

Miller Responds to Town of Boone

Written by Steve Frank

"Unfortunately, it appears that the Town Council has decided to play the fiddle while Boone burns," that from Watauga Commission Chairman Nathan Miller, who said, "But unlike emperor Nero, the citizens of Boone will have the chance to vote these people out come November." Yesterday's communication from the Town of Boone drew the comments of chairman Miller, who had some observations about other points in the town's communication, "Now the Town of Boone has sent out a memo detailing some of the cuts they're looking at. What they don't mention is the \$680,000 they've spent on lobbyists over the past six years. That, in my opinion, would be a good place to start cutting." Yesterday's letter from the Town of Boone said it may be too late for the county to reverse action on the sales tax distribution, even if a compromise could be worked out, and chairman Miller agreed, pointing to all the time lost in the indirect arguing, mostly in the press, "We all knew that time was ticking away, and they decided to send letters back and forth instead of actually meeting." The town and county are feuding over recently adopted Boone housing standards that will kill the sale of the old Watauga High property with a high bid in at \$19 million. The county, a large property holder in the town of Boone, has threatened to sue the town over the new Affordable Housing initiative for its impact on the school property and on other properties the county owns within the town.