

3 Minute Public Comment,

February 20, 2017

How do I feel about the Tax Collector being appointed rather than Elected?

I was the first to bring this issue to your attention back in August 2014.

I asked Robert Inman to justify having David Francis as Tax Collector on the 2014 Ballot, in seeming contradiction to the 1971 Machinery Act.

You commissioners (with the exception of Brandon Rogers), Ira Dove and Chip Killian, fought tooth and nail, at great time and expense to this county, to keep Francis on the Ballot because you did not think he would loose.

Killian dug up two local bills, from 1931 and 1943, and generated the following opinion: "The exception language means that the GS 105-349 does not repeal the 1931 and 1943 Haywood County local acts. The Tax Collector ballot item is properly on this year's Haywood County Ballot."

Then, Francis was thrown out of office.

It has been unrelenting obstruction ever since against Mike Matthews, headed by Swanger (who is not here any more), you county commissioners, Ira Dove and Chip Killian.

One of Francis's cash cows to the county and the Van Winkle law firm, foreclosures, has been cut off, by Mike Matthews effectively reaching out to taxpayers to work out payment plans. Foreclosures have been significantly reduced.

This "Investigation / Report" by Shannon Spainhour of Davis Hartman Wright, leaked to Vicki Hyatt, is the latest attempt to smear Mike Matthews. It contains nothing. It reportedly cost taxpayers \$20K.

This resolution now before us calling for an appointed Tax Collector, allows you commissioners to throw Mike Matthews out of office and install your puppet David Francis back in, so that he can be controlled by Ira Dove, you commissioners and Chip Killian. An about face of what you originally fought for. You all are a bunch of hypocrites.

The smart move by Jim Davis would be not to introduce this resolution into the state legislature, as it will surely meet with resistance in the House.

I object to this resolution, not because Haywood County should not follow the other 99 counties in North Carolina, but for the reason that you are doing this to force Mike Matthews out of office to install this character David Francis.

I appreciate your allowing time for me to express my concerns. Thank you.