

Public Comments
Haywood County Commission Meeting
September 20, 2010
by Monroe Miller

The entire segment of the HCC presentation made at the last County Commission Meeting has been transcribed **verbatim** into 11 pages of the minutes you will approve today.

Why is that?

Commissioners approved the project during that meeting, believing that the Board of Trustees had come to a unanimous decision to approve the project. The Board of Trustees 6 to 5 split on the solar thermal had bothered you, but that had appeared to have been resolved, so you eagerly approved the project.

Rose Johnson said in her opening statement -

“So the board brings to you a unanimous decision to honor the values that we have presented to the Commissioners.”

Unfortunately, what Rose Johnson forgot to tell you is that the Board of Trustees had not voted on the solar thermal portion of the project yet.

Additionally, she said “Nothing has been hidden”.

The solar thermal project is still under “Lock Down”. No aspects of the design or contract with FLS is available. It’s all under the table. It **has still not** been voted on.

Johnson also said: “It has the traditional system that the building can operate on and it has what is solar systems that allow us to meet Senate Bill 668 and the building will function if everything happened to fall apart. It will function. **We would not meet Senate Bill 668 , but we would have a functioning building.**”

Well, there seems to be some confusion about that, as at least two Board of Trustees members I have spoken with think it might pass Senate Bill 668.

Chairman Kirkpatrick, you said:

“...I guess where I come down is, is if you had come in here today and I want to ask you this again to make sure, but if you’d come in today and there was a still a 6 / 5 decision I probably would be in line with Kevin right now because I would feel uncomfortable with the board coming in that you don’t have a real good consensus, but you’re telling me, **Mark, that you all voted on it, or you had the approval. I don’t know if there was a vote or not, but you, you looking at me now have the approval of everyone on your board to move forward with this project.**”

Bumgarner: “**Yes, Sir. We’ve had eleven board members and they all unanimously agreed that, on the construction costs and the budget request, loan request amount, 100%.**”

So, you ask a direct question, this “project” which includes the solar thermal with your reference to the 6/5 decision, and Bumgarner answers a completely different question, and neglects to include anything about the status of the solar thermal project.

Who comes off looking worse here?

Bumgarner?, who avoided answering your simple direct question,

or,

The County Commissioners?, who didn't realize that Bumgarner failed to answer your simple direct question?

What happens now if the Board of Trustees kills the solar thermal portion of this project. Will the building meet Senate Bill 668? **Johnson says no!** Will the county get slapped with another hefty fine like we just did with DENR because the Commissioners prematurely approved this HCC project without the Board of Trustees completing their final voting of this project?

So, once again, the entire HCC conversations are transcribed **verbatim** in the minutes you will approve today.

Why is that?

I appreciate your allowing time for me to express my concerns. Thank you.

Monroe A. Miller Jr.,
Haywood County Taxpayer
19 Big Spruce Lane
Waynesville, NC 28786
www.haywoodtp.net