

Boone Budget Before Town Council Tonight

Written by Steve Frank
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Tonight, we'll learn whether the taxpayers of Boone will get the bill for the county's changing of the sales tax distribution, a move that has cost the Boone Town budget \$1.8 million for the upcoming year. Council members have spent hours poring over Town Manager Greg Young's budget proposal, one with a lot of fives in it—five percent cuts to each department's budget, five percent cuts to travel and training, and a five-cent property tax increase. Those hours of work may have trimmed enough to stave off a tax increase, but it may only come with a dip into reserves—about \$3 million worth. The proposal would take the funds above the town's 35% reserve. Young's budget does project an additional \$300,000 from increased property value. No one spoke at the public hearing on the Boone town budget Tuesday, in spite of the deficit coming due to a dispute with the county that led to the cancellation of the sale of the old Watauga High property. But with 10 days until the new budget goes into effect, final action is expected at the Boone Town Council meeting tonight at 6:30.

Photos: Jeremiah Farmer