

Haywood County "Toeprints"

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Vol. #7 Issue #5 (Subject: Budget Workshop)

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.

Kevin Ensley running for County Commissioner.

Here is a hypothetical question - Would **Kevin Ensley**, and his wife **Alice**, sacrifice the health and well-being of their daughter to further his political career as a County Commissioner?

Swanger's Quarter of a Million Dollar Condo.

Remember **Swanger's** purchase of a Quarter of a Million Dollar Beachfront Condo in Panama City Beach for \$10.00 and putting it in his wife's **Susan's** name?

[re: <http://haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T151031.pdf>]

Well, investigative reporters at neither the Mountaineer nor the Smoky Mountain News have written any kind of acknowledgment about this transaction. Duh... However, I am pleased to report that the above issue of Toeprints is now in the hands of Federal Law Enforcement Officials. Perhaps they will connect the dots.

Budget Workshop, 2/11/2016.

Commissioners held a Budget Workshop for the next fiscal year on 2/11/2016 in the DSS Training Room. It was attended by all commissioners, **Julie Davis**, **Ira Dove**, **David Francis**, **Mark Clasby**, **Dale Burris** and others. Members of our local papers attended, along with Terry Ramey and myself.

You cannot get an advanced copy of the attachments of this workshop to save your life. I learned this procedure through **Julie Davis** before. She will not release any public information until it passes under the noses of the County Commissioners, and that is the same thing that happened here. Terry and I finally got a hard copy (which we did not have to pay for), and Candace Way sent the pdf attachments after the meeting was over.

A Public Official once told me - if a county employee picks up a county supplied pencil, and makes a mark on a county supplied piece of paper, that paper is now Public Information. It does not have to be approved by **Mark Swanger** before I get to inspect it.

The thing that was most notable about this Workshop, is not what was presented, it was what was not presented or placed on the agenda.

- HCC was not present.
- Haywood County Schools / Anne Garrett not present.
- Sheriff's Office not present.
- The Haywood County Fairgrounds was not discussed.
- The Glorified Dog Pound was not discussed.

Instead, to start with, **Dale Burris** presented an unfathomable potpourri of expenses I don't even think he could have dreamed up. The most insanely outrageous item was to replace all of the windows in the courtroom. How much will this cost? Estimated at 1/4 \$Million. Why? Energy savings? Pigeons have crapped on the windows and they are hard to clean (like new windows will solve that problem). Then the discussion implied that changing windows would improve the notoriously poor acoustics in that room. You would have had to have been there, folks [re: Recording of the Workshop].

All this while, I was thinking of CES having to shut down due to lack of funds.

Then, **Burris** said we need to change all the CFL (Compact Florescent Lights) in the parking garage to LED lights. It will take some up front investment, but will save in the long run, **Burris** said.

[**Editors Note:** I recently made the switch from CFL to LED because my friend in Florida just did. It was not the incremental cost savings of LED over CFL, because CFL are already much more efficient than standard lighting, it was because I got a great deal at Costco, and the lighting quality is much better now than a CFL.]

Why stop at changing lights in the parking garage only, **Mr. Burris**, why don't we change all the lights in all county buildings? Again, all this while, I am thinking of CES having to be shut down.

His presentation went downhill from there - an expansive list of expenses for commissioners consideration. You see, this is the way it works. **Burris** and the other people on the agenda get first crack at getting budget allocations, and then when it comes around to HCC, Haywood County Public Schools and the Sheriff's Department, you get the tired old response, we will kick that can down the road.

Speaking of the closure of CES, here again are my thoughts. I have plenty of reasons to blame the following people:

- **Chuck Francis** and the entire School Board,
- **Swanger, Ensley** and the other commissioners for failure to uphold the agreed upon Funding Formula, denying the schools over \$15 Million Dollars, and
- **Julie Davis**, who cooked the books (i.e. falsified the calculation) of the Funding Formula.

If we want to get to the bottom of this, I recommend that we pull the Haywood County Budgets since 2008 and go over them with a fine tooth comb. I believe the people of Haywood County deserve to know how this school board is allocating money.

Back to the Workshop...

I have placed all of the attachments on www.haywoodtp.net. [Copy and paste link into your browser]

<http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/160211attach-1-budgetreview.pdf>

<http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/160211attach-2-facilitiesmaintenance.pdf>

<http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/160211attach-3-ITupdate.pdf>

<http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/160211attach-4-economicdevupdate.pdf>

<http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/160211attach-5-SolidWasteupdate.pdf>

The interesting thing was that **David Francis** has now been promoted to Economic Development Guy also. He gave the Economic Development speech, with **Mark Clasby** as the backup.

In the final attachment, **David Francis** gave a glowing report on Francis Farm - now that we have purchased surrounding land from **Betty Lewis** and others at an exorbitant price, Haywood County is not currently in trouble with contamination of other peoples property. He also indicated that "Any anticipated construction at FFLF would not take place until 2018 or 2019". Also, "**No availability fee increase is needed for the next budget year.**"

Hey pal, if there is no sucking the life out of Haywood County Taxpayers for this money pit until 2018 or 2019, why didn't you recommend that the availability fee go back to \$92 from the current \$164?

Do you know what I would like to see? I would like to see an accounting of the Solid Waste Budget come out of **Julie Davis**. We have no idea what this character **David Francis** has spent for years on these landfills and the MRF.

Mountaineer Candidate Forum.

Remember [Primer on what to expect from Vicki Hyatt's Candidate Forum sponsored by the Mountaineer, at 6p on 2/11/2016 at the County Courthouse. 1/31/2016... ?](#)

<http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/160131VickiManipulatingForum.pdf>

Well, **Vicki Hyatt** pulled the gotcha question on the county commissioner candidates. It went something like this - What three line items in the county budget would you change? [re: did not record this forum].

Candidates be forewarned: Prepare for the 'budget' question By Vicki Hyatt, Feb 12, 2016

<http://themountaineer.villagesoup.com/p/candidates-be-forewarned-prepare-for-the-budget-question/1481807>

This was the fine line **Vicki** had to walk. Turns out no candidate could respond, not even **Ensley**. **Vicki Hyatt** referenced a single person in the last five Mountaineer Forums that answered the question thoughtfully. However, with all due respect to that individual, he did not get elected because he could answer a gotcha question on a line item in our budget. There is arguably no one outside county government employees that know more about the Haywood County Budget than I do, yet I would have a problem responding to that question. But my first knee-jerk response would be to eliminate **Mark Pruett's** Erosion and Sediment Control Department. Then we would hit the Funding Formula for Haywood County Schools, and finally the Law Enforcement allocation for the Sheriff's Department.

It would be nice if we had a moderator for these forums that was not biased.

NEW Contest.

I am holding a new contest. Rules are simple. Start observing any current or past county commission meeting, and see if you can detect any behavior that is out of the norm from any of the commissioners. Prize will be a congratulations in Toeprints. Bonus - bonus! If the winner is one of the people consistently highlighted in **bold** in this newsletter, I will publish that name and it will not appear in bold for that newsletter.

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

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Si vis pacem, para bellum