

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
March 3, 2023

Subject: Appearance of Impropriety - Cory/Kevin/Jennifer/Tommy/Brandon.

Cory Vaillancourt, of the smn tabloid, published a hit piece on Terry Ramey - “Haywood commissioners issue joint statement on Ramey” on 1/17/2023. The basis for this hit piece was an email response from **Kevin “Adjudication” Ensley**, Haywood County Commission Chair, to questions posed by **Cory Vaillancourt**. **Kevin “Adjudication” Ensley** stated in an email -

From: Kevin Ensley
To: cory@smokymountainnews.com
Cc: Brandon C. Rogers; Thomas A. Long; Jennifer Best
Subject: Re: Media inquiry
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:36:21 PM

Cory,

See answers in red bold print to your questions below. This response is from the four commissioners (Brandon, Tommy, Jennifer and me) that you sent the email to. All are in agreement.

L. Kevin Ensley, PLS
PO Box 1401
428 Dellwood Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 456-6395

Psalms 91:3, 5-6 Surely He shall deliver you from the perilous pestilence. You shall not be afraid of the pestilence that walks in darkness.
Sent from my iPad

[**Editor’s Note:** Underlining the above was mine.]

These county commissioners were conducting county business (piling on the Honorable Terry Ramey, who is an elected county official), making county decisions amongst and between each other, and without a public notice. At the minimum, this is a flagrant Appearance of Impropriety.

An editorial in the mountaineer, “Our Views” was entitled “Ramey’s tax bills not the only actions worth examining”. On www.haywoodtp.net, see:

Vol #14, Issue # 6: Feb 05, 2023 "Our Views"!

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T230205.pdf>

Cory Vaillancourt has since made more than one Request for Public Information to **Joey Webb, CGCIO**¹, to dig up additional dirt on Terry Ramey, of which **Joey Webb, CGCIO** bends over backwards to accommodate **Cory Vaillancourt**. Yet, when I made a Request for Public Information from **Joey Webb, CGCIO**, I get ignored, until I post a piece about his title, CGCIO.

The following is the actual email dialog I finally received from **Joey Webb, CGCIO** between these (alleged) conspirators.

¹ See: <https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230226JoeyWebb-CGCIO-WhatIsThat.pdf>

From: Cory Vaillancourt
To: Kevin Ensley; Brandon C. Rogers; Thomas A. Long; Jennifer Best
Subject: Media inquiry
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:30:14 PM

Good afternoon commissioners, and happy New Year!

I'm working on a story about delinquent taxes, and I'd like to get your thoughts in writing.

On Sept. 28, 2022, The Smoky Mountain News reported that a Republican candidate for Haywood County Board of Commissioners, Terry Eugene Ramey, owed thousands in back taxes to the county, with some bills dating to 2012. This fiscal year, the county will collect more than \$52 million in property taxes — by far its largest source of income.

At that time, Ramey said he'd pay the bills if they were valid. A subsequent review of the bills with the county's tax assessor determined that the bills are indeed valid.

As of Jan. 10, Ramey still has 13 outstanding tax bills in Haywood County, and has repeatedly threatened The Smoky Mountain News for reporting on his delinquencies.

Since being sworn into office on Dec. 8, Ramey has cast 13 votes, some of them concerning more than \$38,000 of taxpayer money — all without paying his own taxes.

1. It is acceptable for an elected official to threaten members of the media.
Do you agree? Why or why not?

2. It is hypocritical for someone who owes back taxes to make decisions regarding taxpayer money.
Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. County commissioners are paid for their service each month. Terry Ramey's paychecks should be garnished until his taxes are paid.
Do you agree? Why or why not?

4. Terry Ramey should recuse himself from all board votes until his taxes are paid.
Do you agree? Why or why not?

5. Terry Ramey should resign from the board.
Do you agree? Why or why not?

My deadline for these responses is Sunday, Jan. 13. All answers will be noted in my story.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like to discuss this, on or off the record.

Cory Vaillancourt
Politics Editor, The Smoky Mountain News
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smokymountainnews.com
facebook.com/smnews
Twitter.com/SmokyMtnNews
Twitter.com/SMN_Cory

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Sent from my iPad

[**Editor's Note: Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley** responded back to **Cory Vaillancourt** by inserting the commissioners agreed upon response, in **red/bold**, shown below.]

On Jan 11, 2023, at 12:30 PM, Cory Vaillancourt
<cory@smokymountainnews.com> wrote:

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Since being sworn into office on Dec. 8, Ramey has cast 13 votes, some of them concerning more than \$38,000 of taxpayer money — all without paying his own taxes.

1. It is acceptable for an elected official to threaten members of the media.

Do you agree? Why or why not?

It is never acceptable for public officials to threaten the press. The Constitution's first amendment guarantees freedom of the press. This was granted along with the other amendments to protect the Republic and everyone's freedoms. Newspapers have "letters to the editor" for an elected official, or anyone for that matter, to refute what they believe to be misinformation.

2. It is hypocritical for someone who owes back taxes to make decisions regarding taxpayer money.

Do you agree? Why or why not?

Questions 2, 4 & 5 would relate to the fact that an election was held and 26,927 voters cast a ballot. Of those, 13,498 (50.13%) voted to elect Mr. Ramey. The issue about his taxes had been reported and printed in the press prior to the election. Our taxes support our schools, community college, EMS, Fire departments, Sheriff's department, library, mandated state/federal programs and many other initiatives that enhance our quality of life. Our opinion is that, as an elected official, we should be an example and promptly pay our taxes.

3. County commissioners are paid for their service each month. Terry Ramey's paychecks should be garnished until his taxes are paid.

Do you agree? Why or why not?

Haywood County has an elected tax collector and he has the authority to garnish wages from anyone who is delinquent.

4. Terry Ramey should recuse himself from all board votes until his taxes are paid.

Do you agree? Why or why not?

5. Terry Ramey should resign from the board.

Do you agree? Why or why not?

The voters of Haywood County elected Mr. Ramey and he will have to face them. The county commission has a public comment session at every regular board meeting. If Haywood County voters have lost their trust in him, then they have the opportunity to voice whether or not a resignation is in order. My deadline for these responses is Sunday, Jan. 13. All answers will be noted in my story.

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Cory Vaillancourt
Politics Editor, The Smoky Mountain News
912-508-5640 (c)
smokymountainnews.com
facebook.com/smnews
Twitter.com/SmokyMtnNews
Twitter.com/SMN_Cory

All of these commissioners should be thrown out of office.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayers.