

## Boone Budget: "Under Scrutiny and Under the Axe"

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Wednesday, 22 May 2013 08:18

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"Everything right now as a result of the change in the sales tax is under scrutiny and probably under the axe." With these comments during Tuesday evenings' Town Council meeting Boone town manager, Greg Young, set the stage for what will most likely be a difficult budget development process for Town Council over the coming weeks. The Watauga County Commissioners action that changed the sales tax distribution method from per capita to ad valorem is anticipated to reduce the amount of next year's revenue coming to the Town of Boone by approximately two million dollars. The town managers' comments were made during discussions pertaining to adopting the Tourism Development Associations expenditures and cultural resource activities for the town. Mr. Young went on to share more of his thinking about the development of next year's budget with Town Council, "One of things I want to do is try to hold on to existing services and looking to make items as it relates to cultural resources more self-sustaining." He and Council members will be preparing over the coming week for a budget retreat scheduled on Wednesday, May 29th.