

# Haywood County "Toeprints"

October 24, 2012

Vol. #3 Issue #10 (Subject: \* **SPECIAL EDITION** \* School Board Candidates)

[www.haywoodtp.net](http://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.

## The following is a reprint from the August 19, 2012 Toeprints (Vol. #3, Issue 5):

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### Haywood County School Board Appointment.

This board has been under the radar. An article in the Mountaineer on May 9, 2012, "Board of Education Seeks Individuals to Appoint to HCC Board" prompted me to consider applying for one of these two open positions. There were four (4) applicants to be interviewed at the June 11, 2012 school board meeting:

- Richard Coltman
- Bill Yarborough
- Monroe Miller
- Bill Barker

After sitting through and listening to the other three candidates, I felt that two of the candidates were best worthy of consideration for the job, so at the end of the interview, I withdrew my application for board member. There were two good candidates, and I didn't want to mathematically reduce their chance for appointment or stand in their way. At least one of the two would then be appointed. The two I felt that were best for the job were Richard Coltman and Bill Yarborough.

The board appointed Bill Yarborough and Bill Barker. What?

As it turned out, Bill Yarborough must have submitted an application for this position to the governor, as he was also appointed by **Purdue**. Yarborough evidently had a choice of who he wanted to be appointed by, and he chose the governor, which left another vacancy for the school board to fill.

### School Board HCC Appointment, August 13, 2012.

The school board met again on August 13, 2012 and had an interview with two applicants for HCC Trustee:

- Richard Coltman
- **Susan Sorrells**

I requested, and received a video recording of this interview, and an opinion expressed by lawyer Pat Smathers. Pat Smathers is the lawyer for the Haywood County School Board, **and** the Haywood Community College Board of Trustees. I converted the DVD file to one that could be posted on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net) : [Video! Haywood County School Board interview - Susan Sorrells \(wife of County Commissioner and previous school board member Michael Sorrells\)and Richard Coltman, Opinion afterwards by lawyer Pat Smathers. Who would you have picked for new HCC Trustee? 8/13/2012. 8/17/2012...](#)

Yes, that is correct. **Susan Sorrells** is the wife of **Michael Sorrells**, Haywood County Commissioner. **Michael Sorrells** was also a prior member of the Haywood County School Board.

Who are these school board members?

- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Chuck Francis      | Term runs through 11/30/2012 |
| • Jimmy Rogers       | Term runs through 11/30/2014 |
| • Ann Barrett        | Term runs through 11/30/2012 |
| • Larry Harbin       | Term runs through 11/30/2012 |
| • Steve Kirkpatrick  | Term runs through 11/30/2014 |
| • Bob Morris         | Term runs through 11/30/2012 |
| • Walter Leatherwood | Term runs through 11/30/2012 |
| • Larry Henson       | Term runs through 11/30/2014 |
| • Jim Francis        | Term runs through 11/30/2012 |

How did these school board members vote? Coltman or **Sorrells**?

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Chuck Francis             | Chair, did not vote. |
| • <b>Jimmy Rogers</b>       | <b>Sorrells</b>      |
| • <b>Ann Barrett</b>        | <b>Sorrells</b>      |
| • <b>Larry Harbin</b>       | <b>Sorrells</b>      |
| • <b>Steve Kirkpatrick</b>  | <b>Sorrells</b>      |
| • Bob Morris                | Recuse [HCC chair]   |
| • <b>Walter Leatherwood</b> | <b>Sorrells</b>      |
| • Larry Henson              | Coltman              |
| • <b>Jim Francis</b>        | <b>Sorrells</b>      |

Watch the video. How would you have voted?

**Cronyism.**

According to Wikipedia, the definition of cronyism is:

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.

Many of these school board members are coming up for election in November. If you would like this “good ole boys club” to continue as is, leave them in. Otherwise, vote ‘em out. The “good old boys (and woman)” are:

- **Ann Barrett**
- **Larry Harbin**
- **Walter Leatherwood**
- **Jim Francis**

Now we get back to the original question here. Who are these “two top-notch, local candidates who are well-respected for their abilities (that) were among the applicants”, and will they re-appear in this next set of five (5) candidates the HCC board will expand to consider?

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**The following is a reprint from the October 22, 2012 Toeprints, Vol. #3, Issue 9:**

An ethics complaint has been filed against **Susan Sorrells** with the North Carolina Ethics Commission for her behavior at the HCC Board of Trustees meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup>, related to the HCC presidential selection process. If the commission decides to investigate this matter, I will keep you informed of their findings.

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**Recommendations for School Board members.**

The following Banner was advertised on the Mountaineer website prior to the Mountaineer sponsored Forum for Haywood County School Board Candidates held on October 23, 2012.

Tuesday, October 23rd | 7:00 P.M.

BEAVERDAM DISTRICT



WAYNESVILLE DISTRICT



The event will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Waynesville

The following candidates are given the Toeprints Seal of Approval, or not.



- Larry Harbin**
- Ann Barrett**
- Jim Francis**
- ~~**Walter Leatherwood**~~ [\*]
- Rhonda Schandavel



- Bob Morris
- Any others.

[\*] Not running

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

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