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October 4, 2022

**Subject: My Public Comment. Brandon Rogers creating a new Public Records Request Policy?**

My public comment during the County Commission meeting of 10/3/2022 must have struck a nerve. Mine was the only public comment, and addressed two things:

- The much discussed possibility of creating a needle ordinance degenerated into a “Resolution”, which is nothing more than lip service to address a steadily growing problem in Haywood County, and
- Calling out **Brandon Rogers** to follow through setting up a meeting with Terry Ramey, **Kristian Owen** (Finance Director), myself, and **Brandon Rogers** if he wished to attend, which he committed to during a meeting with Concerned Citizens of Haywood at the Buttered Biscuit on 9/15/2022.

The last 40 minutes of the county commission meeting (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=h9DW4Aa4Pks>) was consumed with responding to my public comment.

**Brandon Rogers** further declared that in order to move forward with setting up a meeting with Terry Ramey, **Kristian Owen**, I would have to provide proof of what I was requesting.

WTF?

If I had proof, I wouldn't need to ask! A catch-22 situation, which **Brandon Rogers** has completely convoluted into requiring I provide proof of how much the county has poured into this money pit called the Jonathan Creek Property, a.k.a. the **James Weaver “Kirk” Kirkpatrick the III** Super-Duper Sports Complex, a.k.a. the **David Francis** Dirt Spreading Project, before I get it.

I now require **Brandon Rogers**, who is not good at public speaking, but is good at math, **show me where I have to provide proof** of what I am requesting when I make a Request for Public Information, from any of the three (or any other) referenced documents:

- Public Records Requests Policy, Haywood County Document, <https://www.haywoodcountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/83/Public-Records-Request-PDF?bidId=>
- NC Guide to Open Government and Public Records, by Roy Cooper, now Governor, <https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/101201agncpapub.pdf>
- UNC School of Government, County and Municipal Government in North Carolina, Article 8, Open Meetings and Public Records, by David M. Lawrence. <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2017/03/open-meetings-book-new-edition-now-available/>

Awaiting to hear from you, **Mr. Rogers**, about our soon-to-be meeting with **Kristian Owen**.

The following page is the text from my public comment on 10/3/2022. Since I ran a little long, I was not able to complete the last paragraph of the comment.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
Haywood County Taxpayer

3 Minute Public Comment,

October 3, 2022

On August 25, Kirk Kirkpatrick accepted an invitation to speak to the Concerned Citizens of Haywood at the Buttered Biscuit, as most of you commissioners have done, with the exception of Kevin Ensley, who is sick. At that meeting, Kirk Kirkpatrick committed to look into the needles issue. To his credit, Kirk Kirkpatrick brought this issue up in two successive meetings, during Constituent Concerns, and volunteered, along with the support of two other commissioners, a quorum, to find a way to reduce needle exchange programs in the county, perhaps through an ordinance. Apparently this quorum could not pull it off, and the “ordinance” has degenerated into a “Resolution”

So, commissioners will approve a watered-down version Resolution, not an ordinance, during this meeting. This Resolution is lip-service, which will do nothing to address the growing needle problems in this county. A roll of toilet paper is worth more than this resolution.

On September 15, Brandon Rogers accepted an invitation to speak to the Concerned Citizens of Haywood at the Buttered Biscuit. He spoke for an hour and a half. The last half hour was consumed with a lively debate between Brandon Rogers, Terry Ramey and myself, regarding my Request for Public Information. I insisted that I was being stonewalled, and not had not been provided with the information I was requesting.

The request was simple - How much had the county poured into the money pit called the Jonathan Creek Property since the county purchased it in 2008. The result I received, multiple times, was a little over \$462K. I was provided with the following:

- printout’s of expenses for three years worth of expenditures
- Was told that “the accounting system can only account for current and three previous years”
- I was told I was receiving totals for “investment expenses, as I requested”.

I did not request “Investment Expenses”, I requested all of the money the county poured into this property.

Terry Ramey brought up multiple instances of expenses, which Brandon Rogers could not explain. After considerable discussion, I asked Brandon Rogers what he could do resolve this problem. Before the entire group, Brandon Rogers offered to set up a meeting with Kristian Owen, Finance Director, Terry Ramey and me, and he would like to sit in on the meeting.

Well, during the last county commission meeting’s constituent concerns, there was a lot of discussion on needles and other issues, but nothing forthcoming from Brandon Rogers about a meeting with Kristian Owen.

So, Brandon, Terry and I are still waiting to hear from you about setting up a time for all of us to meet with Kristian Owen.

**[Editor’s Note:** The following paragraph was omitted due to running out of time.]

[Feel free to invite another commissioner, I would suggest checking with Commissioner Best, however, if you invite a second commissioner, that would constitute a quorum, and the meeting would need to be noticed. Besides, If Kristian Owen is now occupying Julie Davis’ old office, which we would need to be in if she were to attempt to access accounts that were over three years old, it would only have room for a limited number of people. The only person who is to be excluded, is David Francis.]

Waiting to hear from you so we can schedule the time of the meeting. You have my email address.

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