

County Changes Sales Tax, Town Meets

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Watauga County carried out its threat to the Town of Boone yesterday, with county manager Deron Geouque hand-carrying the county's notification to the state to change the sales tax collection formula. The move will cost Boone some \$2 million in revenues, beginning in July and with the 2013-14 budget, just now being formulated. But the matter at the root cause of the dispute is still nowhere from being settled, and the county still has the option, as a major owner of property in the town of Boone, to sue the town over the new 'affordable housing' ordinance that has caused the rift. On that matter, the Boone Town Council will hold a special meeting late this afternoon, going into a closed session to discuss the threats from county commission chairman Nathan Miller to sue the town. The town still has time to change their stand and save potentially save the \$19 million deal on the old Watauga High property, but with the county playing their trump card and changing the sales tax distribution for at least the next year, that would seem unlikely. Watauga waited until the absolutely last minute to notify the state of their action, hoping for some movement from the town, but so far, there's no evidence that any such move is on the horizon.