

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

November 18th, 2010

***** Press Release *****

Unethical Release of Confidential Meeting Information

Over the past month, we have had two incidents where a single elected official associated with this County Board, but not one of the County Board Members, has taken it upon himself to release confidential, private, legally permissible Executive Session conversations from the Tazewell County Board and Pekin City Council to the local media.

I find this breach of trust unethical and revolting. It is a destructive violation of the mutual trust we all in public office should strive to attain and maintain with our constituents. What is said at in these sessions is intended to remain private and confidential until such time that the governing body decides that it is fitting and proper for an issue to be made public.

Individuals that decide on their own that they should violate this trust while on the surface can appear to be doing what seems right at the time, but it is actually very destructive to the entire organization and detrimental to our ability to function as an organization.

Earlier this week, Mayor Rusty Dunn said that he was *"concerned about the impact the early and unauthorized release of information to a newspaper by someone associated with the initial discussions will have on Pekin's future efforts to land new businesses"*.

While these current two incidents are far from the only time this type of action has occurred, it is my hope that going forward from today the County Board will consider taking the extreme but necessary action of publicly censuring individuals who take it upon themselves such action of violating our mutual trust. The damage that has been done to the organization needs to stop and individuals need to understand that there will be consequences to the inappropriate and unethical actions they take.

John C. Ackerman
(309) 635-7624
www.JohnCAckerman.com