

## **Newsletter from Doug Davies, Candidate for County Commissioner**

**Dear Voters,**

**July 2024**

Two things happened last week that exemplify the lack of leadership and professionalism shown by our County Commission. I got my dog her rabies shot and asked the Vet where to go to get her County tag. He did not know and suggested I ask at the Annex. When I got to the Annex I approached the lady behind the counter and asked about getting the tag. She very abruptly and rudely informed me that they do not do that. When I asked if she knew where I could go her response was very rude with an “I don’t know.” and a raised voice. No offer to find out, no suggestions as to where to go. At this point, Mr. Letcher came out of his office in a confrontative manner and told me that the Health Department handles that. There was no reason for the rude actions of the lady I spoke with nor for the confrontative attitude of Mr. Letcher. When I got home, I called the Health Department and my questions were answered and the tag has been issued

The next issue I dealt with does concern taxes. In November of 2023 the voters of Lincoln County approved the 3% tax on retail marijuana sales within the County. In early June the Eureka Mayor sent an email to the County Clerk asking for clarification especially, regarding disbursement to the municipalities in Lincoln County. The Clerk sent a professional reply stating that she did not know and included the link to the State Department of Revenue. At the Mayors’ request I followed up. This took several days but I was able to find out the dollar amount of \$14581.01 on check number....2443, was sent to the County on June 12 of 2024. Armed with this information as well as additional information regarding the law and how the funds are to be disbursed, I called the County Treasurers office. The person who answered the phone very loudly and rudely said they did not deal with this and to contact the Finance Department. Over the next 2 business days I left 4 phone messages with Finance with no response. I did not realize that the occupant of that office was on vacation. Subsequently I sent an email to Finance with copies to the Commissioners and other relevant people. I received a response from Finance directing me back to the Treasurers office. I again called the Treasurers Office and was met very rudely by the lady who answered, interrupting me and shouting to call DOR. Then on 15 July I got an email from one of the addressees that the books were not closed for June and implying that the check was forth coming.

Folks, first let me stress that my contact with the Health Department was both professional and cordial. I have passed their info to the Vet and hopefully this will help everyone out. Even though none of the Commissioners bothered to answer my emails, the folks who did answered in a professional manner which I appreciate. My issue is twofold, the lack of courtesy in the Annex and Treasurers’ office and their not being able

to answer basic questions related to their roles as public servants demonstrate a lack of leadership and professionalism from the Commission. This behavior is inexcusable. My second concern is that the Commission has demonstrated a tendency to stash money received from Federal agencies in a savings account with no relevant communication to the affected communities. For example, the enabling legislation that resulted in the \$12 million in 2022 and 2023 and the Congressional hearings around this money stress that Counties are to use this to benefit the communities and native groups within the County, not necessarily to patch budget deficits on the Counties part.

**For questions or comments contact [daviesforcommish@gmail.com](mailto:daviesforcommish@gmail.com).**