

Water Talk Gets Heated

Written by
Friday, 31 August 2007 10:50

A series of political advertisements put on by Citizens for Change caught the attention of Town of Boone officials- so much so that Mayor Loretta Clawson discussed the issue on this morning's edition of Watauga Talks.

She said Public Utilities Director Rick Miller would love to hear about any water leaks. You don't have to spend money on a political ad, she said- just give him a call.

Miller's office corrected the problem, Clawson said- but that wasn't good enough for caller and Citizens for Change representative Jeff Templeton.

"The leak that we discussed on the Deck Hill Water Tank wasn't a leak, it was a Town of Boone pipe that was left running for the past five years, putting out approximately 4,000 gallons of water a day, so it's hard to call that a leak when it's a town maintained facility," he said.

Clawson said it was more complicated than just redirecting the pipe back into the water supply- it's costly, and the costs may outweigh the benefits.

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Templeton, however, disagreed, and claimed the issue was complicated because Clawson was using it for political gain. That's when the conversation got heated.

"I'm not going to sit here and talk to you all day," she said. Clawson said she declined appearing on the Right Side because, his "level of negativity is so low that [she] would not let [herself] be drawn down to that negativity."

The two agreed to disagree. The program Clawson refers to, On the Right Side, is hosted by Jim Hastings and Jim Goff, and often has representation from the Citizens for Change.

On a related note, things are getting better in Boone according to Public Utilities Director Rick Miller.

"The rain is definitely helping the situation. We're going to continue to monitor it over

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the weekend and if we can continue to get the rain, maybe ease up the voluntary stage one conditions next week," he said.