

Haywood County “Toeprints”

January 31, 2012

Vol. #3 Issue #1 (Subject: Custodians, NCDOI Complaint Investigation Report - Summary)

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.

County Commission Meeting, 12/5/2011.

Did not attend. Please review video of meeting and minutes.

County Commission Meeting, 12/19/2011, Custodians.

IX.; New Business; 5. Request to hire custodians for new DSS/Health/Building & Environmental Services facility - Dale Burris, Facilities and Maintenance Director - ATTACHMENT 10.

What? I thought there was a freeze on hiring new county employees. **Dale Burris**, in consultation with Marty Stamey presented a **FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT** which showed that it is more economical to hire more government employees than it is to use public sector employees. That’s obviously a **red flag**, as my experience is that private industry tends to be more efficient than government hiring any employees.

The analysis shown in ATTACHMENT 10 listed three private vendors for 3 full-time employees for six months, and the costs were:

- \$ 62,700
- \$ 78,000
- \$312,000

\$312,000? This is laughable, that this last vendor was actually included in this list. There were no other discernable details provided about the background of these employers (vendors), so that their numbers could not be checked. It would seem to me that to properly pose this issue before the commissioners, some sort of, at least, informal bidding process could or should have taken place. Who knows, some local company who is really looking for work could have popped up and undercut Vendor A, Vendor B, and the laughable Vendor C. This is the **second red flag**.

The **third red flag** is the area of benefits. During my early discussions with Julie Davis to understand the inner workings of the County’s proposed budgets, I asked where were the

employee benefits listed in the budget? She indicated that most of the county employee benefits are covered by the state, and not included in the budget. It’s not clear to me from the “Custodian I wage and benefit analysis” what is covered by the county for these three new employees, and what other hidden expenses/benefits are covered by the state, which you and I will be paying for.

These three new custodial employees will presumably report to **Dale Burris** in the Facilities and Maintenance Department, and increase the employee count in his department.

NCDOI Formal Complaint.

A formal complaint was filed against **Bruce Crawford**, Haywood County Building Inspector, and **Johnny Glance**, Haywood County Fire Marshall, for their actions and behavior regarding the Haywood County Fairgrounds Arena Building, on 2/22/2011 with the N. C. Department of Insurance (NCDOI).

I had requested Fire Sprinkler Test Results from **Johnny Glance** for the Haywood County Fairgrounds Arena Building. He was unable to produce any results for me, when I requested this public information.

I requested an examination of the Certificate of Occupancy for the Haywood County Fairgrounds Arena Building from **Bruce Crawford** 1/4/2011. He indicated the building is under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, for which there is no time limit or expiration date, it can be extended indefinitely.

Complaint Investigation Report.

A Complaint Investigation Report was issued by the NCDOI dated 1/12/2012 which I received on 1/23/2012. It is a nine (9) page report and is posted on www.haywoodtp.net under Interesting Stuff.

The following excerpt is the conclusion of the report:

Conclusions

The Miller complaint charges Bruce Crawford and Johnny Glance of the Haywood County Inspection Department violated GS 143-151.17(a)(6) in that they have "been guilty of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or gross incompetence".

Bruce Crawford – The following violations were confirmed against Mr. Crawford:

Item 3 – No Expiration for Temporary Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy

[Editors Note: From the Investigation Report, “A violation of the NC Administrative Code Section 307.3 and NC General Statute §153A-363 was verified.” Violation of NC General Statute §153A-363 “constitutes a Class 1 misdemeanor.”]

Item 4 – Inadequate Restroom Facilities

Item 5 – No Accessible Route

The number and type of violations found by the investigation are sufficient to justify a hearing to determine if Crawford is guilty of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or gross incompetence.

Johnny Glance- The following violation was confirmed against Mr. Glance:

Item 2- Inadequate Fire Inspections

The number and type of violations found by the investigation are sufficient to justify a hearing to determine if Glance is guilty of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or gross incompetence.

What’s next?

This complaint is still in the hands of staff – the report and disciplinary recommendations have not been presented to the North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board yet.

This case will be presented at the next regularly scheduled Code Officials Qualification Board meeting in Raleigh – April 24th at 1:00 pm. At that time, if a voluntary settlement agreement (VSA) is ready to present, as is typically the case, the Board will have read the report. That is the point at which they will consider what disciplinary actions to take. If no voluntary settlement agreement is reached, witnesses will be contacted by the Board’s attorney to appear before the Board.

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

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