

**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**\*\*\* News Update \*\*\***

## **Results of Usage by Tazewell County of 2009 \$548,000 Grant from the US Department of Energy**

Yesterday in a News Release from the Associated Press, they reported that about one third of the money in the Stimulus Program authorized for an energy efficiency program has not been spent.

“The Energy Department's inspector general said Wednesday that state and local governments have left as much \$879 million unspent from a \$2.7 billion program intended to boost energy efficiency and create jobs. That is a big change from a year ago, when less than 10 percent of the grant money had been spent, but is far below what the Obama administration projected when the stimulus was approved in 2009.”

Here in Tazewell County, we received \$548,000 from this program. I first reported on this to you in April of 2009 and am now proud to report on the results of the usage of the grant funding here in Tazewell County. A new boiler for the McKenzie Building used the majority of the grant and the remainder was used for improvements to other county buildings.

***Over the first three months of this year we saved 22.5%, or \$2,824, in heating cost when compared to the first three months of 2010.*** With the other changes that are now in effect, including reducing the temperatures during off-hours, the savings should increase in the future.

These results are outstanding during a time when energy cost is only going up. During a time when we are looking for any way to save the taxpayers' money, successful reinvestment projects like this are strongly instrumental. When I voted to support this project, I knew we had a savings potential but never thought it would be this high.

As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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