Dear Town of Boone Candidate,
 **Saturday, September 30.**

Thanks for committing yourself to public service,
Pam Williamson

**<u>Candidate Questionnaire:</u>**

<span style="color:red">(1) A. Why are you running for Boone Town Council (or Mayor) this year?</span>
As president Kennedy said, " Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country…" I believe everyone should do their part to help in their communities where and when they can, whether through volunteering, doing other community services or even running for office, we should be active members. Now that I have retired from ASU, I have the time and motivation to work for the citizens of Boone, and I would be honored to serve on the town council. I want to help build our community smartly with an eye towards innovation while preserving a small town feel.

<span style="color:red">(1) B. What is your overall vision for the Town?</span>
 I believe that Boone can become a model for how small towns can progress in very positive ways by working towards shared goals and dreams, and listening from all perspectives. My vision is that we learn from our mistakes, listen and respect opposing voices, produce more family friendly neighborhoods and enhance our town's quality of life, by working together!

<span style="color:red">(2) What do you consider to be the most important challenge facing Boone and what are your ideas for addressing it?</span>  Boone's biggest challenge is staying a small town and progressing as it grows. Often people think bigger means better and therefore progress. Bigger debts, bigger errors or bigger buildings do not lead to progress. Progress actually entails a look back at all we have valued, all we have accomplished and continue those to make a better future for all our citizens. Progress is to add and subtract but hold on to who we are, a community based town. To do this we must understand why and how we want to be better. This means thinking about what we value the most and then taking action, together. More open conversations with all parties are a start.

<span style="color:red">(3) Do you believe the Town is effectively protecting established, traditional Town neighborhoods from incompatible development? Please explain</span>. There are homes that have been lost to ensure successful building of larger developments and the people of those homes have been displaced. Now people are asking more questions and noticing that some of the developments are neither efficient nor effective as expected.

We are in the age of inflation, fear, political unrest and this leads to chaos before it gets better. It also causes people to make quick decisions and/or judgments. Small towns across the country are feeling the need to expand for various reasons. Economic gain is at the top of the list. Many would argue that town neighborhoods are dying as seniors get older and the younger generations move on to pursue careers and adventures elsewhere. As a result they feel that the town needs to change drastically to have a competitive edge in the money market. Thus larger developments are taking over with one goal in mine, money. They are forgetting the humanistic value of our town versus monetary value. Many people are moving back to Boone for its beauty, its, comfort, its, serenity, its history and the cohesiveness of family. Were these attributes discussed at the bargaining tables when these developers came? For some yes and others no.  If not then we need to have more "knights at the round table". Let the children come back home!

(4) What are your ideas for providing more affordable workforce housing in Boone? If we continue building in town, build more affordable establishments for families and people living in town. Rebuild old homes not new buildings. Provide affordable single-family dwellings and maintain them.  Fund more entrepreneurs and encourage people to use local small businesses. Start new programs to help establish more jobs locally. Diminish the number of rent by the bedroom. Make apartments affordable and provide more employment to encourage small families to stay. The nursing program at the university is a good start.

(5) Do you support or oppose the Town's "Planned Development" ordinance? Please explain. This is one of those ideas that sounds good because of the requirement that developers meet with the affected neighborhood. And it perhaps would have been effective had it only been used for large, undeveloped pieces of town property where meeting both zoning and development needs are complex. But in practice, it has allowed developers to skirt community standards like adequate parking, setbacks and landscaping. So I would oppose it as it stands now.

(6) Do you believe Boone is approving too many/too few high-density, rent-by-the-bedroom housing developments? Please explain. I don't know how many is too many but it seems like too many for the time frame they are being built in. There doesn't seem to be enough research to see if these are efficient and will hold up in the years to come.  I would have to say too many because they haven't had time to see if the businesses below them could function. After two developments were built without a wait time, there was no research showing they were successful. Building more does not show it is helpful for the town, it just shows that you can do it. Many of the developments are having problems with the structures of the buildings and they are also having water problems. There were definitely too many too fast. Not enough follow through research to say they were helpful to the town's economy. Not enough businesses in the structures and

too many issues in the apartments.

It depends on where and how they are built and maintained, along with the why? All parties need to help maintain the apartment structures and they are environmentally sound and sustainable. These building are basically dorms where everyone should share the upkeep. I don't like to see buildings in any town or city that do not adhere to the size of the town. If the structures or buildings were built with more thought about how the structure would be aesthetically as well as economically, perhaps. Building beyond 43 feet could work if they were appropriately placed but not on a main street where no building over 30 feet was even considered. It is just not smart building. I am not sure who named The Standard but it sounds like a gas station. Who had input into the name?

A sustainable environment means a lasting environment to me. A sustainable environment is economically, environmentally, structurally, and aesthetically driven. Will it last by its beauty, its usefulness, and its cohesiveness in the environment it is placed in? Boone is moving to sustainability with something as simple as recycling. We already have issues with the trash hanging out of trashcans, so we need to have more consequences on that. Building new buildings we need to make the builders have rules and consequences in the use of their structure. If you are going to rent such a big structure the developers become the landlords. There should be some responsibility for the renters and the builders to maintain the establishment. In the past landlords couldn't live in another state and rent and now they can be in another country. When landlords are companies, the developers are partially accountable because they purchased a "rental" space to build. So the sustainable environment becomes their responsibility. "Sustainable environments create history and or monuments." We need more buildings or homes that last.

Hmm   that is a lot of money for a town legislative body to expend without input from the people. A referendum would at least start a conversation. If you have an open government you would expect a referendum or as stated by my ancestors, a powwow. Overspending can lead to a town bankruptcy, which the citizens would not even see coming without a referendum.

Rules were made to help people to exist in harmony with one another. Thus laws were provided for towns in the form of ordinances. These ordinances were made to establish order. When you change the use of that ordinance for outsiders it is called overstepping your

boundaries. This holds true when negotiating with some property developers. The ordinance was placed so that the people of the town would have some security in their own homes. If developers want an ordinance changed, the reasoning should not be because I want to build in your town, it should be to improve the life style of the people who already have homes in the town. Changing an ordinance so that a home is destroyed is not good business. Rezoning what is already zoned is also not a smart business practice in this case. The town has a responsibility to its citizens on a higher scale than a company.