

Haywood County “Toeprints”

January 16, 2014

Vol. #5 Issue #2 (Subject: **June Ray, David Francis, Sam Hyde, Commissioner Work Session**)

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.

Still been very busy...

Whenever there is an interruption in Toeprints issues, it is because I am busy. Look for the following topics soon...

- **June L. Ray**, Clerk of Superior Court,
- **Sam Hyde**, Assistant Clerk of Superior Court,
- **David Francis**, Haywood County Tax Collector,
- **FLS Solar Thermal system** at HCC,
- **Barbara Parker**, President, HCC
- **A whole bunch of lawyers.**

Recently, **David Francis**, Tax Collector, a.k.a. Tax Administrator, has been assuming a lower profile than a snake in the grass.

Commissioner Work Session, 1/14/2014.

The commissioners held a work session Tuesday afternoon on uses for the former Department of Corrections Facility and the former Haywood County Hospital Facility (currently occupied by Haywood County Schools).

Let me tell you how these meetings work. These are just like regular county commission meetings. Everything is decided prior to the meeting, and the session is simply staged for going through the motions. Strictly a formality.

See www.haywoodtp.net for the handout provided at the session (nothing about hospital).

The first part of the meeting dealt with plans to open a shelter in one of the unused dormitories, and the second dormitory to be used by Next Step Ministries. Both of these presentations looked fine, with expenses to be paid by church based groups and donations. The buildings need new sprinkler systems before they can be re-occupied. This is a great use for these buildings at practically no cost to taxpayers (the way it was presented).

Commissioners should pay close attention to concerns from people in Hazelwood regarding their concerns about relocation of this facility in their immediate neighborhood when this is brought up at a regular county commission meeting.

The second portion of the meeting hit the fan, i.e., The Old Hospital. **Dale Burris**, Facilities Director indicated the roof is leaking in the rear building, previously occupied by HSS.

More taxpayer money going down the toilet.

Burris indicated architectural design was necessary and suggested Padgett and Freeman, the architects who designed the roof replacement for the front building. Commissioners seemed to approve. [re: recording]. I thought that this kind of work had to go out for bids.

This entire building is an albatross. Someone piped up and said the school system was interested in staying in this building because Tracy Hargrove had asked for drawings and information. There was no one representing the school system at this meeting - they did not know about it.

Someone said, well, “the place has a good elevator”. It was brought to my attention that there is a danger of people almost getting electrocuted in this elevator. Where is **Jason Rogers** (Waynesville Building Inspector) when you need him?

Swanger brought up the two other buildings currently in mothballs that have not sold, Annex II, which the Board of Elections (**Robert Inman**) will be moving out shortly, and the old Health Department (**Carmin Rocco**) building. Various suggestions were being thrown about, including putting the Annex II and Health Department Building up for sale.

What?

They have been trying to sell these buildings ever since they were vacated and everyone moved into the old Walmart building. There was distress that there were no takers from anyone for this old hospital building (duh). Someone suggested contacting the UNC School of Government for a Marketing Study and spending \$30K for a different use of the property plan.

Wait! I have a great idea!!!

Does anyone remember that old building behind the Senior Resource Center, 63 Elmwood Way - the old Marc Building, that early last year, **Dale Burris** told the commissioners that all he had to do was replace a few rafters to keep the building shell together, just like he told commissioners all they need to do is replace the roof on this rear hospital building?

See photos, <http://haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T130623.pdf>

Well, **Swanger** and company have poured nearly One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of your tax money into that building, primarily approved under the radar over several board meetings in the course of last year. I have never heard of what that building was designed for or who was going to occupy it, other than some rumors it would be for the Board of Elections, "Recreation", and whatever?

Here is the idea.

Transfer Haywood County Schools over to the Elmwood Way building, and take the others that were supposed to move in and have them stay or move into Annex II and the old Health Department Building.

We're not finished. Demolish the old Hospital Building except what has been christened "historic". Cut the boat anchor loose.

Chairman **Swanger** and the rest of the commissioners, why don't you consider that idea?

Outstanding County Employees.

It has been a while since I have added anyone to the list of outstanding county employees, but I have some new folks to include.

- Sherrie Rogers Register of Deeds
- Judy Hickman Assistant Tax Assessor
- Greg Christopher Haywood County Sheriff
- Anne Garrett Superintendent of HC Schools
- Amie Owens Exec. Assist. to County Manager

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

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