From Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank

Friday, December 6, 2013

For Immediate Release

Today, the Sheriff and I settled the salary dispute that could have been settled long ago. The Sheriff agreed to 198 employees instead of 218, and he agreed to remove the $7,668,912 million dollar figure to accurately reflect the $6,625,595 million dollar appropriation that was approved by County Commission.

Unfortunately, I believe Sheriff White fell prey to the political machinations of Commissioner Myron Iwanski and Law Director Jay Yeager to create dissension in what could have been an easily manageable agreement. Commissioner Iwanski led people to believe we could budget for half-years for annual salaries and Mr. Yeager continued the myth.

Fortunately for the taxpayers of Anderson County, their efforts have failed. The Sheriff and I have reached an agreement, and the facts will now be able to be revealed.

It is my belief that the Sheriff was misled into filing suit, as the Sheriff’s own history of signing salary agreements reveals he had operated his department with an unsigned salary agreement in the past. (See website [www.acgovdocs.com](http://www.acgovdocs.com) for past unsigned salary agreeements.)

The salary agreement signed in the process of mediation is the same offer I made in negotiations with the Sheriff even prior to his filing of the suit.

My concern for the number of deputies and the actual appropriations to match those numbers has remained consistent, and in settlement, the Sheriff has agreed*. (See email exchange between Chief Lucas and me as attachment A. Please note date of my concern.)*

I attempted a settlement in July similar to the signed agreement, and I also sent over an offer in September that was again an effort to negotiate the language. *(See attachment B.)* The language in the joint press release is a confirmation by the Sheriff of the offers I had made, despite incorrect public statements made by Law Director Yeager that I had not---or was unwilling to do so.

I was consistent throughout the course in my concern regarding the language that would have committed the citizens of Anderson County to another 1 million dollars in expenditures, and am thankful that through mediation, this language has been removed.

I continue to be shocked and dismayed by the ethical insensitivities displayed by the Law Director, and the great cost not only in dollars, but in time, and public concern, over the theatre I believe he has generated in this situation. I believe the Law Director gave the Sheriff conflicting legal advice that led the Sheriff to become at odds with me. He owes me, the Sheriff, and the taxpayers of Anderson County an apology.

Abundant evidence of the Law Director’s political machinations exist, such as the attached email exchange between Chris Silcox of the Courier News and Jay Yeager that Mr. Yeager forwarded to Chief Lucas. (*Attachment C.* And please note: Mr. Yeager contended he was supposed to “represent” me.)

Even during our mediation process on Wednesday, Mr. Yeager was violating understood confidences by emailing working mediation documents to Commissioners. He also disseminated derogatory information about me and my negotiation abilities on behalf of the taxpayers of Anderson County when he had no full and complete knowledge of the mediation process, and was in communication with Commissioner Iwanski in the process. (*See attachment D & E. Please see time stamps.)*

Through his actions, media outlets were advised of confidential negotiations that were taking place and media and others began to contact me during the negotiation process.

At the end of the day, no struggle is without benefit. And as an outcome of this trumped up conflict, I believe Anderson County will benefit as a whole. Out of the legal efforts, Anderson County citizens now have multiple, new and independent jail analysis reports (and those will be made available); we have discovered where we can do better as a county, and we have learned where we can become more efficient.

We have also been given the opportunity to get expert, outside opinions that have given us new ideas for configuring staff and inmates inside our new facility. And we have agreement on the numbers between the Mayor and the Sheriff to continue to operate our county government--- and that agreement between the Sheriff and me is a big, big win for Anderson County.----Terry Frank

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