More Backroom Dealings?

The Beaufort County Commissioners are currently being sued for how they conduct the business of the county in closed door settings. They have paid out at least $50,000 to a lawyer to defend the case which has not been settled yet. The suit alleges that the board has, on numerous occasions, violated North Carolina's Open Meetings Law. Specifically, the suit alleges that the board has illegally entered into closed session on several occasions.

The suit seeks an injunction requiring the board to comply with the Open Meetings Law of North Carolina. All the County Commissioners have to do is to agree to follow the law. They continue to fight the suit so it makes me wonder what else is happening behind closed doors.

Recently an applicant for a position on the Planning Board was denied an opportunity to speak on his qualifications before the commissioners selected the board member. Mr. John LaCava had applied for the open position representing the Bath district. This position had been available for several years and nobody wanted to fill it. He was the recommended person being presented to the Commissioners.

However, the Chairman of the County Commissioners rearranged the order that business was to be conducted and they voted on a late applicant for the position, Mr. Jack Piland. Mr. LaCava was not given the opportunity to speak before the vote.

The Volunteer Application for all boards says right on it that “The Board Appointment Policy requires that applications be on file in the Clerk’s office 15 days prior to consideration for appointment.” Mr. Piland’s application was submitted less than nine days before the vote.

Was some backroom deal made to put Mr. Piland on the Planning Board? Why was Mr. LaCava not allowed to speak? Why did they rearrange the order of business? Your guess is as good as mine. I don’t know either of these gentlemen but Mr. LaCava, who followed the policy, should have at least been allowed to speak.

Back to the lawsuit. We have a County Attorney. His office is right beside the County Office on Third Street. Why are we paying someone else to represent the county in a lawsuit? On several occasions I have heard it said that the county needed to hire a lawyer to do something. I thought that is what is why we had a County Attorney. Are we wasting money here too?

Settle the lawsuit. Stop the backroom dealings and conduct the County’s business in public. Elect Tandy Dunn County Commissioner and put a stop to the waste.

Stop the Backroom Dealing

Elect Tandy Dunn
Beaufort County Commissioner

And Stop the foolish spending

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tandy Dunn