

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
2200 Camp Branch Road  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
January 26, 2023

**Subject:** Email Dialog with Becky Johnson, mountaineer Interim Editor, re: Anti-vaxers (sic).

Becky Johnson (still not in **bold**), has been promoted to the Interim Editor of the mountaineer. This is an unusual email dialog with Becky Johnson, regarding the mountaineer article entitled “Anti-vaxers prompt commissioners to table Covid vaccine grant”, January 25, 2023, Vicki Hyatt [vhyatt@themountaineer.com](mailto:vhyatt@themountaineer.com). It is interesting to note that on the hard copy newspapers, “anti-vaxxers” is spelled different.

This email dialog actually starts out with the outcry at the last county commission meeting objecting to Item #7 in the Consent Agenda for the meeting, with commissioners to approve a \$75,735 Grant to **Sarah Henderson** over at DSS to promote corona virus vaccines. Then, a Request for Public Information from Janet Presson to **Ira Dove**, the piece of work over at DSS. Finally, a mea culpa of sorts from Becky Johnson, nothing from **Cory Vaillancourt**.

[**Editor’s Note:** Don’t forget to see: [Resurrection of old Mark Swanger Photo, especially for Cory Vaillancourt. 1/25/2023...](#), or <https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230125CoryNutsInASling.pdf>. **Cory Vaillancourt** now owns that picture.]

So here we go - This is great.

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From: Janet Presson  
Subject: Request for Information  
Date: January 22, 2023 at 11:14:21 PM EST  
To: [ira.dove@haywoodcountync.gov](mailto:ira.dove@haywoodcountync.gov)

Janet Presson  
49 Lodgepole Pine Lane  
Waynesville, NC 28785  
January 23, 2023

Ira Dove  
Health and Human Services Director  
Haywood County Health and Human Services  
157 Paragon Parkway  
Clyde, NC 28721

Dear Mr. Dove:

Under the North Carolina Public Records Law, G.S. 132-1, I am requesting the following information contained in Haywood County Health and Human Services/Public Health Department records be provided to me by email:

1. How many Covid vaccines have been given by our health department? I’d like this info broken down by brand (Moderna, Pfizer, etc.)?
2. I would like the number of recipients broken down by age groups? Ex. 6 months-5 years, 6 years-12 years, etc. Please provide this information in whatever age groups the information is already contained in.

3. If the data shows how many recipients have received just one Covid vaccine, two, three, four, etc. I would like that as well.
4. Have there been any instances where a vaccine recipient has required medical care immediately following the administration of a Covid vaccine? If so, I would like that information.
5. Have there been any reports of vaccine injury or death for a Covid vaccine given by the health department?
6. What is the process for reporting a vaccine injury or death following a vaccine given by the health department? Specifically, does the Health Department get notified and if so, who at the Health Department is responsible for accepting and then documenting these reports or is the recipient or family informed how to report and where to report? Are they offered assistance with reporting?
7. I'd like copies of all info sheets/authorization forms, etc. given to Haywood County citizens when they receive a Covid vaccine. If there are different forms given to different age groups I'd like copies of each set.

If there are any fees for searching for or providing these records, please inform me first. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the Covid vaccine program in Haywood County. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

I would also like to make clear that the information requested is all required to be maintained by both Federal and State Law. I expect that all data provided will be sanitized to include no identifying or HIPAA protected information.

The law requires that you respond to and fulfill this request as promptly as possible. If you expect a significant delay in responding to and fulfilling this request, please contact me with information about when I might expect it.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,  
Janet Presson, R.N., M.Ed.

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[**Editor's Note:** To my knowledge, this piece of work, **Ira Dove**, has not responded to the Request for Public Information.]

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Subject: Re: Fwd: Request for Information  
Date: Mon, 23 Jan 2023 11:50:27 -0500  
From: Monroe Miller  
To: Janet Presson, ... [Others redacted]

Janet,

It appears that you sent this request yesterday. It is generally accepted (among everyone except Frank Queen, County Attorney) that you should expect a response within 10 days (that might mean calendar or business days, usually it never gets that far). Under any circumstances, see the following NCGS -

**§ 132-6. Inspection, examination and copies of public records.**

(a) Every custodian of public records shall permit any record in the custodian's custody to be inspected and examined at reasonable times and under reasonable supervision by any person, and shall, as promptly as possible, furnish copies thereof upon payment of any fees as may be prescribed by law. As used herein, "custodian" does not mean an agency that holds the public records of other agencies solely for purposes of storage or safekeeping or solely to provide data processing.

(a1) A public agency or custodian may satisfy the requirements in subsection (a) of this section by making public records available online in a format that allows a person to view the public record and print or save the public record to obtain a copy. If the public agency or custodian maintains public records online in a format that allows a person to view and print or save the public records to obtain a copy, the public agency or custodian is not required to provide copies to these public records in any other way.

(b) No person requesting to inspect and examine public records, or to obtain copies thereof, shall be required to disclose the purpose or motive for the request.

(c) No request to inspect, examine, or obtain copies of public records shall be denied on the grounds that confidential information is commingled with the requested nonconfidential information. If it is necessary to separate confidential from nonconfidential information in order to permit the inspection, examination, or copying of the public records, the public agency shall bear the cost of such separation.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, public records relating to the proposed expansion or location of specific business or industrial projects may be withheld so long as their inspection, examination or copying would frustrate the purpose for which such public records were created; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to permit the withholding of public records relating to general economic development policies or activities. Once the State, a local government, or the specific business has announced a commitment by the business to expand or locate a specific project in this State or the business has made a final decision not to do so, of which the State or local government agency involved with the project knows or should know, the provisions of this subsection allowing public records to be withheld by the agency no longer apply. Once the provisions of this subsection no longer apply, the agency shall disclose as soon as practicable, and **within 25 business days**, public records requested for the announced project that are not otherwise made confidential by law. An announcement that a business or industrial project has committed to expand or locate in the State shall not require disclosure of local government records relating to the project if the business has not selected a specific location within the State for the project. Once a specific location for the project has been determined, local government records must be disclosed, upon request, in accordance with the provisions of this section. For purposes of this section, "local government records" include records maintained by the State that relate to a local government's efforts to attract the project.

Records relating to the proposed expansion or location of specific business or industrial projects that are in the custody of the Department of Commerce or an entity with which the Department contracts pursuant to G.S. 143B-431.01 shall be treated as follows:

(1) Unless controlled by another subdivision of this subsection, the records may be withheld if their inspection, examination, or copying would frustrate the purpose for which the records were created.

(2) If no discretionary incentives pursuant to Chapter 143B of the General Statutes are requested for a project and if the specific business decides to expand or locate the project in the State, then the records relating to the project shall not be disclosed.

(3) If the specific business has requested discretionary incentives for a project pursuant to Chapter 143B of the General Statutes and if either the business decides not to expand or locate the project in the State or

the project does not receive the discretionary incentives, then the only records relating to the project that may be disclosed are the requests for discretionary incentives pursuant to Chapter 143B of the General Statutes and any information submitted to the Department by the contracted entity.

(4) If the specific business receives a discretionary incentive for a project pursuant to Chapter 143B of the General Statutes and the State or the specific business announces a commitment to expand or locate the project in this State, all records requested for the announced project, not otherwise made confidential by law, shall be disclosed as soon as practicable and within 25 days from the date of announcement.

(e) The application of this Chapter is subject to the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 121 of the General Statutes, the North Carolina Archives and History Act.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (a1) of this section, the inspection or copying of any public record which, because of its age or condition could be damaged during inspection or copying, may be made subject to reasonable restrictions intended to preserve the particular record. (1935, c. 265, s. 6; 1987, c. 835, s. 1; 1995, c. 388, s. 2; 2005-429, s. 1.1; 2014-18, s. 1.1(c); 2014-115, s. 56.1; 2017-10, s. 2.9(b).)

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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Subject: You made the front page of the mountaineer. Whoopee  
Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 18:16:40 -0500  
From: Monroe Miller  
To: Janet Presson  
CC: [Redacted]



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From: Janet Presson  
Subject: Article about the January 17 Commissioners Meeting  
Date: January 25, 2023 at 4:38:47 PM EST  
To: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>

Hi Vicki!

Thanks so much for being fair in your article about our comments at the commissioners meeting on the 17th. However, I wonder if you and your colleagues could transition from calling us “anti-vaxxers” to perhaps “ex-vaxxers” or “former vaxxers”. As I keep clarifying, I’m not anti-vaccine. I took plenty of vaccines and never questioned Rob’s vaccines until he was brain-injured. Anti-vaxxer is such a pejorative and just isn’t fair or accurate.

Also, I had to laugh when I read the comments from Sarah Henderson. I’ve been requesting info from her and the public health folks since December and they will not give me data that I know they are required to keep. I sent the questions below to Ira Dove year again a few days ago in case you are interested. I’ll be happy to share this data with you once I receive it.

Thanks so much!!! Janet Presson, R.N., M.Ed.

Subject: Re: Fwd: Article about the January 17 Commissioners Meeting

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 19:15:46 -0500

From: Monroe Miller

To: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Jonathan Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>

CC: Scott McLeod <info@smokymountainnews.com>, Greg Boothroyd <ads@smokymountainnews.com>, Kyle Perrotti <kyle.p@smokymountainnews.com>, Terry Ramey <terry.ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>, Ira Dove <Ira.Dove@HaywoodCountyNC.gov>

Vicki,

You wrote all the articles on the (front page of the) last issue of the mountaineer -

Low income families will see food benefits plummet,  
From the Ground up, again carrying water for David Francis  
County links \$7.9 million housing grand, and  
Anti-vaxxers protest Covid vaccine grant, slamming all the public speakers at the last county commission meeting.

There has not been a single article from the mountaineer since the end of December when the smn tabloid started slamming Terry Ramey. Instead, you slam people concerned about covid vaccines and propping up **David Francis**. Did you even see what is appearing on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)? It seems there is an unwritten rule around the mountaineer (and smn tabloid) that if anything is posted on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net), you avoid it. Don't forget to see:

[Resurrection of old Mark Swanger Photo, especially for Cory Vaillancourt. 1/25/2023...](#)

[HaywoodHappening.org. Another False Article from Smoky Marxist News Cory Villiancourt Slandering County Commissioner Terry Ramey. 1/25/2023...](#)

[The Town of Waynesville Planning Board will hold a public hearing on February 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm, in the Town Hall Board Room, located at 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC, to consider a major site plan review for the expansion of the Haywood County Multi-Use Facility at 1620 Brown Avenue, Waynesville, NC 28786 \(PIN 8605-70-8724\). \(That's the New Detention Center, folks.\) Drawings by McGill/Moseley Architects. 1/25/2023...](#)

[Catherine Allen, Associate Professor, WNC, College of Health and Human Sciences. 1/25/2023...](#)

[Planning Board Special Called Meeting Agenda Packet, this meeting will begin at 6:00p.m. on Monday January 30th, 2023. 1/25/2023...](#)

[The Daily Haymaker. The curious case of Beth Wood. 1/25/2023...](#)

[Who is Catherine Allen \(a.k.a. Katherine Allen\)? 1/24/2023...](#)

[Email Dialog - Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley and Cory Vaillancourt, colorized! Cory Vaillancourt is one sick S.O.B. and a snake in the grass. 1/20/2023 1/22/2023...](#)

[Concerned "simpletons" or Concerned Citizens? 1/19/2023. 1/21/2023...](#)

You need to write a retraction/apology for referring to Concerned Citizens trashing them by calling them Anti-vaxxers. How about getting on **Ira Dove** and **Sarah Henderson's** case about not responding to Janet Presson?

You have just crossed my threshold of your being a Liberal Hack Writer, again. Fix it. Game on...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

[**Editor's Note:** I sent that at 7:15pm. Look who responded to Janet Presson ten (10) minutes later!]

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On Jan 25, 2023, at 7:25 PM, Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com> wrote:

Hi Janet,

This was the headline I put on the story: Commissioners want to study \$75,700 Covid grant

I didn't notice it had been changed until just now. I'm so sorry. I didn't even see the front page after it was ready to go or would have questioned the change.

As you probably know, I've been trying to step back from being editor and after two editors were hired who didn't work out, Becky Johnson has stepped up as the interim editor, so I simply write stories.

Vicki

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Vicki Hyatt  
Mountaineer Publishing, Inc.  
220 N. Main St.  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
828-452-0661 or 828-400-2615

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[**Editor's Note:** Finally, from our new Interim Editor of the mountaineer, Becky Johnson, who is still not back to bold. Note also that she copied our newest county commissioner on this email.]

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Subject: Re: Fwd: Article about the January 17 Commissioners Meeting

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 22:17:24 -0500

From: Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>

To: Monroe Miller

CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Jonathan Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>, Terry Ramey <terry.ramey@haywoodcountync.gov>

Hey Monroe,

I take the blame for using anti-vaxer in a headline. I didn't realize it been adopted as a derogatory term. I just thought it was an accurate descriptor of someone who is opposed to vaccines, and I needed a short phrase to fit in the space. "Vaccine critics" or "vaccine opponents" was too long.

I talked to Janet Presson tonight and changed the headline online. I guess it's kinda like how "liberal" came to have a negative connotation, when people adopted its use as an insult, rather than just a description of someone's political leanings.

Anyway, duly noted that the term anti-vaxer now carries negative baggage. And liberals are now called progressives. And zoning is called land-use planning, LOL.

I personally didn't mean it as an insult, but I get that language has connotations in the eye of the beholder that could be perceived that way.

Becky Johnson  
The Mountaineer, interim editor  
828-507-9141 (cell)  
themountaineer.com

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