

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
March 5, 2023

Subject: Jennifer Best Knew! And the Hits just keep on coming. Time Line of incriminating emails.

During the five (5) hour county commission meeting on 2/6/2023, re: the \$75,735 **Sarah Henderson** grant approval discussion, **Jennifer Best** was called out during the two hour public comment period by Sherry Morgan about not doing her research on Terry Ramey's tax payment situation. **Jennifer Best** responded during the Constituent Concern portion of the meeting to respond to Sherry Morgan's comments, whipped out her cell phone and referenced an email sent to her by the Tax Collector indicating that Terry Ramey was delinquent in paying his taxes. **Jennifer Best** screwed up during that meeting by only providing a partial response about Terry Ramey, leaving out the fact that Terry Ramey had a payment plan in effect and was in good standing with the Tax Collector. **Jennifer Best** inadvertently opened Pandora's Box when she whipped out her cell phone and referenced Terry Ramey's tax situation.

The following is a Time Line of relevant email exchanges between **Jennifer Best**, Sebastian Cothran, **Cory Vaillancourt** and **Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley**. Pretty damaging stuff...

Jennifer Best said on January 11, 2023 at 1:29pm:

"I have a new questions today. I am responding to a request from a media source about property taxes and the information will be part of my response."

Sebastian Cothran replied on January 12, 2023 at 8:11am:

"Yes, technically bills are still considered delinquent after a payment plan has been signed. So, yes Mr. Ramey is delinquent, **however he has a payment plan and is good standing with our office.**"

See on www.haywoodtp.net -

[Jennifer Best smears Terry Ramey at 2/6/2023 county commission meeting, re: "delinquent taxes". Full email dialog between Jennifer Best and Sebastian Cothran where Cothran states that: "So, yes Mr. Ramey is delinquent, however he has a payment plan and is good standing with our office." 2/6/2023. 2/8/2023...](http://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230208BestTrashesRameyEmailsCothran.pdf)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230208BestTrashesRameyEmailsCothran.pdf>

Also see:

[Vol #14, Issue # 6: Feb 05, 2023 "Our Views"!](http://www.haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T230205.pdf)

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

Jennifer Best knew prior to their little group get together with the three (3) other commissioners, conspiring to stab Terry Ramey in the back, that Terry Ramey was in good standing with the Tax Collector, when **Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley** replied back to **Cory Vaillancourt** on January 13 at 3:36p with the now infamous response which gave **Cory Vaillancourt** ammunition for his hit piece on Terry Ramey.

“Haywood commissioners issue joint statement on Ramey”, Written by **Cory Vaillancourt**, Tuesday, January 17, 2023

<https://smokymountainnews.com/news/item/34975-haywood-commissioners-issue-joint-statement-on-ramey>

Cory Vaillancourt responded to **Kevin “Adjudication” Ensley** on January 13, at 4:05pm saying:

“I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I also appreciate your unified response. I don’t think I’ve ever gotten anything quite like this before.”

That response could be taken any number of ways, not attempting to second guess this guy **Cory Vaillancourt**, but he was obviously licking his chops. Could mean:

- Wow! I’ve never seen a quorum of commissioners conspire against another county commissioner conducting county business when this was not done in an open meeting, this is good stuff, or
- Golly, a unified response pouncing on a single commissioner, how nice, or
- [Put your guess here...]

At the least, the behavior of these county commissioners, **Jennifer Best, Kevin “Adjudication” Ensley, Tommy Long and Brandon Rogers**, constitutes at a minimum, the Appearance of Impropriety.

See on www.haywoodtp.net

[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...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230120EnsleyVaillancourtEmailDialog.pdf>

and

[Appearance of Impropriety - Cory Vaillancourt - Kevin "Adjudication" Ensley - Jennifer Best - Tommy Long - Brandon Rogers. 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. 3/3/2023...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230303AppearanceOfImpropriety.pdf>

The following is a select list of emails sent back and forth, creating an easy to see Time Line of this incestuous cesspool activity, which includes the four (4) commissioners and **Cory Vaillancourt**. Here we go...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayer

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
912-508-5640 ©
smokymountainnews.com
facebook.com/smnews
Twitter.com/SmokyMtnNews
Twitter.com/SMN_Cory

From: Jennifer Best <Jennifer.Best@haywoodcountync.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:29 PM
To: Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov>
Subject: Re: Foreclosure sale

Good afternoon Sebastian. I was unable to attend the foreclosure sale I'll try to make the next one.

I have a new questions today. I am responding to a request from a media source about property taxes and the information will be part of my response.

How many unique taxpayers for Haywood County?
How many payment plans?
How many payers are in default?

Jennifer M. Best

On Jan 12, 2023, at 8:11 AM, Sebastian Cothran <Sebastian.Cothran@haywoodcountync.gov> wrote:

Yes, technically bills are still considered delinquent after a payment plan has been signed. So, yes Mr. Ramey is delinquent, however he has a payment plan and is good standing with our office.

Sebastian Cothran
Haywood County Tax Collector
828-452-6643

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: 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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Subject: Media inquiry
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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?

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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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
912-508-5640 ©
smokymountainnews.com
facebook.com/smnews
Twitter.com/SmokyMtnNews
Twitter.com/SMN_Cory

From: Cory Vaillancourt
To: Kevin Ensley
Cc: Brandon C. Rogers; Thomas A. Long; Jennifer Best
Subject: Re: Media inquiry
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 4:05:59 PM

Thank you all.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I also appreciate your unified response. I don't think I've ever gotten anything quite like this before.

Have a good weekend!

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