

**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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

### **Storm Shelters Update**

Back in 2009 I started talking about the danger of no Storm Shelters at the Tazewell County Tremont Facility, home of the Tazewell County Health Department, Tazewell County Highway Department, Tazewell County Animal Control Office, Tazewell County Resource Center and the Tazewell County Emergency Management Agency. Around 150 employees work every day at our Tremont Facility.

As I said back in 2009, "while we have been very fortunate in the past that severe weather has not directly hit these buildings, I find it unacceptable for us as a County Board to allow this to continue into the future."

Back then, it was estimated that the cost to build these shelters would exceed \$30,000 - \$50,000 and take over five years.

Yesterday I was proud to join the rest of the Tazewell County Property Committee in approving the work of a joint Tazewell County Board and Tazewell County Health Department Sub-committee that was formed to recommend a solution to the lack of Storm Facilities. Later this summer we will have in place almost three fourths the storm facilities needed.

The work had been accomplished in less than three years. It has also been accomplished at under half the projected cost. Rarely is it seen when work of a government committee comes in early and so far under budget!

The Tazewell County Sub-Committee lead by County Board Member Carroll Imig should be congratulated for such amazing work. While three additional storm shelters will be needed in the years to come, as we approach the 2012 Storm Season our Tremont Facility is by far a safer place to work when compared to 2009.

This project has truly been a win/win scenario; the Tazewell County Tremont Facility Staff and guest have a safer workplace and Tazewell County Taxpayers can be assured that only a minimum amount of tax revenue has been utilized thanks to the work of the Sub-committee lead by County Board Member Carroll Imig.

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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