

Monroe A. Miller Jr.
19 Big Spruce Lane
Waynesville, NC 28786
May 24, 2015

Subject: Stoney Blevins, Assistant County Manager, Permit to re-drill a well Debacle.

Stoney Blevins is the Haywood County Assistant County Manager (still working on how that came to be). He also works part time as Director for Haywood County Social Services (DSS - HHS).

Stoney Blevins appears to be in charge of a whole bunch of mystery stuff in the Old Walmart Building, including something called Environmental Health. This is under his DSS hat. These folks, county employees, issue permits to drill wells. The following is a rough pecking order of this little organization, starting at the bottom.

- Adam Jones - Inspector.
- Pam Henson - not sure what her responsibility is at this point.
- Steven Valentine - Environmental Health Supervisor
- Carmine Rocco - Director, Health Department.
- Stoney Blevins - Assistant County Manager, DSS Director.
- Paul Turner - Chair, Haywood County Board of Health.

A Haywood County Taxpayer was lamenting to me of some difficulty he was having with Environmental Services. His grandmother's well was going dry, 4 ounces being pumped every nine (9) minutes. He brought out a well drilling company guy to confirm the problem. Need to re-drill the well, he said, but good luck. You need a permit, and it will be three weeks before these county guys give you a permit.

As I was making make some inquiries into this matter, Stoney Blevins told me point-blank to blow-off. He said:

[“Many of the questions/ concerns you raise concern a matter with a private citizen. Since no citizen has asked us to discuss their business with you as their authorized representative, we will not do so. I believe you would appreciate the same consideration if you had business with our agency and someone wanted us to discuss your affairs with them.”](#)

This response and attitude appear to be coming from someone with a typical DSS mentality.

- “It’s none of your business.”
- “Don’t you worry, we will handle this internally, and you will never know what we have covered up.”

This is a county operation, staffed by county employees, paid out of your taxes through the County Budget. How would you like to be treated if you were making an inquiry on behalf of someone who may be too afraid to stand up to these people.

“Stoney”. Interesting name. After this blow-off, it seems more appropriate to that he be referred to as “Stonewall” Blevins.

The following is an e-mail dialog with Stoney Blevins. Let’s see where this goes...

Your tax dollars at work. Enjoy.

Monroe Miller
Haywood County Taxpayer.

Subject: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Thu, 21 May 2015 20:58:40 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Bruce Crawford <bcrawford@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Ira Dove <idove@haywoodnc.net>, Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, KEVIN ENSLEY <lkensley@bellsouth.net>, Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>

Mr. Crawford,

Are you in charge of Environmental Services? If not, can you direct me to the person in charge of that department?

You see, a friend of mine was told he had to have someone from the county come to his property to sign off on re-drilling a well for his 88 year old grandmother because she only gets about 4 ounces of water per hour. The well driller said, "good luck, the county is running about 3 weeks behind on these inspections."

My friend was advised (and we will start to get names shortly), that someone would be out today to look at it. What time?, my friend asked. Sometime between 9am and 5pm, he was advised.

ATT, Directv, and any other responsible company will at least narrow the time down to 4 hours, but no, the county person said between 9am and 5pm. He stayed home all day awaiting the arrival of this county person.

Do you know what?

No one ever showed up!

When he called in around 2pm, the snippy receptionist (as I said, we will start to get names here) said something to the effect, we try, but we can't move heaven and earth.

I attended the Haywood County Hearing on the new Proposed Budget today, and everyone was whining about county employees working so hard and needing raises. I will automatically start to question raises in this Environmental Services Department.

Do you know how this makes me feel?

Can you check into this matter for me, I would like to know why he was promised someone coming out (who was that person), and never did. Why did the well drilling guy say there was a three week backlog?

I have a lot on my plate right now (see www.haywoodtp.net, you are still on there, by the way [re: [Criminal Complaints against Bruce Crawford, Haywood County Building Inspector, and Johnny Glance, Haywood County Fire Marshall, sent to Haywood County Grand Jury. 12/31/2012...](#)]), but I will move everything off to the side of the table and concentrate on this if need be.

My friend will not be available tomorrow or the weekend, but someone needs to call him and apologize and set up an appointment to come see him at his convenience, probably Monday or Tuesday.

Can you make this happen or should I go higher?

Monroe Miller
Haywood County Taxpayer

Pursuant to Proper Etiquette and N.C.G.S. § 14-196.3, this e-mail conforms to Section (e) which applies to any peaceable, nonviolent, or nonthreatening activity intended to express political views or to provide lawful information to others. This section shall not be construed to impair any constitutionally protected activity, including speech, protest, or assembly.

Subject: RE: Permit to re-drill a well.
Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 11:26:19 +0000
From: Bruce Crawford <BCrawford@haywoodnc.net>
To: Monroe Miller

Mr. Miller,

The Environmental Health Division of Health and Human Services is responsible for issuing well permits. Steve Valentine is the supervisor for the division. Steve answers to Carmine Rocco and Mr. Rocco answers to Stoney Blevins, Director of Health and Human Services.

Regards,

Bruce Crawford

Subject: Re: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 08:31:07 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Bruce Crawford <BCrawford@haywoodnc.net>, Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <idove@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, KEVIN ENSLEY <lkensley@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Crawford,

As an FYI to you, Stoney Blevins is also Haywood County Assistant County Manager. Did you know that?

Monroe Miller

On 5/22/2015 8:28 AM, Monroe Miller wrote:

Thank you.

Subject: RE: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 12:35:07 +0000

From: Bruce Crawford <BCrawford@haywoodnc.net>

To: Monroe Miller, Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <IDove@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Mark S. Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, L. Kevin. Ensley <lkensley@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Miller,

Yes, I am aware of that.

Bruce Crawford

Subject: Re: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 08:35:24 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <idove@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Bruce Crawford <BCrawford@haywoodnc.net>, Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, KEVIN ENSLEY <lakensley@bellsouth.net>, Steven Valentine <SValentine@haywoodnc.net>, Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>

Mr. Valentine,

Same question - see original e-mail to Bruce Crawford. Please respond.

Monroe Miller

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Subject: Automatic reply: Permit to re-drill a well.
Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 12:35:34 +0000
From: Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>
To: Monroe Miller

I am currently out of the office. I will respond to your email as soon as possible. If this is an emergency, please contact call 911 or if you need immediate assistance please call Pam Henson, Laboratory Manager at 828-452-6675 or email phenson@haywoodnc.net.

Thank you,

Carmine Rocco,

Health Director

[**Editors Note:** Name and Address have been redacted with asterisks].

Subject: RE: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 13:04:18 +0000

From: Steven Valentine <SV Valentine@haywoodnc.net>

To: monroemillerjr@bellsouth.net

CC: Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>, Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <IDove@haywoodnc.net>, Pam C. Henson <PHenson@haywoodnc.net>

I think we are talking about a well permit for [*****] on [*****]. [*****] applied for a permit on Wednesday 5/20/15. Currently we have a backlog of 2-3 weeks on permits due to a staff shortage but we do give priority to failing systems or repairs and well permits where people are without water. When [*****] applied I think she was told that we would try & get to it yesterday but we were unable to do because of the workload which included several well grouts and septic inspections. Adam Jones is scheduled to meet [*****] on the property this morning at 9:30.

Steve Valentine
Environmental Health Supervisor
157 Paragon Parkway Suite 200
Clyde, NC 28721
828-452-6682 ext 2108

[**Editor's Note:** Don't miss this one folks, mistakenly forwarded to me by Steve Valentine.]

From: Carmine Rocco
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Steven Valentine; Pam C. Henson
Cc: Stoney Blevins
Subject: Fwd: Permit to re-drill a well.

Steve please check into this situation and get the details, timeline, including the names of staff involved. Please forward that information to Stoney and me asap.

Thanks Carmine

Subject: Re: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Fri, 22 May 2015 17:44:31 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Steven Valentine <SV Valentine@haywoodnc.net>, Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <IDove@haywoodnc.net>, Pam C. Henson <PHenson@haywoodnc.net>, Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, KEVIN ENSLEY <lkinsley@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Rocco,

(See below, your e-mail of 7:38am) I presume that you got your response from Steve asap. Can you pass along that information to me - details, timeline, including the names of staff involved? Who is Pam Henson?

Thank you,

Monroe Miller

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Subject: Re: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Sat, 23 May 2015 08:08:07 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Steven Valentine <SValentine@haywoodnc.net>, Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <IDove@haywoodnc.net>, Pam C. Henson <PHenson@haywoodnc.net>, Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, KEVIN ENSLEY <lkinsley@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Rocco,

I just found out that my friend was required to pay (up front) a \$270 "permit fee" to re-drill his grandmothers water well that had gone dry. What the ...? Whose stupid idea was that? Why should you have to get another permit to re-drill a well? This sounds like the stuff you were trying to pull with "The Rule". You remember "The Rule", don't you? That's where you and your cohorts were blown back to the Stone Age. First, these people collect an outrageous fee, give him an appointment time, and then blow him off. I think we could have a real problem with some heavy deadwood in this "Environmental Health" department, don't you?. This department isn't connected with Mark Pruett's Erosion and Sediment Control Department, is it?

Waiting for you to respond to my previous request.

Monroe Miller

p.s. Mr. Blevins, feel free to jump in any time, since you are in the direct reporting chain on this debacle, because I sure haven't seen you do a [expletive deleted] thing yet as Assistant County Manager.

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Subject: Re: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Sat, 23 May 2015 12:39:20 +0000

From: Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>

To: Monroe Miller

CC: Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>, Steven Valentine <SV Valentine@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <IDove@haywoodnc.net>, Mark S. Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, Paul Turner <pajatur@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Miller,

Many of the questions/ concerns you raise concern a matter with a private citizen. Since no citizen has asked us to discuss their business with you as their authorized representative, we will not do so. I believe you would appreciate the same consideration if you had business with our agency and someone wanted us to discuss your affairs with them.

In terms of your general concerns about fees, I will certainly take note of these. I appreciate input from the citizens we serve on how we can best meet the needs of our community.

I hope you have a nice Memorial Day weekend.

Stoney Blevins

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Re: Permit to re-drill a well.

Date: Sat, 23 May 2015 08:54:29 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Stoney Blevins <tsblevins@haywoodnc.net>

CC: Carmine Rocco <CRocco@haywoodnc.net>, Steven Valentine <SV Valentine@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <IDove@haywoodnc.net>, Mark S. Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>, Paul Turner <pajatur@bellsouth.net>, Pam C. Henson <PHenson@haywoodnc.net>, Ira Dove <idove@haywoodnc.net>, KEVIN ENSLEY <lkinsley@bellsouth.net>, Mark Swanger <markswanger@bellsouth.net>

Mr. Blevins,

Welcome to Haywood County.

Feel free to ask anyone around here, including Paul Turner, I have no problem getting involved in instances where a "citizen" is having a problem with county government, or as Paul Turner is familiar with, the GOP political party. In fact, if someone that is appointed or elected to a position of power, and they either abuse their power or intimidate someone because of their power, I will do something about it.

Please do not even consider blowing me off by saying this is a matter between you and a citizen. I can guarantee you, it won't work.

I also hope that you have a nice Memorial Day weekend.

Monroe Miller

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[Editors Note: Blevins copied Paul Turner on his e-mail to me. Paul Turner is Chair of the Board of Health. Turner used to be Finance Chair of the GOP during Pat Carr's reign, but the money dried up. Pat Carr was thrown out of office at the last convention [re: <http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/150314GOP-Convention.pdf>], leaving the GOP \$5 to work with. Note to Paul - I am happy to report that money is now starting to flow freely back into the HCGOP. We have a great new Finance Chair.]