

Haywood County "Toeprints"

October 23, 2011

Vol. #2 Issue #29 (Subject: Enka H.S. FLS Solar Project, Revaluation Appeals to Raleigh)

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.

Enka High School Solar Project.

The Buncombe County Board of Education voted to have FLS move forward with installing a solar system at Enka High School. See the following links to articles and TV reports. [Cut and paste **entire link** into your browser].

- From the Carolina Journal ...

http://www.carolinajournal.com/articles/display_story.html?id=8323

- From the John Locke Foundation ...

<http://www.johnlocke.org/newsletters/research/2011-08-11-eh77lhe89uq473epir8uj3oui3-locgov-update.html>

- From the Asheville-Citizen Times ...

<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20111010/NEWS/310100023/Enka-High-solar-plan-works>

- Two stories from WLOS, Channel 13, ABC, Asheville ...

http://www.wlos.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wlos_vid_5638.shtml

http://www.wlos.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wlos_vid_5642.shtml

- From the Carolina Journal Online ...

http://www.carolinajournal.com/articles/display_story.html?id=8364

Comments from William Heasley, noted Economist.

[**Editors Note:** The following are Mr. Heasley's response and analysis to Lisa Baldwin, member of the Buncombe County Board of Education, upon reading the article in the Carolina Journal "Solar Proposal At Buncombe Schools Attracts Critics". Mr. Heasley modified his original analysis, at my request, to remove the word "exogenous" so that folks in Haywood County (including me) would not have to look it up.]

"Recently read the article entitled Solar Proposal At Buncombe Schools Attracts Critics appearing in Carolina Journal Online 10/05/2011.

The cost/benefit analysis put forward by Ms. Baldwin has public policy components vs. the opposing cost/benefit which appears based on political components. Both argument fail to include public choice theory.

We know as a fact solar energy is not competitive without subsidies. The subsidy exists due to particular politicians through the mechanism of government spending taxpayer money and creating the subsidy. Moreover, the total solar energy subsidy consists of additional taxpayer money at the federal and state levels, beyond local tax payer money, and would need accounted for on the cost side of both cost/benefit arguments mentioned above.

Pless said. "Saving us money by saving on our hot water heating. Making money by being able to sell the electricity it produces to Progress Energy." Lets examine the statement of "Making money by being able to sell the electricity it produces to Progress Energy". The solar energy is not being sold to Progress Energy in an open competitive market. Rather, Progress Energy is forced by arbitrary legislative rules to buy non competitive energy when other ready sources of lower cost are available. Hence the higher energy costs forced upon Progress are due to politicians through the mechanism of government granting economic rent seeking special conditions for alternative noncompetitive energy sources. The additional cost in the form of politico produced special conditions are then passed on to electric consumers and therefore another cost unaccounted for in the above referenced cost/benefit.

FLS is clearly an economic rent seeker as they could not propose any solar scheme that supposedly produced a "profit" without the aid of taxpayer subsidy and the arbitrary requirement of public utilities to purchase solar energy at above market price given alternative lower cost energy sources exist.

Without going any further, one can see that "profit" is a mirage as the entire scheme, in its totality, is merely a transfer of taxpayer money, in each and all phases, to a rent seeker and associated schemers [Buncombe County Schools] and

Haywood Community College. That is to say, Buncombe County Schools and Haywood Community College with the aid of FLS is merely an economic rent seeker of taxpayer dollars in regards to the solar project as no "profit" exist, only a transfer of taxpayer dollars exists along with the aid of increased electrical costs to consumers."

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HCC Board of Trustees meeting, 10/19/2011.

Rose Johnson, President of Haywood Community College turned in her resignation to the HCC Board of Trustees at their meeting on October 19, 2011.

Effect of Revaluation on Haywood Total Property Value.

[**Editors Note:** The following responses to a request for public information were made by **David Francis**, Elected Tax Collector on 10/6/2011].

- What was the total amount of the reduction in the tax bills of the real property owners who made informal appeals?

\$170,216,600

- What was the total amount of the reduction in the tax bills of the real property owners who made their appeals to the Board of Equalization and Review?

\$ 1,252,200

Does anyone see any kind of discrepancy here?

Why did **David Francis** and Judy Ballard drop irrate taxpayers property assessments back \$170M, while **Mark Swanger** and **Mary Ann Enloe** who ran the Board of Equalization and Review with an Iron Fist, only allow taxpayers a mere \$1M?

This is not a rhetorical question, and part of the answer will be forthcoming when the Fifty Five (yes, that is correct, 55 taxpayers) will present their appeal to the Department of Revenue in Raleigh (or maybe here in Haywood County).

Review of Property Tax Cards.

A request for public information has been made to review the Property Tax Cards of all 55 taxpayers who are appealing their revaluation to Raleigh. In response to that request for public information, I received the following from **David Francis**, the Elected Tax Collector on 10/21/2011:

Mr. Miller,

Monday, October 24, 2011 at 9:15 AM in the main floor conference room of the Historic Courthouse. Clear enough?

David B Francis
Haywood County
Tax Collector/Administrator

It is "clear enough". Anyone is invited to view these tax cards at the above time and location. These Property Tax Cards should contain handwritten notes from the members of the Board of Equalization and Review.

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

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