

## Split Vote Kills Watauga Social Services Board

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The Watauga County Commission, in a vote split on party lines, voted to eliminate the Social Services Board and take on the tasks of that board directly. Speakers before the board expressed fears that the move would make the selection of the Social Services director more political. Commissioner John Welch moved to not make the change, calling it “a solution to a problem that does not exist,” but that motion failed 2 to 3, and second motion to abolish the DSS board passed 3 to 2.