

Haywood County “Toeprints”

November 29, 2011

Vol. #2 Issue #31 (Subject: **FLS Tour, Bruce Crawford vs. Coffey, Cronyism**)

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.

Minutes of Board of Equalization and Review.

A Request for Public Information was made to obtain the minutes of the Board of Equalization and Review (BER), and were provided by **David Francis**, Tax Collector. These “minutes” are posted on www.haywoodtp.net under [Complete Minutes for Haywood County 2011 Board of Equalization and Review, Set 1 of 5. 11/03/2011...](#), and also parts 2, 3, 4 & 5.

There are 1,577 individual sheets, or records, of what transpired during the BER deliberations. They contain the name of the property owner, the PIN, county personnel present, the decision rendered, who made what decision, and details of the valuation. Unfortunately, they appear to be in random order, so picking yours out is very time consuming.

Meeting for taxpayers continuing to appeal.

There will be a meeting for the fifty-five (55) Haywood County taxpayers who were dissatisfied with the results of the Board of Equalization and Review. The 55 people have been or are being notified of the time, date and location of this meeting. The purpose will be to provide those folks with a greater understanding of what to expect when they face the Property Tax Commission. This is akin to the local neighborhood meetings in preparation for the DENR public hearing regarding the quarry, except this meeting will not be open to the public.

County Legal Fee Total to Date for KMD fiasco.

From Julie Davis, “The total amount paid, through today [10/7/2011], for legal expenses related to the KMD termination is \$581,932. As far as the invoices to Bill Noland Consulting, the county has paid these invoices from the project account.”

FLS Facilities Tour.

Michael Shore, CEO of FLS, invited Buncombe County School Board Member Lisa Baldwin, on a facilities tour of FLS on 11/10/2011. I checked with Ms. Baldwin to see if she

was interested in someone coming along to accompany her. Michael Shore graciously extended the offer of the facilities tour to include me as a casual observer. There were a considerable number of employees working on various projects, and we were shown samples of a hot water and solar voltaic panel.

Fairgrounds Arena Building.

There will be much, much more coming in the near future on what is happening with this, along with **Mary Ann Enloe**, the Fairgrounds Board, the current Form 990, etc., etc., etc.

There will also be an update shortly on the formal complaints filed with NCDOT on **Bruce Crawford** and **Johnny Glance**.

County Commission Meeting, Nov. 7, 2011.

Nothing really to comment on for that meeting. Watch the video of the meeting.

Special County Commission Meeting, Nov. 7, 2011.

What was this? This meeting came in under the radar, and was announced on the county website. The notice read: “..., the purpose of which is to hear an appeal for a Notice of Condemnation pursuant to N.C. G. S. 153A-369. ...” Thought I would attend. Who was there? None other than **Bruce Crawford**, the county building inspector. This was like a mini-court hearing, with people swearing in on the Bible. The action was against Lyle and Eleanor Coffey, and a building on one of their properties. **Leon Killian** handed packets of exhibits to all the commissioners, Marty and Julie. **Bruce Crawford** took the podium (stand), and started reading off all of the exhibits, which included various letters, notices, etc., to the Coffey’s. Do you know what I was thinking when I was listening to **Bruce Crawford** with his testimony and exhibits? I thought - This is **Marc Pruett** all over again.

[**Editors Note:** At this point, I moved to the front row with my recorder to insure that I got all this.]

Mrs. Coffey then took the stand (podium) and with no excuses, explained the circumstances why there were delays in the renovation of her building, and explaining her willingness to make the renovations.

[**Editors Note:** This special meeting should have been video recorded. See the video.]

At that point, I had heard enough. We had **Bruce Crawford**, the county building inspector behaving like **Marc Pruett**, and **Mark Swanger**, the ex-FBI guy acting real tough like, beating up on an elderly woman [re: video] - I was going to have a field day with this one.

Then something miraculous happened. There was a change of tone, **Swanger** saw the light, and the whole complexion of the meeting changed and was now shifted to work with Mrs. Coffey to allow her to continue her renovation plans.

Bruce Crawford took the stand again (rebuttal) and was asked if he had any objection to Mrs. Coffey moving forward with the renovation. Of course, **Bruce Crawford** had no objections, and Mrs. Coffey was granted six (6) months to complete the work.

County Commission Meeting, Nov. 21, 2011.

[**Editors Note:** re: Wikipedia: **Cronyism** is partiality to long-standing friends, especially by appointing them to positions of authority, regardless of their qualifications. Hence, cronyism is contrary in practice and principle to meritocracy.]

New Business, Item 3, Roof replacement for Haywood County Garage - **Dale Burris**, Attachment 8.

Three bids were obtained by **Dale Burris** for a roof replacement. They were:

- T&C Construction of NC \$26,800.00
- B. Allen Construction \$26,884.00
- John Burgin Construction \$29,000.00

Under normal circumstances, I guess, the low bidder takes the job, and that would be T&C Construction of Statesville. Then the fun started [re: watch the video].

Commissioners started dancing around, didn't want to go with the low bidder, but wanted B. Allen, a Haywood County construction company (the same who added the toilets and ADA components to the Fairgrounds Arena Building).

Kirkpatrick starting off, wondering out loud, since there was only \$84 difference, it would be better to have a local company do this. **Chip Killian** reminded commissioners (which included **Kirkpatrick**, who is a lawyer) with an opinion that they cannot pick and choose contractors. Oops.

How about rejecting all of them?

Burris had called contractors for the bid, but it wasn't formal. More dancing. **Leon Killian** once more admonished the commissioners with an opinion that they would be on a slippery slope if they started deviating from the past.

The thing that surprised me is why this issue was not a slam dunk before the meeting started, and everyone falls right into line and we have the whole thing pencil whipped.

I sat back and marveled, this is how things are done in Haywood County.

Then, for only the second time since I have been attending these county commission meetings, **Ensley** did the right thing.

[**Editors Note:** The only other time I can recall **Ensley** took a stand was when he voted against the construction cost for the HCC Creative Arts Building as being too expensive.]

Ensley wanted to go with the low bidder, most commissioners fell in line and voted for T&C, with the notable exception of **Sorrells**.

Sorrells voted not to go with the low bidder.

David Francis, 2011 Haywood County Revaluation.
There will be much, much more on this in coming issues.

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