Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
19 Big Spruce Lane
Waynesville, NC 28786
June 22, 2011

Greg Boothroyd
The Smoky Mountain News
261 Sweetwater Drive
Canton, NC 28716

Mr. Boothroyd,

Becky Johnson has proved once again that she just cannot get it right in her latest article “Row over property values in Haywood still raging unabated”. As I have said before, she is a slow learner. She wrote:

“Other than righteous indignation I have not heard anyone attempt to defend Francis’ numbers,” Miller said.

If the revaluation was so off, Francis responded, then why didn’t Miller appeal his property values?

“I think my numbers are so good he didn’t even appeal his,” Francis said.

There is a disconnect between what Becky Johnson quoted what I said during my public comment at the last commission meeting versus the response she quoted Francis as saying.

At all times, when I have referred to “Francis’ numbers”, I have referred to the spread sheet that he created of total property values for Haywood County for the period of time between 2006 and 2011. [See the attached spread sheet, also on my website, www.haywoodtp.net.]

Judy Ballard indicated to me on May 19th, that there are two inputs she uses to update the spreadsheet:

• The pre-bill. That is the sum of all tax bills sent to taxpayers each year. Since they don’t change each year (unless there is a change in the actual tax rate), that is basically a constant or baseline number, and

• New Construction. Each year, values of new construction are added to the sum of the pre-bills.

David Francis qualified those two items the next day by adding that if a house burned down, it was removed.

As I indicated to Assistant Attorney General Mark Teague on June 3rd, “There is no provision for any decrease, unless a house burns down, then it is removed. The fatal flaw in his assessment is that he fails to account for any decrease due to a drop in demand or any other factor.”

During all this time since originally pointing out this fatal flaw in Francis’ [spreadsheet] numbers, and I’ll say it again, “Other than righteous indignation I have not heard anyone attempt to defend Francis’ numbers”. They are not defensible.
So, as you can see, I was referring to Francis’ spreadsheet numbers, and Becky Johnson turned the entire context upside down and quoted Francis responding on a completely different subject. Isn’t that incompetent or something?

It’s been a while since I have seen Becky Johnson covering a county commission meeting, and was surprised to see her at the last meeting. You should consider re-assigning Colby Dunn back to covering the meetings. She really wasn’t doing that bad of a job.

Regards,

Monroe A. Miller Jr.

enc: Francis Spread Sheet

cc: (via e-mail)

Chip Killian
Mark Swanger
Kirk Kirkpatrick
Bill Upton
Kevin Ensley [Do not e-mail, as e-mail will be deleted by Ensley’s delete button]
Michael Sorrells
Vicki Hyatt, The Mountaineer
Colby Dunn
David Francis
Judy Ballard
Mark Teague, Assistant Attorney General of North Carolina
Jonnie Cure [Note to Jonnie - For general e-blast distribution]
Becky Johnson

cc: (sent as bcc on e-mail list)
Horace Edwards
Eddie Cabe

bcc:
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Prebilled
From David Francis
5/19/2011