

Great Game Huddle Notes
January 5, 2016

Commissioner Harold Bengsch welcomed huddle participants. He gave a briefing of last week's flood and its direct effect upon Greene County. The print shop, located on the basement level of 933 N. Robberson Avenue, experienced about 2 inches of flooding. Harold extended his thanks to David Dunn for his efforts in spearheading a quick cleanup of this area by the Maintenance Department. He also thanked Rick Artman with the Highway Department for quickly assessing road and bridge damage throughout the county. Harold said that thankfully the total damage was only estimated to be around \$125,000, given the significant rains and amount of flooding that occurred.

Harold followed with an update of the status of the 2016 budget which is nearing completion. He thanked all county offices and departments for their responsible and conservative spending during 2015 allowing for a 2016 unilateral COLA and step increase to those employed with the county for more than one year. This fiscal responsibility has increased the county reserve from \$3.9 million three years ago to the current \$11 million balance. Next year promises to cut into the reserve with several upcoming expenses. Harold cited the 2016 presidential election as an example of a forthcoming expense of significance.

Lastly Commissioner Bengsch updated the huddle regarding the work being done by the Financial Advisory Task Force. They have been sifting through the volumes of information regarding the county and will be returning with corporate information and recommendations for improvements in short order.

Commissioner Bob Cirtin added his thanks to the Office of Emergency Management, the Maintenance department and Road and Bridge for their yeoman efforts during and subsequent to the recent floods. He followed by inviting all that wished to attend, to the budget signing at 3:00 pm this Friday, January 8th.

Teresa McCroskey from the Auditor's office discussed the Character First topic of *Compassion*. Compassion is caring and concern for others and helping those in need. Key traits of compassion are:

1. Stop to help. Giving of our time to assist. Doing the right thing usually yields good results.
2. Listen carefully. This shows respect and allows one to fully understand a situation and react accordingly.
3. Get involved. Take action to remediate a co-workers need. This last step is of the utmost importance.

As a personal example of compassion, Teresa detailed her past battle with cancer and the family members that helped her during this difficult time in her life. It was the compassion they provided with both her emotional and daily needs, such as mowing her yard that enabled her to cope and get through this period. She concluded by saying compassion involves asking questions of those in need regarding how they can help and seeking ways to do so.