

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

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

County Board used Wrong Method to send Right Message

Last week at the Tazewell County Board Meeting, a response was proposed to address a recent Illinois House Revenue Committee's vote in favor of using Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) funds to pay salaries of the Regional Superintendents of Schools. I believe all members of the County Board feel these individuals need to be paid by the state and that the State should not be raiding local PPRT funds in the process.

Sending this message to the State Leaders was appropriate and justified and has my full support.

What went wrong was the method some members choose to use to send this message. The action that came forward was to remove \$10,000 from the budget line for the Regional Superintendent's Clerks pay. We fund three clerks with this funding and the reduction was a major cut for this line item.

This all started because Governor Pat Quinn want to send a message and wrongly did so by removing the pay for the Superintendents while still requiring the work to be done. Our response to a poor proposal to fix his mistake was to remove the funding for our employees in that office without reducing the workload; the very same mistake Governor Pat Quinn made.

If we need to send a message to Springfield, we should have passed a resolution addressing it. Instead we sent a message to Springfield on the backs of our employees, sacrificing their well being for a message that in the end did nothing. It is our job to let Springfield know when their actions have the potential to harm Tazewell County taxpayers, but it is wrong and un-professional to do so by threatening the financial stability of our employees.

This inappropriate method just barely passed by a vote of 11 to 10 with County Board Members Brett Grimm, Mike Harris, Terry Hillemonds, Darrell Meisinger, Greg Sinn, Mel Stanford, Sue Sundell, Jerry Vanderheydt, Terry VonBoeckman and I voting against it.

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

John C. Ackerman

(309) 635-7624

www.JohnCAckerman.com