

New Watauga Commission; Same Majority

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In a day of smiles and handshakes across the political aisle as new boards were seated, there were pretty fast reminders that politics is still partisan. New Watauga Commissioners Billy Kennedy, John Welch, and Perry Yates took their seats, and after a unanimous vote to return Nathan Miller to the chairman seat, a nomination for Welch, one of the two Democrats, quickly fell to a partisan vote, 2 to 3. Then Republican David Blust was elected vice Chairman in what was initially a 4-1 vote, with John Welch later changing his vote to make the decision unanimous.

In other county business, tax issues were presented to the board by now new Tax Supervisor Larry Warren, selected to that position after the hiring process saw a number of candidates considered. Warren was chosen after Kelvin Byrd left Watauga after over a quarter century of service for the tax position in Rowan County.