boone. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss county water and sewer issues with Director of the University of North Carolina School of Government Environmental Finance Center Jeff Hughes.

Those present included:

Town of Blowing Rock

Mayor J.B. Lawrence

Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Terry Lentz, Rita Wiseman and David Wray

Town Manager Scott Hildebran

Public Works Director Johnny Lentz

Town Planner Kevin Rothrock

Town Engineer Dour Chapman

Watauga County

Board Chairman James Deal

County Commissioners Keith Honeycutt, David Blust, and Winston Kinsey

County Manager Rocky Nelson

Assistant County Manager Deron Geouque

County Planner Joe Furman

Town of Boone

Councilmembers Graydon Eggers, Dempsey Wilcox, Lynne Mason, and Milton "Bunk" Spann

Councilmember Elect Janet Pepin

Town Manager Greg Young

Utilities Director Rick Miller

Appalachian State University

Representative Lorin Baumhover

After a brief introduction by Chairman James Deal, representatives from the four groups briefly stated their water concerns.

The county expressed a desire to better understand the water issue in the county and an interest in the economic development impact water availability may have on major corridors in the county.

The Town of Blowing Rock elaborated on the need for additional raw water supply and the fact that the Town was under state moratorium for water line extensions.

The Town of Boone stated that they too have limited raw water availability and are quickly reaching their permit limit. As such, they are presently seeking a new water source to meet future demands and expected growth.

Appalachian State University stressed the need for a backup water supply due to pending growth and their future water interconnection with the Town of Boone.

Jeff Hughes then outlined the various options for providing water and sewer services to citizens of the State – both institutional and contractual. He discussed institutional approaches such as the most common system, which is a system run by a local government (municipality or county), or the creation of a separate governmental unit - as in a water and sewer authority. Mr. Hughes next discussed contractual options, which do not involve the creation of new governmental units. These possibilities included inter-local agreements, where parties contract with each other for services, and county service districts, where different service areas are defined to provide different service level needs.

Mr. Hughes stressed the importance of cooperation and that each party in the end must select the best options that work for them. He also advised that he would pull together some additional information on inter-local agreements for the dissemination among the parties.

Chairman Deal thanked Mr. Hughes for his overview and asked the parties about the next step in this dialogue.

Mayor Lawrence suggested that each entity list their goals/expectations and concerns related working together and that they report back at a future meeting.

The county, both municipalities, and the university agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Deal adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR _____

J.B. Lawrence

Attest: _____

Sharon H. Greene, Town Clerk