

DA Wilson Retires, Judge Lyerly to Take Over?

Written by Steve Frank
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In a rather sudden move, District Attorney Jerry Wilson announced his resignation—or actually, his retirement—effective immediately. The matter was brought up at the Watauga County Commission meeting this morning, and Wilson’s letter was received during that meeting. Wilson said in his letter; “A few months ago I announced I would retire on the last day of this year. Unfortunately, medical problems have forced me to move my retirement date forward. Monday, March 31st, 2014 marked my last day as District Attorney in the 24th District. I count it a special honor that the people of this district have allowed me to serve them as District Attorney and Prosecutor for over 30 years.” Replacing Wilson could be long-time chief judge in the 24th Judicial District, Alexander Lyerly, who retired just the week before after serving three-plus decades. Court officials are awaiting the official commission from the Governor’s Office, and with that, Lyerly would come out of retirement pending the fall elections, with three Republicans seeking the nomination with no Democratic opposition for the fall election. It appears there are others who are seeking the appointment, possibly side tracking what appeared to be a done deal.