

Boone Calls Special Meeting on Suit Threat

Written by Steve Frank

The latest in the dispute between the Watauga County Commission and Boone Town Council has led to a called special meeting for late Wednesday afternoon, that for the town to discuss the ongoing issues with Watauga County, according to a Town of Boone notice released Friday.

The notification says the board plans to meet in closed session at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Council Chambers at 1500 Blowing Rock Road. The meeting notice cites N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(3)(a), the town said it would consult with the town attorney to "consider and give instructions concerning the handling and settlement of threatened judicial and administrative actions by the Watauga County Commission Chairman against the Town." The meeting will come after the county's change in sales tax collection will have been sent to Raleigh, a move that will cost the town of Boone \$2 million annually, but, according to County Manager Deron Geouque, two weeks before the due diligence period ends on the old Watauga High property on which the dispute is centered. A change on the towns' part might save the deal, even though high bidder Phil Templeton has said he planned to pull out of the deal due to the town's actions. Various Watauga Commissioners have threatened to sue the town over their change in housing standards, coming amidst the process toward a sale of the old High School property.