

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
March 7, 2023

Subject: Mark Jaben / Sarah Banks / Ira Dove freaking out about Terry Ramey meeting, email dialog.

Mark Jaben is freaking out about having to attend a meeting that he and **Sarah Henderson Banks** committed to attend, standing shoulder to shoulder at the 2/6/2023 five (5) hour long county commission meeting.

[**Editor's Note:** In **Mark Jaben's** latest email which you will soon read, he refers to someone as **Sarah Banks**. It is presumed that **Sarah Banks** is really **Sarah Henderson**, the same person who sponsored Agenda Item #1 at the 2/6/2023 county commission meeting, the \$75,735 grant. Either **Sarah Banks** got a divorce and this was her original name, or she just got married and this is her new name.]

See on www.haywoodtp.net

[Joint Meeting between Sarah Henderson, Mark Jaben, Ira Dove, and Terry Ramey \(+4\), going nowhere. An email dialog with Sarah Henderson and Mark Jaben. 3/2/2023...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230302HendersonMeeting.pdf>

From that piece, I said:

“During the 2/6/2023 county commission meeting, while Item 1 of the Regular Agenda was being discussed, the \$75,735 grant requested by **Sarah Henderson, Sarah Henderson and Mark Jaben** stood shoulder [re: 3:45:00 video recording of the meeting] and committed to, along with **Ira Dove**, meeting with Terry Ramey and a couple of people to discuss some of the issues brought up during this meeting.

A meeting had been set up, and was agreeable to all, on 2/22/2023 at 8:00am in the county commissioners conference room. Then, unexpectedly, **Sarah Henderson** decided she had something more important to do, and punched out, announcing she would be unable to attend the meeting. Chaos ensued, the meeting was canceled, and it appears **Sarah Henderson, Ira Dove, and Mark Jaben** are dragging their feet to get another meeting time set up that would accommodate all.”

Well, **Mark Jaben** finally decided to send me an email, which is indicative of the level of hysteria he is in, i.e., freaking out, about having to attend Terry Ramey's meeting. First presented is his email of 3/6/2023, to which I responded in typical fashion of having to analyze his convoluted email, as I had done before with his Guest Column and Letter to the Editor in the mountaineer, by underlining each sentence I have a problem with, and providing my response in **red**.

[**Editor's Note:** For purposes of clarity, my responses in this piece will be both **red** and **bold**.]

Here we go...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayer

Subject: Re: Meeting time and date, #3
Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2023 21:07:12 +0000
From: Mark J. Jaben <Mark.Jaben@haywoodcountync.gov>
To: Monroe Miller, Ira Dove <ira.dove@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sarah Banks <Sarah.Banks@haywoodcountync.gov>
CC: Terry Ramey <Terry.Ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>, Thomas A. Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>, Brandon C. Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>, Jennifer Best <Jennifer.Best@haywoodcountync.gov>, Kevin Ensley <Kevin.Ensley@haywoodcountync.gov>

Mr. Miller,

As a self proclaimed 'community watchdog' I know it is important to you to reveal exactly what's going on. So I am sure you would be eager to know exactly what has gone on in arranging the meeting you requested.

1. Ms. Presson is the one who asked to delay the meeting.....twice.
2. I'm sure you are aware that people who work often have very full work schedules, and some of those obligations don't lend themselves to being changed at short notice. Ms. Banks did not 'punch out.'
3. Ira Dove did not demand the venue.
4. Mr. Morehead has a legitimate interest in being involved with any meeting arranged by one of the commissioners, especially when it involves a county agency for which he has responsibility.

So knowing what really has happened, perhaps then you can acknowledge how off base many of the assumptions are in your email.

But I'm confused by other statements you made.

You requested this meeting 'to resolve differences and issues with 'the way Item #1 was presented on the agenda.' Your words. Now you want to discuss issues that some in the county have concerns with? Wouldn't it be a much more meaningful conversation if we were prepared to have that conversation by knowing what these 'issues' are? Such a vague request does not lend itself to a meeting focused on resolving anything, as Mr. Ramey hopes can occur. Please be more specific about what you want. We can then decide if these are topics worthwhile to discuss in this meeting.

Certainly you recall Mr. Ramey's comments at the BOCC meeting concerning the manner in which such a meeting should take place. If not, please listen again. We all agreed that such a meeting should be an actual conversation to become clear on the facts and context, and to share perspectives that may be other than your own. AND it should take place in a respectful, honorable fashion. Given the tone of your email, not to mention some comments and what some, including you, have written, it should be no surprise that there is legitimate concern you and 'the others' can participate in such a manner. Can you guarantee this? I look to you to be the first to call out anyone who does not or cannot commit to this. Are you willing to accept that role? The meeting ends if or when people continue to be rude and disrespectful.

Here's my request to you: what is it you and 'the others' need to hear in order to achieve Mr. Ramey's desired goal of everyone walking away 'with a smile on their face'?

I look forward to a productive meeting.

Sincerely,
Mark Jaben, MD

Subject: Re: Meeting time and date, #4

Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2023 20:47:48 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Mark J. Jaben <Mark.Jaben@haywoodcountync.gov>, Ira Dove <ira.dove@haywoodcountync.gov>, Sarah Banks <Sarah.Banks@haywoodcountync.gov>

CC: Terry Ramey <Terry.Ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Bryant Morehead <Bryant.Morehead@haywoodcountync.gov>, Thomas A. Long <Tommy.Long@haywoodcountync.gov>, Brandon C. Rogers <brandon.rogers@haywoodcountync.gov>, Jennifer Best <Jennifer.Best@haywoodcountync.gov>

Dr. Jaben,

Thanks for taking the time to respond. Your response is complicated, so I will have address your email the same way I addressed your recent Guest Column and Letter to the Editor in the mountaineer. Anything that seems wrong or I disagree with, I will underline and respond with comments in red. Additionally, I have dropped Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley from the copy list of this email response. I also presume that Sarah Henderson had undergone a name change to Sarah Banks since the county commission meeting on 2/6/2023.

From here on out, I will comment directly in the email you sent to me, so see below. Again, my comments are in **red**.

On 3/6/2023 4:07 PM, Mark J. Jaben wrote:

Mr. Miller,

As a self proclaimed 'community watchdog' I know it is important to you to reveal exactly what's going on. So I am sure you would be eager to know exactly what has gone on in arranging the meeting you requested.

If someone that is either elected or appointed to a position of power, and they either intimidate someone because of their power, or abuse their power, I will go after them. If you believe that that makes me a self proclaimed 'community watchdog', then that is your opinion.

"...the meeting you requested." I did not request this meeting. We were all there at the 2/6/2023 five (5) hour county commission meeting, and at around the 3 hour and 45 minute mark on the video of that meeting, after dodging several times Terry Ramey's request, you and Sarah (Henderson)/Banks finally agreed to have a joint meeting, called by Terry Ramey, to have a little get together to discuss the issues that concern people in this county. I did not call/request this meeting. Terry Ramey called/requested this meeting.

1, Ms. Presson is the one who asked to delay the meeting.....twice.

2. I'm sure you are aware that people who work often have very full work schedules, and some of those obligations don't lend themselves to being changed at short notice. Ms. Banks did not 'punch out.'

A meeting had been set up by Ira Dove, to meet in the Commissioners Conference room, just outside the county managers office, on 2/22/2023, agreed by all, at 8:00am, and there was a last minute notification that Sarah Henderson would not be able to attend the meeting. As I indicated before, "A meeting had been set up, confirmed by all, to be held in the commissioners conference room (a little small I thought, but the location was demanded by Ira Dove), on Wednesday, 2/22/2023 at 8:00am. Then you, Ms. Henderson, decided that you had something more important to do, and punched out of the meeting. Well, this had a cascading effect, which caused the entire meeting to be canceled and rescheduled, since you were a principle of the meeting. It appears that you, Ms .Henderson, are still dragging your feet, in working to reset a new meeting date, convenient to all, which includes you three, Terry Ramey and his invited guests (+4), and it appears Bryant Morehead wants to attend." Sarah Banks punched out. Since then, I have not heard of any suggested new meeting times for this meeting to take place. It is my job, as 'community watchdog', as you suggest, to insure this meeting does not fall between the cracks, and actually happens.

3. Ira Dove did not demand the venue.

It was brought to my attention by Terry Ramey, through Bryant Morehead, that Ira Dove insisted that the meeting be held in the tiny commissioners conference room. If you wouldn't mind, why don't you have Ira Dove and Bryant Morehead send me a little email suggesting anything to the contrary. If Ira Dove is now not insistent on having this meeting in the tiny commissioner conference room, maybe you and he might reconsider my suggestion of having it in the training room at DSS. That would be a more spacious environment, and who knows, maybe Ira Dove might be able to order some snacks brought in.

4. Mr. Morehead has a legitimate interest in being involved with any meeting arranged by one of the commissioners, especially when it involves a county agency for which he has responsibility.

So knowing what really has happened, perhaps then you can acknowledge how off base many of the assumptions are in your email.

[?]

But I'm confused by other statements you made.

You requested this meeting 'to resolve differences and issues with 'the way Item #1 was presented on the agenda.' Your words. Now you want to discuss issues that some in the county have concerns with? Wouldn't it be a much more meaningful conversation if we were prepared to have that conversation by knowing what these 'issues' are? Such a vague request does not lend itself to a meeting focused on resolving anything, as Mr. Ramey hopes can occur. Please be more specific about what you want. We can then decide if these are topics worthwhile to discuss in this meeting.

There are so many things in your convoluted paragraph, we will have to take each one individually...

- **I did not request this meeting. You and Sarah Banks stood shoulder to shoulder in a live county commission meeting and agreed with Terry Ramey to participate in this meeting. Terry Ramey requested this meeting.**
- **My words, No! This is Terry Ramey's meeting.**
- **My expectation of this meeting are exactly what Terry Ramey posed to you and Sarah Banks at the county commission meeting. I expect conversations between two groups of people, with the ultimate outcome being that everyone at the conclusion of the meeting walks away smiling.**
- **Your demanding preconditions and wanting a list of "issues" prior to the meeting is idiotic? Who do you think you are?**
- **The only thing that I expect to be resolved at this meeting is to have a nice friendly conversation, and everyone walk out smiling.**
- **If I were to attend, I can think of only a simple question I might pose, which you will not see beforehand.**
- **No one is going to decide, especially you, if any topics are worthwhile to discuss before this meeting.**

Certainly you recall Mr. Ramey's comments at the BOCC meeting concerning the manner in which such a meeting should take place. If not, please listen again. We all agreed that such a meeting should be an actual conversation to become clear on the facts and context, and to share perspectives that may be other than your own. AND it should take place in a respectful, honorable fashion. Given the tone of your email, not to mention some comments and what some, including you, have written, it should be no surprise that there is legitimate concern you and 'the others' can participate in such a manner. Can you guarantee this? I look to you to be the first to call out anyone who does not or cannot commit to this. Are you willing to accept that role? The meeting ends if or when people continue to be rude and disrespectful.

Again, too many things are so wrong with your paragraph, have to resort to 'bullets' again...

- I was at the meeting, along with everyone else on your copy list. I don't need to review the video.
- I do not know who "some" are that you refer to as what comments you are referring to.
- 'the others' - [?] Who are 'the others'?
- Can I guarantee this? I can't guarantee anything. It is not my meeting. It is Terry Ramey's meeting.
- I am not going to call out anyone at the meeting. It is Terry Ramey's meeting, and if anyone calls someone out, it will be Terry Ramey.
- Are you willing to accept that role? Who do you think you are attempting to suggest that I have anything to do with calling anyone out at this meeting?
- It is not up to you to decide to terminate the meeting if and when anyone is rude or disrespectful. Again, it is Terry Ramey's meeting. He will make the call.

Here's my request to you: what is it you and 'the others' need to hear in order to achieve Mr. Ramey's desired goal of everyone walking away 'with a smile on their face'?

You are asking the wrong person. The meeting is not about me. It is about everyone attending the meeting, and it is the responsibility of each person to ask themselves, what to they want walking away from this meeting? This type of meeting has never happened before in Haywood County. It is an opportunity for people with different perspectives to share thoughts, and nothing more. It would be helpful if you changed your attitude. I have yet to hear any new suggested time for this meeting.

I look forward to a productive meeting.

I also look forward to a productive meeting. Monroe A. Miller, Jr., Haywood County Taxpayer.

Sincerely,
Mark Jaben, MD

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