

From: Michael Matthews

To: Kathi McClure

I, Michael Matthews, would like to file a formal grievance against Ira Dove, the Board of Commissioners, and anyone else who may have been responsible for leaking the Investigation Report (Report) to The Mountaineer.

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017, Vikkie Hyatt (Ms. Hyatt), editor for the Mountaineer, came to my office for a statement with regard to the Report. At that time, I had received no Report or any other communication from anyone other than my attorney with regard to the Report. Ms. Hyatt told me someone had put it in her mailbox here at the courthouse and asked if I had seen the Report. She told me I was more than welcome to read it on her website when she posted it.

On Thursday, February 9, 2017, I made an attempt to get the Report and was told by Chip Killian (Mr. Killian) that it was not public record. Mr. Killian was aware that had a copy of the Report was in the hands of The Mountaineer, but was unable to tell me how The Mountaineer had obtained the copy. After several conversations with Mr. Killian and my own counsel, I received the Report about 4:30 p.m. on February 9th. Haywood County (County) continued to maintain that the Report was not public record' and that I only received a copy of the Report because it involved me.

I have been informed that the Smoky Mountain News was denied a copy of the Report.

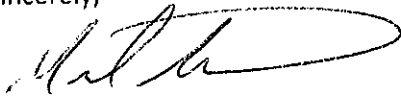
My grievance is as follows:

- 1) closed session meeting laws may have been broken (leak of Report to Ms. Hyatt), and
- 2) non-public records may have been mishandled (leak of Report to Mrs. Hyatt).

The above two (2) items constitute a huge breach of trust to me, to the county employees, and to the citizens of the County.

I trust you will handle this grievance with the importance and attention it deserves. I would also ask that the investigation of this grievance be handled internally, if at all possible. Call me crazy, but I still believe that there are a few people in county administration with the integrity to handle this investigation properly without having to spend \$20,000 of the taxpayer's money for an outside attorney/investigator.

Sincerely,



Michael Matthews
Haywood County Tax Collector

Received by Kathi McClure

Date and Time received 2-10-2017 2:35 p.m.