

Elk Motel owner Floyd “Dipper” Garrison hopes tonight is the night his hotel is approved for a connection to the town of Boone’s sewage system.

He’s on the agenda for tonight’s Council meeting- and even if a decision is made in his favor tonight, he fears it could be too late.

“Our septic field has been overloaded for months now. It’s just a matter of time before it collapses altogether,” he says.

Garrison has been dealing with the sewage issue for nine months. Initially, he says Boone approved the connection- if the county would earn a third of the cost. The county, however, had conditions of its own last month when it requested that Boone allow a sewage hookup for a county-planned subdivision. Last month, Garrison said he felt like a “political football.” He’ll be in attendance at the meeting tonight- and encourages concerned citizens to do the same.

“The town’s aware of the time frame here... so they just need to step up and get it done at this point,” he says.

Garrison says the Motel is more than a business- it’s low-income housing. For as little as \$325 a month, low-income residents of Watauga can live at the motel- as long as they get a job, Garrison says. The Motel is what Garrison calls a “mission,” and if the sewage connection does not happen, he fears its residents will have nowhere else to go.