

February 20, 2015

RE: HB 2296 - Public Building Commission

Dear Local Government Committee:

Because of problems associated with Cloud counties PBC, I support HB 2296. I am a newly elected Cloud county commissioner and a Public Building Commission was established in August 2011 and used to fund and build a jail in this county. It is my opinion that the ripple effect created will play hard on the taxpayer for years to come. Even though the acceptance of a new commissioner has been free of any major problems, there is an underlying image as to what are we hiding. This may be justifiable for several reasons.

Because talk of a new law enforcement center met substantial opposition, petitions were circulated and multiple meetings were held in the county. At these meetings it was implied that a yes vote was needed so bonds could be sold or the jail would be funded with tax dollars. Unclear information resulted in the passage of Resolution No.2-2011 and the ill-fated project began. Individuals felt that adequate information was not available before, during and even after the PBC was formed. I am not aware of any educational tools that were used in the process of creating the PBC.

Did the Bond Company and the architects sell something to the county that cannot be accomplished? Building of jails has saturated the market causing cash flow problems due to a bidding war on costs for housing inmates. We have yet to operate above break even since the jail opened.

No fund warrants for \$259,000.00 have already been utilized to make the first payment on the bonds that were sold. This is going to create a financial burden for the county's general budget, as interest payments are due in April 2015 along with a second round of normal bond retirement in September 2015. The no fund warrant is to be paid in full in September 2016.

There seems to be a feeling of lost trust in regards to the commission, both PBC and County. In my opinion this has caused a separation of community.

I am here, not to point fingers, but instead, to point out the effect that the PBC has had in Cloud County and I feel the public deserves the opportunity to vote.

The idea of a PBC getting projects done quicker may be in vain if the general public is not aware of why, when and how. Allowing the public to vote on these issues builds communities and trust.

I urge the committee to acknowledge HB 2296 as presented and act favorably.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Czapanskiy', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

William R. Czapanskiy
2675 Quail Road
Clyde, Kansas 66938