Written by Gary Childers
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Boone Town Council held Frontier Natural Gas's leader's "feet to the fire" during Thursday evening's meeting, "The continued frustration is the lack of response. The problem from the beginning is where promises were made to be extending into neighborhoods and then there's dead silence."

Council member Lynne Mason went on to say she wanted to see Frontier's written plan for Boone, the plans it has submitted to the State Utilities Commission, their feasibility studies, and also wanted to know if Frontier had applied for Article 12 funding which helps offset extra costs in areas that are more expensive for natural gas installation, concluding by saying that we "deserve answers to those questions". Dave Shipley, Frontier Gas Vice President for East Coast Operations, responded to Council members concerns beginning by stating, "We dropped the ball in 2012 on things. It's going to change. We're going to be more community involved, more interactive." Mr. Shipley explained that he doesn't mean that wholesale construction of lines will take place, but said Frontier has allocated two million dollars for capital construction in 2013 for their six county service area with approximately $400,000 ear marked for Watauga and the Town of Boone. He then described the probable areas for expansion in 2013 and stated; "We're on your side even though it doesn't seem like it sometimes". The discussion ended with the new area manager, Darrell Knight, speaking briefly and distributing business cards with his cell phone number issuing the invitation for Council members to call any time there was a concern he needed to address.