

## Town Rejects County Meeting Format

Written by Steve Frank  
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The saga continues this afternoon, as the Town of Boone is apparently rejecting the county's format to meet and discuss issues that will kill the sale of the Old Watauga High property. In an email this afternoon under Mayor Loretta Clawson's stationary, the letter reads, "the Town has received the unwelcome news that the County has rejected their invitation to participate in a mediation to try to resolve the County's threat to sue the Town. We are very disappointed. Although the County says it is relying on the opinion of the County Attorney, we think it is ironic that mediation in parallel closed sessions was exactly the way the Town and County settled their differences over the landfill when Stacy Eggers, Jr. was County Attorney. The Town disagrees with the County's legal analysis. We hope the County will reconsider and that the Commissioners will also reconsider their threat of legal action and the change in the sales tax." Watauga Commission chairman Nathan Miller said earlier this week that the mayor's assertion that an open meeting would be a 'circus' was 'unfortunate,' and that the county would conduct its business in the open.