

October 2016 - From the Chairman:

By now you should have received a letter explaining the what, why, when, where and who of the proposed new county maintenance shop. I know that not all questions have been answered in the letter. The letter is to inform you of the upcoming vote and some key issues concerning the vote.

The ballot language specifically states what the money can be used for. We can't spend it on anything that is not listed in the ballot language and we can only spend the actual cost of the project. So for example, we are asking for authority to spend up to \$2.0 million and let's say the project comes in at \$1.5 million, we can't spend the "extra" money on something else. That would be illegal!

The Supervisor have been asked why we don't use a sales tax to generate the needed revenue for the new shop, as a sales tax would be a much fairer way of everyone paying for the new shop. The Supervisors don't have the authority to impose a sales tax to [pay for the new shop. We currently are using the one cent Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for property tax reduction in the County. Any additional sales tax would need to be imposed by the State Legislature.

As you look over your ballot you will notice it is two sided. The vote concerning the proposed new county maintenance shop is on the back of the ballot, bottom right hand side. So if you vote a straight ballot you need to turn the ballot over and finish your voting.

\*If the vote passes the money will be generated by a debt service levy (general obligation bond) and be held in a Debt Service Fund. From that fund the payments for the general obligation debt are paid. The Iowa Constitution limits a County's debt to 5% of its assessed valuation. The Debt Service Fund is a tax that is levied against all the normally taxable property in the County plus the value of the increments in the county's Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts, which otherwise are not eligible for general taxation.

\*This information was taken from an article written by Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor and published in the August 2016 edition of the Iowa County magazine.

Please check out the Fayette County website to see on reason the current shop needs to be replaced. The photos show why it is unsafe for the workers to continue to work in the current shop. Go to the Fayette County website at: [www.fayettecountyiowa.org](http://www.fayettecountyiowa.org) and click on the Engineer/Road Department then click on the WU Main Shop Flood Pic-September 22, 2016.

You may contact me at: [jtellin@co.fayette.ia.us](mailto:jtellin@co.fayette.ia.us)

On a personal note: With the start of fall we see so many beautiful colors – the leaves on the trees, the apples in orchards, the mums and the political signs. All part of the fall season.

Another part of fall is the slow moving larger equipment on the roads as the field work to harvest the crops starts. Being from the ag sector I ask that you please be understanding with us. The equipment is large and the hours are long. We do take a bigger share of the roads and that is something we all need to pay attention to. So please don't pass at field driveways, farm yard driveways, bridges and places clearly marked "Do Not Pass" and No Passing Zone", there are also times when we need to swing out around mailboxes or a sign so please pay attention to that.

I am also asking those who operate the larger equipment to use your flashers and turn singles on your equipment, we also have a responsibility to let those following us know where we are going. So in closing I am asking all of us to work together during this time of the year to prevent as many accidents as humanly possible. Have a safe and productive fall.

Don't forget to vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.