

**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

August 31st, 2009

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

## **Tazewell County Treasurer's Office**

My very good friend Duane Gray, the Tazewell County Treasurer, has announced that he will not be seeking reelection in 2010. Duane has been an excellent public servant for several decades holding the positions of Tazewell County Treasurer, Tazewell County Clerk and Cincinnati Township Trustee. In my 2000 campaign for Tazewell County Recorder of Deeds, Duane served as the financial director and also trusted advisor. He along with Bobby Allen of Tremont and many others helped guide me through that election.

In the days since his announcement, many of you have contacted me and my name has been circulated as a possible candidate. However, after much consideration and thought with many of my advisors and most importantly my wife and family, I have decided not to be a candidate for the office of Treasurer of Tazewell County at this time. I appreciate the support many of you have offered and advice many of you have given, but now is not the right time for me for several reasons.

One reason would be the short amount of time I have had at my current position, Tazewell County Board. It has been less than a year since my election and I while we have made huge strides in achieving our goals stated in the election, I do not feel I have done enough yet to warrant moving on. I understand that opportunities like this do not come around often, but at the same time how can I ask for your support to be Treasurer if I have not yet fulfilled my goals in the current position you have trusted me with.

Over this past year, we have worked hard to improve the safety of the employees (a Sub-Committee on Storm Shelters for the Tremont Complex has recently been formed and emergency drills have become standard at our facilities), worked hard to improve the roadways in Tazewell County (member of the Transportation Committee plus many roadway improvement projects on the way throughout the district soon) and made important strides to maintain the budget while fulfilling the commitments we have.

A major goal has been to improve the communication and transparency of Tazewell County Government. One part of this goal is to visit each of the different sections of this vast district and understand the different needs, goals and objectives of every part, not just select parts, of the district. To this effort I have started a yearly Municipality and Township tour with the results being very evident in many of the decisions I have made this year. Another part of this goal is not only the creation of [www.JohnCAckerman.com](http://www.JohnCAckerman.com), which has become a location for vast amounts of Tazewell County

Information, but also the continued illustration of why the Tazewell County Website needs to be upgraded and more information made available in this easy to use format. In the coming months, I understand that a new and improved county website will be available to do just that.

With all of these accomplishments and work started on goals, a lot still need to be done before I can be happy that I have fulfilled the trust you placed in me with this position. Add to that the fact that I have been married less than a year (September 27th is my anniversary) and the fact that we want to start a family, and the timing just is not right for me today.

My understanding is that a great current County Board Member, Russ Crawford of East Peoria, has announced his intentions of running for this position. I know Russ well and think you will find his resume for this position in good standing. With him running for the Treasures Office, an opening for the Tazewell County Board has become available. He was up for re-election and cannot run for both positions. I ask that you look around and help find a candidate that could help lead this district and county in the right direction during these difficult times. It is my hope that this open seat does not just stay empty or worse, is just simply handed over to an individual. Please encourage leaders around you in the district to come forward.

Again, thanks for the encouragement and support you have shown over the past few weeks. I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent 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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