

Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Special Meeting
June 28, 2016

The Blowing Rock Town Council attended a technical public safety communication meeting hosted by Watauga County Staff held in the Watauga County Commissioner's Chambers located at 814 West King Street, Boone on Tuesday, June 28, 2016. The purpose for attending the meeting was to learn about public safety related communication efforts and options in Watauga County. In attendance were Mayor Pro-Tem Albert Yount, Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson, and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Fire Chief Kent Graham, Police Chief Tony Jones, Intern Adam Murr, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

County Manager Deron Geouque began by explaining the purpose of the meeting which was to gather information and discuss options to improve the State Highway Patrol VIPER System which would enhance area fire, rescue and law enforcement communications. He stated the Green Hill property was no longer being considered as a location site.

County Manager Geouque then recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Yount who called the concurrent Blowing Rock Town Council special meeting into session due to a quorum of Blowing Rock Town Council members being present.

County Manager Geouque then gave background information regarding the communications tower location site. He advised that \$1 million dollars had been set aside from the State toward the cost of the VIPER tower if located on the Green Hill site; however, due to this site no longer being available, the money had been withdrawn from the State.

County Manager Geouque stated that he understood Blowing Rock had concerns about having towers inside the Town limits or in their Extra Territorial Jurisdiction district.

Motorola representatives, Ed Haar, Randy Heaton, and Eddie Morgan were present to answer questions and to present maps showing areas in the County that had at least 95% coverage or possibly less.

County Commissioner Perry Yates commented this issue had been discussed for the past eight years and several opportunities had been missed to utilize the \$1 million dollars of funding from the State.

Several Blowing Rock residents were present who stated they were against the Green Hill site for a tower site and the negative impacts it would have on their property values and views.

Additional options were suggested during the meeting with the consensus being to actively explore further options and strive to obtain funding from the State in the future for other VIPER sites in Watauga County once again.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem _____ **Attest:** _____
Albert Yount **Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**