Written by Gary Childers
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Donna Weaver, Director of Ashe County Social Services, took opportunity during the Ashe County Commissioners meeting Monday to address a recent unfavorable article in the Jefferson Post. According to Ms. Weaver the article contained insinuations by the Ashe County Commissioners that her department is run inefficiently and ineffectively, “I don’t run a half-assed program. I take my job quite seriously.” During her comments Ms. Weaver addressed how she managed the department’s budget and the food stamp program plus explained how they are required to follow mandated rules in operating many of the programs. After completing her comments Ms. Weaver asked if the Commissioners had any questions. In surprising response each Commissioner, in turn, indicated that he or she had not made any critical comments about the Social Services department with Commissioner Judy Porter Poe being possibly the most adamant in her response, “This has gotten run out of context to what we were talking about. I have never accused you of fraud, and I have never accused you of being inefficient, and I think if you read both articles, it did not say that anywhere about me. And I don’t appreciate coming in and being dressed down for something that we did not say.” Commissioners Gary Roark, William Sands, and Larry Rhodes were complementary of the way Ms. Weaver ran the department and in reaction to rumor that the Commissioners might consider putting Social Services under their direction.