Written by Steve Frank
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It was not on the agenda April 3rd when Watauga Commissioners voted to endorse Amendment 1, now being voted on in the May Primary election…And it was not on the agenda yesterday—but it was on the minds of a number who registered to speak, comments heard, “Today, I urge you to rescind your resolution supporting the proposed amendment,” “The proposed amendment is so poorly worded and so unnecessary that it’s adoption would actually increase the probability of a Federal Court invalidating it’s ban on same-sex marriage.” “But I Believe that three of you Commissioners overstepped the duties of your elected office in your resolution,” and there were many more in the same. The comments caused Commissioner Jim Deal to again ask for a vote of the board, “The separation of church and state has simply not been discussed enough. I happen to be a Christian. I happen to have certain religious beliefs, but I strongly believe that the foundation of our country is that my religious beliefs should not be imposed on others and should not be adopted in the Constitution. For that reason, I also think that our action was short-sighted, and I would hope that we would hope to reconsider the resolution. ” Although out of order, Chairman Nathan Miller allowed the vote, but it failed 2 to 3. The issue will be decided by voters May 8th. By the courts—that remains to be seen.