

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
2200 Camp Branch Road  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
December 13, 2022

**Subject:** Dialog with Bryant Morehead - Throw's Kristian Owen, Finance Director, under the Bus.

Continued Dialog with **Bryant Morehead**, Haywood County Manager, on his attempt to cripple/torpedo Haywood County's Elected Taxpayer, Sebastian Cothran's career and job performance.

This is the same drip-drip-drip that **Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley** and **Liberal Hack Writer (then News Editor) Vicki Hyatt** did to prior Elected Tax Collector Mike Mathews. **Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley** never missed an opportunity at county commission meetings to pound on Mike Mathews, while **Vicki Hyatt** continuously slammed him in the mountaineer.

At the last county commission meeting, swearing in reorganization meeting, Terry Ramey asked County Attorney **Frank Queen** about restrictions being put on the new Tax Collector. **Frank Queen** lied to Terry Ramey in an open meeting, saying they were "not imposing anything of the Tax Collector. No Requirements!", he said. Then, **Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley** piped up and said, well maybe there were some restrictions.

When **Frank Queen** was asked in my Request for Public Information on 12/6/2022, (re: [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net))

[Email dialog with Frank Queen. Frank Queen refused to disclose what NC General Statute gave whoever the authority to impose the restriction on Sebastian Cothran that "For the first few weeks I'm not allowed to touch the money," and should be fired as County Attorney. 12/9/2022...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/221209FrankQueenShouldBeFired.pdf>

*"During yesterday's county commission meeting, you and Kevin Ensley indicated that you were going to do everything possible to make Sebastian Cothran's job successful. In fact, it was stated that you were not imposing anything on the Tax Collector, i.e. No Requirements, that were not authorized by North Carolina General Statutes. Yet, in a piece by WLOS yesterday,*

<https://wlos.com/news/local/new-faces-take-oaths-elected-office-haywood-county-western-north-carolina-commissioners-sheriff-tax-collector#>

*Sebastian Cothran was quoted: "For the first few weeks I'm not allowed to touch the money," Cothran says.*

*Who the [expletive deleted] imposed this restriction?*

*Therefore, I am requesting the NC General Statute that says that you, the county manager, the chair of the county commissioners, can impose any such restriction on the Tax Collector."*

On 12/8/2022, **Frank Queen** blew me off, saying:

***"I received your email. This does not constitute a request for any public record. This concludes my response to your inquiry."***

That redirected the questioning over to **Bryant Morehead**, when I requested on 12/8/2022,

*“Please provide the document provided to Sebastian Cothran by you, Kevin Ensley, Frank Queen, or any other county employee that advised Sebastian Cothran that “For the first few weeks I’m not allowed to touch the money,”*

So now, **Bryant Morehead** has to cough up a document that shows they had put restrictions on Sebastian Cothran, restricting his duties as an Elected Tax Collector. What does **Bryant Morehead** do? He throws the Finance Director, **Kristian Owen** under the bus.

This is exciting reading folks, so grab your popcorn again, Bring It On.

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - “For the first few weeks I’m not allowed to touch the money,” Cothran says.

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2022 11:15:23 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Bryant Morehead <bryant.morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>

CC: Terry Ramey <Terry.Ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>, bjohnson@themountaineer.com <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, vhyatt@themountaineer.com <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Frank Queen <Frank.Queen@haywoodcountync.gov>

[?]

Mr. Morehead,

Still looking for an acknowledgment.

Also, see:

[Email dialog with Frank Queen. Frank Queen refused to disclose what NC General Statute gave whoever the authority to impose the restriction on Sebastian Cothran that "For the first few weeks I’m not allowed to touch the money," and should be fired as County Attorney. 12/9/2022...](#)

[Flashback!!! Grievance filed against Frank Queen, our sorry excuse for a County Attorney, with the North Carolina Bar Association. Holding an improperly noticed Kangaroo Court \(Quasi-Judicial Hearing\) at Monday's County Commission meeting when it should have simply been Consideration of Appeal for Variance. 10/24/2019...](#)

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - "For the first few weeks I'm not allowed to touch the money," Cothran says.

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2022 21:47:37 +0000

From: Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>

To: Monroe Miller

CC: Terry Ramey <Terry.Ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>, bjohnson@themountaineer.com <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, vhyatt@themountaineer.com <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Frank Queen <Frank.Queen@haywoodcountync.gov>

Received. I'll look into your request early next week.

I have blind copied the full BOC so they are aware of your request.

Bryant  
Bryant Morehead  
County Manager  
Haywood County  
828-452-6625

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[**Editor's Note:** At this point, I added county commissioners to the copy list, purposely excluding **Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley**].

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - "For the first few weeks I'm not allowed to touch the money," Cothran says.

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2022 18:39:28 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>

CC: Terry Ramey <Terry.Ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>, bjohnson@themountaineer.com <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, vhyatt@themountaineer.com <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Frank Queen <Frank.Queen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Jennifer Best <jennifer.best@haywoodcountync.gov>, Brandon Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>, Tommy Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>, Kyle Perrotti <kyle.p@smokymountainnews.com>

Thank you.

[**Editor's Note:** I received the following from Bryant Morehead, who

- Changed the title of the email to “Surety Bond Update”, and
- Dropped the entire copy list.]

Subject: FW: Surety Bond Update

Date: Mon, 12 Dec 2022 20:26:54 +0000

From: Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>

To: Monroe Miller

CC: Kristian B. Owen <Kristian.Owen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>

Monroe,

I hope this email finds you well.

The full BOC is blind copied on this email.

Below is an email that Kristian provided to the BOC on 11/28 updating the bond process. She is copied on this email as well.

Perhaps bullet point two or three was interpreted as not being able to “touch money”.

To clarify – Sebastian does not have his own “cash drawer” there are only four drawers in Tax Collection, in addition to the fact that there is no place to store and lock an additional drawer, therefore he can only handle checks at this time. It is my understanding that Sebastian is and has been processing transactions via check. He is copied on this email and can correct me if I am wrong.

This is not out of the ordinary in any way, Greg did not have his own cash drawer for the same reasons listed above, but he would process checks when needed.

By way of forwarding you this email I consider your records request closed.

Take Care,

Bryant

[**Editor's Note:** Bryant Morehead added/appended this email from Kristian Owen].

From: Kristian B. Owen

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 5:54 PM

To: Brandon C. Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>; Jennifer Best <Jennifer.Best@haywoodcountync.gov>; Kevin Ensley <Kevin.Ensley@haywoodcountync.gov>; Kirk Kirkpatrick <Kirk.Kirkpatrick@haywoodcountync.gov>; Thomas A. Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>

Cc: Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>; Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>

Subject: Surety Bond Update

Good Evening –

After exhaustive efforts we have obtained a surety bond for the new Tax Collector Elect in the amount of \$250,000. While this amount is less than we were seeking, there is no statutory requirement on the bonding amount. I have crafted a risk management plan for the Tax Collection office as outlined below:

- Quarterly internal audits will be completed by the Internal Auditor and reviewed by the Finance Director
- Tax Collector will have non-transactional access to the collection software (this is standard practice in place already)
- Daily bank deposits will be handled by staff only

This plan can be revisited and adjusted on an as-needed basis.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kristian

Kristian Owen  
Finance Director  
Haywood County Finance Department  
215 N Main Street  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
(828)356-2615  
[Kristian.Owen@haywoodcountync.gov](mailto:Kristian.Owen@haywoodcountync.gov)

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WTF? That prompted the following response from me...

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Subject: Request for Public Information - "For the first few weeks I'm not allowed to touch the money," Cothran says. Organization Chart.  
Date: Tue, 13 Dec 2022 11:21:32 -0500  
From: Monroe Miller  
To: Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>  
CC: Kristian B. Owen <Kristian.Owen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>, Terry Ramey <terry.ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Jennifer Best <jennifer.best@haywoodcountync.gov>, Tommy Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>, Brandon Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>, Frank Queen <Frank.Queen@haywoodcountync.gov>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Kyle Perrotti <kyle.p@smokymountainnews.com>

Mr. Morehead,

Looks like you just threw Kristian Owen under the bus. How is it that someone who is appointed to her position of Finance Director has the authority to create a risk management plan for an elected official, Sebastian Cothran, the new Tax Collector?

Therefore, I am making a new Request for Public Information - Please provide the now current organizational chart of Haywood County Government, and in particular, indicating the line or dashed line between Kristian Owen and the Tax Collector, indicating she has the authority to create a risk management program over the Tax Collectors Office. Remember, this is the woman who could not come up with a single calculation for the new Revenue Neutral Tax, she had to provide two (2) calculations, and you said - It didn't matter, we are not going to use either one since we are going to raise the tax rate anyway.

Your explanation about Sebastian as not having a "cash drawer" is a pile of [expletive deleted]. If the county can pour nearly Six Million (\$6M) into the David Francis dirt spreading project, they can afford going to a gun store and purchasing a gun safe to move into the Tax Collector's office instead of making room for another "cash drawer". There is plenty of room in his new office.

What NC General Statute gives Kristian Owen the authority to dictate to the Tax Collector that "Daily bank deposits will be handled by staff only"?

I was reminded of your little operation when I saw the following political cartoon...



Take note of the arm patch on the donkey - I believe that stands for banana republic, much as Robert Inman runs his operation over at the Board of Elections.

Please provide the requested current Haywood County Government Organizational Chart.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

p.s. Forward this to the Haywood Commission Chair, if you like. He has been intentionally left off of this email.