

Elk Motel may get sewage help

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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After deliberating for a half hour in closed session, Commissioners reached a unanimous decision to provide one third of the funding needed for the Elk Motel to connect to the Town of Boone's sewage system.

There are a couple of catches, however.

Since it is a revenue producing sewerline- the county wants to receive one half of those revenues.

The Town of Boone also has to help the County out, Commission Chair Jim Deal said.

Since the Town is so concerned about affordable housing, Deal said, the Town needs to cooperate with the County and support a sewage connection with the proposed Brookshire affordable housing development.

Floyd Garrison, owner of Elk Motel, must also put a trust on his property so that he cannot turn around and sell it after the County invests.

Garrison was encouraged by the proceedings, but wishes things moved faster. After all, time is running out.

According to Garrison, the Motel offers affordable housing to Watauga residents who would not make it otherwise. Without a sewage connection, the Motel will have to close, he says- and its residents will have nowhere else to go. It's back up to the Town of Boone, Garrison says, and he hopes for the best.