

...and Boone Still Wants Mediation

Written by Steve Frank
Thursday, 18 April 2013 16:15

The Town of Boone by letter this afternoon, rejected the circumstances of a meeting to resolve their differences over new Boone housing standards, standards that will kill the \$19 million sale of the old Watauga High property. Town Manager Greg Young responded within the hour to the county's offer, still maintains that mediation behind closed doors is legal and proper, and asked the county to take that action. Watauga County Manager Deron Geouque's letter to Boone Town Manager Greg Young still maintains the county's position of an open meeting in front of public and press as opposed to the town's desire for closed mediation. The town had offered four possible dates for meeting, those in today's letter as well, beginning Tuesday, and Geouque's letter indicates that Tuesday at 5:30 would be their choice--the day before the due diligence period ends on the sale of the property. The Boone Town Council holds their second regularly scheduled meeting tonight, and there may be a further response to the county at that point. The county voted Tuesday to send a letter to the state to change the sales tax distribution in the county, a move that would cost the town \$2 million annually, county commission chairman Nathan Miller saying that the move was to help the county recover some of their loss from what is anticipated as the cancelled sale of the old high school and the devaluation of the property due to the Boone Town Council action.

Town of Boone



April 17, 2013

Watauga County
Deron T. Geouque, County Manager
814 W. King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Deron:

On behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Boone, I am again writing to request mediation with the Watauga County Commissioners for the sole purpose of exploring how we can work toward a mutually beneficial solution regarding the old high school property. Our Town Attorney has provided documentation showing that mediation through simultaneous, separate closed sessions is legal, and it is our desire to have this mediation prior to the end of April. The Town will provide a mediator at the Town's expense.

We would like to propose the following dates for the Commissioners' consideration:
April 23, 24, 25 or 26 any time during the day, or April 29 any time between 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

We hope you'll accept this invitation to work toward a decision that will benefit our entire community. We appreciate the Commissioners' consideration of this request. Please contact me to confirm arrangements for the meeting.

Sincerely,

Greg Young
Town Manager

cc: Town of Boone Mayor and Council
Watauga County Commissioners