

Haywood County "Toeprints"

October 15, 2010

Vol. #1 Issue #21 (Subject: * **SPECIAL EDITION** * Proposed Animal Control Ordinance.)

www.haywoodtp.net

What's Happening?

This is a very **SPECIAL EDITION** of Toeprints...

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.

[Editors Note: Correction - I indicated that **Mark Swanger** recounted a story about the history of changes in the Animal Control Ordinance in Issue # 18 of Toeprints. The story was actually told by Chip Killian. Please note the correction. Since it has bearing on the current proposed change in the Animal Control Ordinance, it is worth repeating here...]

From Issue #18:

"[Chip Killian](#) recalled and told an interesting story at the meeting. It happened many years ago [around 1992 or so] and dealt with a change in the animal control ordinance. It had something to do with dogs, and people were up in arms [similar to the current proposed new animal control ordinance where it appears animal control wants to come into your house and inspect your windows if you have a vicious dog]. Contention was so bad, that the way it was finally resolved, was to have actual dog owners join the committee responsible for the creation of the animal control ordinance. Killian recalled that everything was resolved and the animal control ordinance has withstood the test of time [until now].

Does this sound familiar? Like what just happened with "**The Rule**" and the creation of this committee?

Since there was genuine concern at the call to Public Hearing for the new Animal Control Ordinance, you would think the Commissioners would catch on, and reformulate whoever is pushing this animal control ordinance to include ordinary citizens on that committee before there is a public hearing, as Terry Ramey and Bruce Gardner (your every day ordinary citizens) were appointed to be on this Public Health and Solid Waste Awareness and Compliance Committee."

Proposed Animal Control Ordinance Changes.

The proposed "Recommended changes to the Animal Control Ordinance" to be discussed at the Public Hearing on October 18th are posted on www.haywoodtp.net.

It was brought to my attention that there is an area of concern:

§91.04 Confinement, Muzzling, and Control of Vicious or Dangerous Animals: (Pages 18– 19)

(B)

(3) For owners of vicious or dangerous animals who maintain their animals indoors, the residence must first be inspected by an Animal Services Officer for security of windows and doors and to see where the animal will be kept within the residence. When the animal goes outside it must be on a durable lead, muzzled and under the control of a competent person.

What does this mean?

- Can an Animal Services Officer enter your home without a search warrant [as **Carmine Rocco**, director of the Health Department, attempted to be able to do, entering our property without a search warrant in the event of a declared Imminent Hazard with the now tabled "Rule" - **an abuse of power**, re: Toeprints Issue #11]?
- Are these Animal Services Officers qualified to determine the structural integrity of your home's doors and windows?
- What structural standard(s) will be used?
- Will these Animal Services Officers make demands on how to change the security of windows and doors?
- What happens if you don't comply?

Perhaps these perplexing questions will be raised at the Public Hearing on October 18, 2010.

Updated Commissioner Voting Guide.

I recommend that you **only vote for two (2) candidates.**

Toeprint Seal of Approval

Not Approved



Denny King
David Bradley

Kirk Kirkpatrick
Bill Upton
Tom Freeman

Note: Michael Sorrells name has been removed from the Toeprint Seal of Approval list.

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[HB-MM]