

# Haywood County “Toeprints”

June 19, 2010

Vol. #1 Issue #9 (Subject: **HCC Update, Convenience Center Contract, Health Policy secret meeting.**)

[www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)

## What’s Happening?

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Haywood County Taxpayers of what transpires at the bi-monthly County Commission Meetings. This newsletter will be written from the perspective of a casual observer, myself. Any opinions expressed will be mine.

## Update on New County Debt without a Public Vote.

- Old Walmart Building purchase. The PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT [re: [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)] states that the closing date “(a) ...shall be held ... at such time on or before **July 31, 2010**”, and “(b) Buyer shall have the option to postpone the Closing for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days from the Closing Date (herein called “**Postponed Closing Date**”) should the Buyer be unable to secure satisfactory financing from the United States Department of Agriculture, **for the purpose of securing alternative funding from a commercial lending source.**” As of last week [re: Julie Davis], the state had approved the process, and the county is now waiting to hear back from the USDA.

- Fair Grounds Loan. As of last week, [re: Julie Davis], there had not been a dollar amount specified for the loan application. Dale Burris was reviewing specifications and requirements for whatever work needs to be done on the buildings. There does not appear to be any time schedule set for this loan. What happened to the eminent foreclosure by the banks?

**Update!** Julie indicated that the amount for the loan for this Fair Grounds might exceed the \$700K originally discussed in the earlier commission meetings.

- HCC \$12 Million Loan. Appears to be sailing through to be pencil whipped by this Board of Commissioners without a public vote.

## Public Hearing and Work Session, June 1, 2010.

No public comments on the proposed budget. Why? It was due to the **Outstanding Work** of **Marty Stamey**, the Assistant County Manager and **Julie Davis**, Head of the Finance Department, and all of their departments. I believe that Marty Stamey should now be considered for appointment to the position County Manager for his excellent work. [I also still believe that County Clerk responsibilities should be transferred over to Rebecca Morgan.]

Public Comments followed a Power Point Presentation in the Work Session. Since the Budget Workshop on June 4<sup>th</sup> was more comprehensive, that is what will be covered.

## Budget Workshop, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Only Fund 24 was discussed, no reason to discuss the proposed budget. Meeting attended by 3 people, two of which were from newspapers. **Curtis** absent.

See Power Point Presentation on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)

Discussion again on three recommendations from the advisory committee: closing the transfer station, privatizing the convenience stations, recycling, etc. Finally, the commissioners gave their opinions.

Ensley - in favor of all three recommendations

**Swanger** - in favor of all three recommendations

**Kirkpatrick** - (who is seeking re-election in Nov.) keep convenience centers employees, keep transfer station open.

**Upton** - (who is seeking re-election in Nov.) couldn’t bring himself to voice an opinion, decided to straddle the fence.

## County Commission Meeting, June 7, 2010.

**Kirkpatrick** mentioned that there was going to be a Public Hearing regarding DENR approval of the quarry expansion on June 16<sup>th</sup> in this Courtroom.

**Waynesville Middle School construction budget.** There seems to be two revenue streams for these Qualified School Construction Bonds, ADM money (which comes from Corporate Taxes - which has dried up), and Lottery Money, the only revenue stream available. If the Lottery Money goes away, that means that the debt will be paid by taxing the people of the county. Kevin Ensley is for this, because he doesn’t believe the state will take away Lottery Money.

## HCC Project Update.

A project update was presented. See the documentation on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net). Dr. Rose Johnson indicated that someone named “Guiney” looked at the energy proposal and was “complimentary on the design”. Also, an engineer looked at it. “Guiney” indicated there were 35 installations like this already. **Kirkpatrick** cautioned that sometimes the county has had “experts” in to provide opinions, and had them simply tell them what they wanted to hear. Perhaps we will get to hear from “Guiney” more in the future.

There will be no decisions until the RFP. **Kirkpatrick** reiterated that whoever the vendor is, they will make sure this works, otherwise they don’t get paid.

It seems, based on what was said, that this Solar Panel, Solar Voltaic system has now become the **alternate/back up** energy for the building, not the **primary** energy system any more.

**Update!** An article appeared in the Mountaineer, “Solar energy proves controversial at HCC”, by Vicki Hyatt on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 which had the following paragraph:

“A solar system installed at a Fletcher business that didn’t function as expected also prompted commissioner questions. Johnson noted the system in question was different from the one being considered at HCC in several ways and worked in areas that weren’t retrofitted.”

Well, what a surprise!

As you might recall [re: Toeprints, Issue #8], the architect at the May 12<sup>th</sup> HCC Work Session advocated a successful installation in Fletcher, as well as other areas of the country that have actual usable sunshine during the winter. I had recommended “someone go to Fletcher, determine the generation and storage capacity of their installation, then translate that to the system envisioned here, multiplying everything by a factor of 0.8 (taking into account the additional clouds and lower temperature), and see how that computes.”

Just as it would have been nice to know that the installation at Fletcher “didn’t function as expected” at the last HCC work session, it might be just as nice to find out where these 35 locations are that “Guiney” indicated, find out which one represents the closest environment to here in the mountains, and have that comparative information of an installation that “does function as expected” at the ready at the next county commission interface.

**Legal Documents regarding Agricultural Board Management Agreement.** Six people responded to the application for the Agricultural Board, but some cannot serve. There are not enough board member applicants at this time. Board voted to continue advertising.

#### **Expanded Area of Coverage for Marc Pruett.**

The Town of Clyde requested that Haywood County take over Erosion Control inside the town limits instead of DENR. **Marc Pruett** gleefully agreed - no problem. Evidently, there has to be a Public Hearing on this and the new authority amended by law.

#### **Methane Gas Collection and Combustion System.**

The next phase of this **mandate by DENR** will go to Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc. For \$97K. Needs to be awarded by June 26<sup>th</sup>. Approved. No discussion of carbon credits.

#### **Contract for Convenience Centers.**

The debate on this seemed endless. The final score - **Ensley and Swanger** - YES  
**Kirkpatrick and Curtis** - NO

**Upton** was the real wild card. As I sat through the endless debate and previous work sessions, I tried to guess what his vote would be, but he had straddled the middle of the fence so tightly, I could not guess. Finally, **Upton** - YES.

A copy of the approved but not executed SERVICE AGREEMENT is found on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net).

There was another closed session after the meeting. A new topic in addition to **Approval and /or Release Minutes and Personnel** was added - **Litigation**. Who is being litigated now?

#### **June 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Health Meeting.**

Members of the board are:

Lyndie Paschke	Robert Knoedler
Kristel Causby	David McCracken
Marth Cicchinelli	Eric Morrison
July Covin	James Weaver
Vicky Gribble	Carmine Rocco

**Mark Swanger** (Commissioner)

There was no discussion of the now called **Solid Waste Policy and Procedure** (instead of being called the **Solid Waste Rule**) during this meeting. Instead, the board decided to have some members of the board have a secret closed meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to discuss language changes. **Swanger** agreed to be part of this secret closed meeting. Carmine Rocco mentioned that Jonnie Cure called and requested that a citizen at large work with and attend the secret closed meeting, but since one of the members of the board who was going to attend the secret closed meeting was already a member at large, they dismissed Jonnie Cure’s request. Debbie King who attended this board meeting, would have probably volunteered to assist with the language changes at the secret closed meeting. The board promised to make the language changes available to the public “soon” after the meeting concluded, but it was not clear how I, for example, would be able to obtain a copy of the new language.

The current “Board of Health Solid Waste Rule Proposed Amendment (Revised 3/1/10) 6/9/2010...” is posted on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net).

I suppose the analogy to what I have called the secret closed meeting the Health Board members are going to have, would be to those that the Solid Waste Committee held, and before you knew it, personnel at the Waste Transfer facility were told they were not going to have jobs after July [re: Toeprints, Issue #6], (now recanted) and people thought decisions had already been made.

I guess we will have to be alert and vigilant to insure that this group of board members does a better job of announcing their proceedings than the Solid Waste Committee did (**Swanger** is on both).

#### **DENR Public Hearing, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

See two articles on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net) under Interesting Stuff.

“Report on DENR Public Hearing Held at Courthouse, by Suzanne Hendrix, 6/17/2010...”

“Complete Text of My Presentation at DENR Public Hearing that was cut short, 6/16/2010...”

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