



Court Boice, *Commissioner*

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October 3, 2018

RE: Recent hiring of the new Building Official.

To Curry Citizens and Whom It May Concern:

Against my opposition, the Curry County BOC recently approved the selection made by County Administrator Schroeder in the hiring of a new Building Official and correcting his arbitrary decision to offer a higher compensation package than was authorized. I believe this was ill-advised and feel the public needs to know what has occurred. I'm against hiring this less experienced and non-certified building official for Curry County. I was also in opposition to the decision of Commissioners Huxley and Gold to hold discussion on this matter in executive session. I believe that was a way for them to hide their rationale for hiring someone with less than needed credentials and less experience at a much greater salary than other excellent options we have available. I question the judgment of the Administrator and the other members of the Board, and suspect we don't yet have access to all the facts related to this decision.

I believe we had good options to cover the duties of the Building Official with trained, certified and local personnel. That option, which would have required no additional tax dollars or increased building permit fees, would have expanded on the practice of cooperation among staff and other entities. The result would have been higher qualifications for less money.

Unfortunately, Commissioners Huxley and Gold opted against that economical, common sense solution while hiding their reasoning in executive session. So much for the transparency they both campaigned on.

The Board decision to approve the hasty hiring of a new Building Official at an excessive salary while lacking some certifications leaves our citizens to pick up the tab. In addition to that higher salary package, we will also have to pay for training him to qualify to test for Structural, Manufactured Home and Plan Review qualifications. Until those certifications are received, our cash-strapped County will have to outsource and pay additional funds for that work as well.

I do want to make it known that my strong feelings on this matter have nothing to do with the individual selected, and I wish him only the best. It is simply a matter of getting the best bang for the buck and I don't feel this candidate at this salary rate achieves that goal when compared to the other options available. My issue is not with him, it is with the way this entire matter has been

handled. If my opposition is without support, I know I can count on our employees and citizens to welcome and encourage him.

Despite my consistent opposition to these ill-advised actions, Commissioners Huxley and Gold continue their well-documented track record of increased spending on unwise decisions. It is no wonder our citizens grow even more distrustful of the motivations driving this Board of Commissioners. Honestly, I'm tired of getting credit for poor decisions I didn't make.

Curry County cannot withstand these wasteful policies that spend money we can ill afford, without improving the quality of the services we provide to our citizens. Since I am generally outvoted on these issues, all I can do is make my positions known, and shed light on things that I believe are wrong.

I promised the citizens of Curry County that I would be 'on guard' and looking to weed-out lazy or non-productive people in county employment. Over the last 21 months of working with our department leaders, employees and other elected officials, I am proud to report that our county employees are intelligent, committed and productive, working every day to make the most out of every tax dollar and provide the highest quality of services possible. This is why I protest so vigorously when the other commissioners make decisions that I believe devalue and disrespect any of those employees, and fail to serve our citizens.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank you,

**Court Boice
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