

Haywood County "Toeprints"

November 4, 2010

Vol. #1 Issue #23 (Subject: **Mountaineer, HCC Board Vote, White Oak RFP**)

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.

Release of Closed Minutes - Walmart Building Purchase.

David Cotton indicated the closed minutes for the purchase of the old Walmart Building would be released 11/15/2010.

"Look for endorsement motives", The Mountaineer.

An opinion piece was posted on the Mountaineer web site, "Look for endorsement motives", 10/28/10 by The Mountaineer [this was the opinion of the newspaper editorial board. Those who get the print version of the paper saw the piece on Wednesday, Oct. 27, listed under "Our Views", re: Vicki Hyatt]. Given that this is an opinion piece, there are still several significant problems, in my view. The most glaring is the premise of a statement referencing the Tea Party when discussing the candidacy for the Register of Deeds: "If efficiency in government is truly the Tea Party's benchmark, ...". **What?** From what I can understand about the Tea Party, the benchmarks are primarily conservative government and reducing taxes along with the size of government. Who declared the premise that they were ever interested in improving efficiency in government?

The second problem is with the statement: "Consider the register of deeds race, where duties are primarily clerical and nonpartisan in nature." If it is so nonpartisan, why does The Mountaineer, on their own website www.votehaywood.com, prominently list the party affiliation of both candidates under the page of Register of Deeds as democrat or republican?

Finally, if this were to be a fair and balanced opinion piece, someone will have to explain to me why the term "Democratic Party" was listed two (2) times, and "Tea Party" was pounced on six (6) times. This article should have been renamed: "**Don't** Look for endorsement motives - just vote Democrat".

[**Editors Note:** This was submitted as a letter to the editor to the Mountaineer].

Editorial Board of The Mountaineer.

Whenever you see an opinion written in the "Our View" space "by The Mountaineer", did you ever wonder who wrote it? The editorial board at the Mountaineer wrote it and is composed of the following three (3) people:

- Vicki Hyatt News Editor,
- Jonathan Key Publisher,
- Bill Parsons Sales Manager.

Kirkpatrick's Fantasy Land Perspective...

"**Kirkpatrick** said the election ratified actions taken by the current board and praised the Democratic Party's get-out-the-vote effort. "If they hadn't have done that, I'm not sure the vote totals would have come out the way it did," **Kirkpatrick** said.", [re: Turnout heavy in Election Day full of surprises, Mountaineer. 11/3/2010 by Vicki Hyatt].

The vote totals were [re: Unofficial Results, Haywood County Board of Elections, <http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/NC/Haywood/22624/39098/en/summary.html>]:

J.W. (Kirk) Kirkpatrick III [D]	18.11%	10,065
Michael T. Sorrells [D]	18.32%	10,179
Bill L. Upton [D]	17.45%	9,697
David Bradley [R]	15.71%	8,732
Tom Freeman [R]	14.30%	7,946
Denny King [R]	16.12%	8,957
(Total)		55,576

Someone will have to explain to me how a 2% difference in total votes between **J.W. (Kirk) Kirkpatrick III** [D] and Denny King [R] (less percentage difference for **Upton**) "**ratifie(s) actions taken by the current board**".

Looking forward to working with both **J.W. (Kirk) Kirkpatrick III** and **Bill Upton** over the next four (4) years, and with **Mark Swanger** over the next two (2) years.

HCC vote tally for the solar sublease and solar agreement.

The HCC Board of Trustees final votes were:

- **Mark Bumgarner** approved
- **Donna Forga** approved
- **Lynne Barrett** approved
- Charles Boyd did not approve
- **Neal Ensley** approved
- Richard Lanning did not send in a vote
- **Mike McConnell** approved
- Dean McMahan did not approve
- **Peggy Melville** approved
- Bob Morris did not approve
- Steve Sorrells recused himself [*]

[*] (Steve announced at the last meeting that he had a conflict of interest).

There were 6 approvals; 3 non-approvals; 1 recuse; and 1 did not vote. Obviously, **they were not unanimous** (as **Johnson, Bumgarner** and **Forga**, standing shoulder to shoulder, led commissioners to believe at the September 7th County Commission Meeting).

The following requests have been made to HCC:

- Copies of all of the minutes for every closed session the Board of Trustees ever had regarding the Solar Thermal Project. [**Response:** The solar contracts have not yet been signed. We hope to do that one day this week. I will let you know when that has taken place and make public the closed session minutes at that time.]
- Copy of all of the contracts signed by HCC with FLS, the County, and whoever else that relates to the Solar Thermal Project. [**Response:** No response yet.]
- Copy of the total legal bills for all the lawyers that put energy into creating these contracts. [**Response:** No response yet.]
- Copy of the **FLS** design plans for the Creative Crafts Building unless, of course, these are still in complete **lock-down** by **Rose Johnson**. [**Response:** The design plans are not yet complete. It is my understanding that once the contracts are signed with **FLS**, the general contractor and **FLS** will work together regarding the design.]. [**Editors Note:** I take this as I will not be getting anything from HCC. It appears this design is still in total **lock-down** by **Rose Johnson**, President of HCC.]

RFP - Solid Waste Management Development & Operations.

An RFP (Request for Proposal) was issued by the County on 9/1/2010. From the RFP (posted on www.haywoodtp.net)

Haywood County is requesting proposals for qualified independent Contractors to submit proposals for performing the day-to-day Solid Waste Landfill Management operations of Haywood County's Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, as defined herein, and to include the future design, development and construction of New Landfill cells, as defined herein, in order to provide for solid waste management infrastructure for Haywood County for a minimum of twenty-year (20) period and site and facilitation of waste disposal for a minimum of thirty (30) years. The County is also interested in Contractors identifying any interest in maintaining and operating the Transfer Station located on Recycle Road in Clyde, North Carolina, which may be submitted either as a separate proposal or as joint proposal together with landfill management.

Bids were received from three (3) companies on October 8, 2010 (all posted on www.haywoodtp.net)

- Hydro Pro Solid Waste
- Santek
- Republic

These bids are being reviewed by the Solid Waste Committee. The following county personnel comprise the Solid Waste Committee:

- **Bill Upton** County Commissioner
- **Mark Swanger** County Commissioner
- **David Cotton** County Manager
- **Steven King** Head of Solid Waste Department
- Marty Stamey Assistant County Manager
- David Francis County Tax Collector
- Julie Davis Head of Finance Department

Note that there are no common every day ordinary taxpayers on this board, as there are now on the newly appointed Health / Solid Waste Committee, in which common citizens Terry Ramey and Bruce Gardner were invited to participate.

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Committee is scheduled for December 8, 2010 at 9am and 1pm to discuss individual proposals and contract negotiation terms with Santek and Republic. Because contract negotiation terms will be discussed, these meetings will be closed secret meetings to the public.

At the close of Monday's County Commission meeting on 11/1/2010, Kevin Ensley noted that there had been several inquiries relating to the published schedule in the RFP [**Editors note:** Page 11]. **Mark Swanger** responded by basically saying that the Solid Waste Committee was still in an investigative phase [re: recorder had already been turned off - view the video of meeting for **Swanger's** exact response].

The proposed schedule of events (**subject to change**) in the RFP is as follows [Page 10-11]:

Event	Date	Location
Issuing RFPs	9/01/2010	Public Notice
Submit Proposals	10/08/2010	County Courthouse
Contractor Selection	11/05/2010	County Courthouse
Contract Execution	11/30/2010	County Courthouse
Contractor Start-Up	TBD	

It has been explained that this schedule has already changed and has been delayed. The RFP required an initial schedule, and this is what was initially proposed. The next meeting of the Solid Waste Committee is 12/8/2010. It was also explained that this is a **Management Contract**, and therefore, a Public Hearing on this matter is not required. But, since there has been interest by residents near the White Oak Landfill, the commissioners will probably have a Public Hearing.

[**Editors Note:** The original proposed schedule did not allow time for a Public Hearing, which will now probably happen in January. I always get nervous when there is an accelerated schedule like this and **Swanger** is involved. Why the rush?].

[**Legend:** If any name is in **bold**, it can't be a good thing.]

Monroe A. Miller Jr.,
Haywood County Taxpayer
19 Big Spruce Lane
Waynesville, NC 28786
www.haywoodtp.net