

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Press
Association**Where does it end?**

Sometimes the right decision feels like the wrong decision. And sometimes you can't tell which is the right one and which is the wrong one.

That's what happened at the Monday night Carroll County Council meeting when most of the council members voted to strike a compromise with Superior Court Judge Jeff Smith over his refusal to follow the county personnel hiring policy. None of the council members seemed to want to do what the judge wanted, but most of them were not willing to spend the unknown, but certainly costly, amount of money it would take to do that which seemed like the right thing.

Although the county personnel policy manual, adopted by the county commissioners, contains a statement at the very beginning which says the policy is for all county personnel, excluding court personnel, Smith did not use this information when he explained his reasons to mandate the council and county auditor to do as he requested.

According to one council member, in some counties, such as neighboring Cass County, when a person gets a payroll check from the county, they are considered a county employee. Period.

This doesn't seem to be the case in Carroll County. There has been a long-standing feud between the Carroll County Prosecutor's office with the council about the nepotism policy because the prosecutor hired sisters to work in his office. And now the Superior Court is following suit.

How far behind will Carroll Circuit Court be? Does this extend to the county probation department, which is controlled by the courts? And how about the sheriff's department? Are deputies not considered "officers of the court?"

And where are the Carroll County Commissioners when all of this is going on?

They deserve raise if perks are pared

Pat Bauer has a point.

The new speaker of the Indiana House moaned last week about state lawmakers' low pay. The base salary is a paltry \$11,600 a year, a figure that hasn't increased in a year, a figure that hasn't increased in more than two decades.

Bauer contends that the meager salary makes it harder to find strong candidates to run for legislative seats.

That may be true in some cases, especially given the amount of time the job soaks up. Larger obstacles to persuading potential candidates to enter legislative races, however, would seem to be the nastiness of some campaigns and the electoral advantages provided to incumbents through gerrymandered districts.

Overall compensation also isn't nearly as bad as the base pay indicates. Leadership stipends and compensation for expenses - \$137 a day during sessions and \$54.80 each day that legislators aren't in session - boosted average pay to just under \$45,000 last year.

And until recently, the perks, including lifetime health insurance and extraordinary pension benefits, were well beyond what most private sector employees could expect. The House has dropped the heavily subsidized health-care perk, and the Senate is in the process of eliminating it. The generous retirement benefit remains. Yet, Bauer is right in noting that base pay, unchanged since 1985, is unreasonably low. It would be better for taxpayers if lawmakers were to accept a tradeoff: increase the base salary in exchange for reducing the 401(k) benefit.

As it stands, taxpayers pump \$4 into the retirement plan for every \$1 a lawmaker invests. If legislators were to adjust that amount to a more realistic ratio - say, \$1 to \$1 - then a re-evaluation of base pay not only would be justified but also politically palatable.

The low salary has prompted legislators over the years to reward themselves with extraordinary perks. That's not, in the end, a bargain for taxpayers.

The more honest approach would be to steadily increase legislators' pay over time to better reflect the importance of their work. A front-door pay hike is a better alternative than the backdoor benefits that lawmakers have lavished on themselves.

The Indianapolis Star

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolution is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

A complaint on note and real estate mortgage was filed by Deutsche Bank National against Shane L. Tyra.

Janice Bell was found to be

The meeting went on and on, a full three hours and then some.

There were several hundred in attendance. It seemed that a majority was mad. The anger was an undeniable presence in the auditorium.

There was shouting and shushing.

There was booing and jeering.

The meeting was for homeowners of a large 700-member condominium association. Most folks are neighbors, members of the same community. Some of us are absentee investors. The resident owners don't like us investor owners. That's an old riff that won't go away.

The subject of the meeting was a touchy one: money. A big special assessment was being considered for roof work, tuck pointing, elevator modernization and emergency reserve funds. From where I sat, the assessment was a done deal, something necessary to keep the ship afloat - so to speak.

Four volunteer board members sat on the stage at the front of the auditorium. They were seated on uncomfortable looking folding chairs under glaring spotlights aimed in haphazard fashion. On either side of the board sat the hired guns, a lawyer, an accountant, some of the property management team. A fifth board member was missing, an almost unforgivable absence considering the gravity of the decision being made.

Introductions were made. Reports were given. The case for the assessment was made. All the while, catcalls, outbursts and insults flew across the room. No Roberts Rules for some people.

When time for public comment came, dozens formed single lines on either side of the auditorium for a turn at the microphone. What they really wanted was a chance, a shot at the board members, their unpaid, elected neighbors bearing this particular bad news.

Then, as though amnesia powder had been sprinkled on the microphones, one speaker after another after another stood and leveled the same criticisms, the same old war stories. In some cases, folks brought silly little items to the floor, mailbox problems, parking complaints - the common everyday stuff of community living.

"They all just need to vent," said the lady sit-

Midwest**Memo**

by Alan Schultz

**Angry folk**

and make some outrageous accusation. Then, after some pandering to the crowd, the complainer would earn a round of applause from some corner of the room. Then, as though their task was accomplished, many left without even a response to their specific charge.

Some folks just want to be mad. Such anger, though, comes with a price. Many of the owners left the meeting with their anger applauded. Some left with a little chip on their shoulder for their shot at the powers that be. But we all left that meeting with less feeling of community, less hope that things were getting better, less sense of a common good.

All that venting, it came with a price. I once served as legal counsel to an extended family that pooled their resources and together bought an existing business.

The business was to serve as the employer of many family members and a long-term investment for the group.

But that wasn't to be. I watched the group as they moved from celebration to litigation. Old family rifts and personal agendas quickly got in the way of running the business. And the business couldn't wait on the family's collective problems. The income stream sputtered. And then the time came when everyone was just angry. The big picture was nowhere to be found.

And like the lady said, "they just all needed to vent." Except that this group vented themselves into a business failure, losing several hundred thousand of equity invested in the initial acquisition. For me, the whole drama was like watching a train wreck in slow motion. The inevitable conclusion being so easily predicted.

Sometimes there's room for the angry folk to rant and rave. We give them audience and a pass from being a part of the solution. But sometimes the angry folk, in their need to be heard, well, they sure have a way of making matters worse.

Go figure.

Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

Support fellow teachers

In the recent months we have read about the contract dispute between the Carroll Consolidated teachers and the Carroll school board. We, as fellow teachers in the neighboring corporation, empathize with the Carroll teachers.

The teachers in this corporation continue to work hard and do their best as professionals, even without a settled contract. This is evident when you go to the Indiana Department of Education website and see that Carroll Consolidated has an "Exemplary Progress Rating."

We sincerely hope that the board members recognize that these teachers are helping and caring professionals. They are service professionals who help enhance the quality of people's lives and it is our hope that their situation will soon take a positive turn to show these dedicated professionals that they are appreciated.

Lori Schwarzkopf, secretary
Delphi Classroom
Teachers Association

Restaurant Inspections**Parrett's Meat Processing**

Routine inspection: 11/17/06
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

The Corner Café

Routine inspection: 11/17/06
Summary of Violations: 1 critical
1. There was a container of potato salad in the refrigerator without a date of 7 days. Directed to correct by 11/17/06.

Country Cakes and Catering

Routine inspection: 11/15/06
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

Country Candies & Confections

Routine inspection: 11/14/06
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

The Sandwich Shop

Routine inspection: 11/13/06
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

Flora Mara Mart

Routine inspection: 11/13/06
Summary of Violations: 2 non-critical
1. There were a couple of soiled linens on the counter by the fryer. Directed to correct by 11/13/06.

2. The fryer had an accumulation of grease on the side. Directed to correct by 11/14/06.

The Summer Kitchen

Routine inspection: 11/9/06
Summary of Violations: No Violations Noted

Wallmann's Quality Foods

Routine inspection: 11/9/06
Summary of Violations: 3 critical, 2 non-critical
Critical
1. The chemical sanitizing solution in the deli measured over 400 quats. Directed to correct by 11/9/06.

2. The raw chicken was being stored over the ready to eat goods such as biscuits and tomatoes in the deli cooler. Directed to correct by 11/9/06.
3. The hoses were hanging below the flood rim in the produce sink. Directed to correct by 1 week.

Non-Critical
1. The light in the meat cutting room and the deli did not have a light shielding. Directed to correct by 30 days.

2. The rear outer door was not self closing. Directed to correct by 30 days.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Summon-Baughman	7B	4613
Sheriff Sale-Freeman	7B	4713
TL SCchool-Bidders	7B	4713
Hwy Delpt - Gravel & Fuel	7B	4812
Town of Camden-Notice	7B	4811
Sheriff Sale-Landis	7B	4813
Delphi Library-Addl Appro	9B	4811
County Council-Not of Adop	7B	4811
Highway Claims	7B	4812
Comm-Ord 2006-06	5B-6B	4812
County Claims	7B	4811
Town of Yeoman-Comm Cntr	7B	4811
Bachelor Run Conserv.	9B	4811

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.

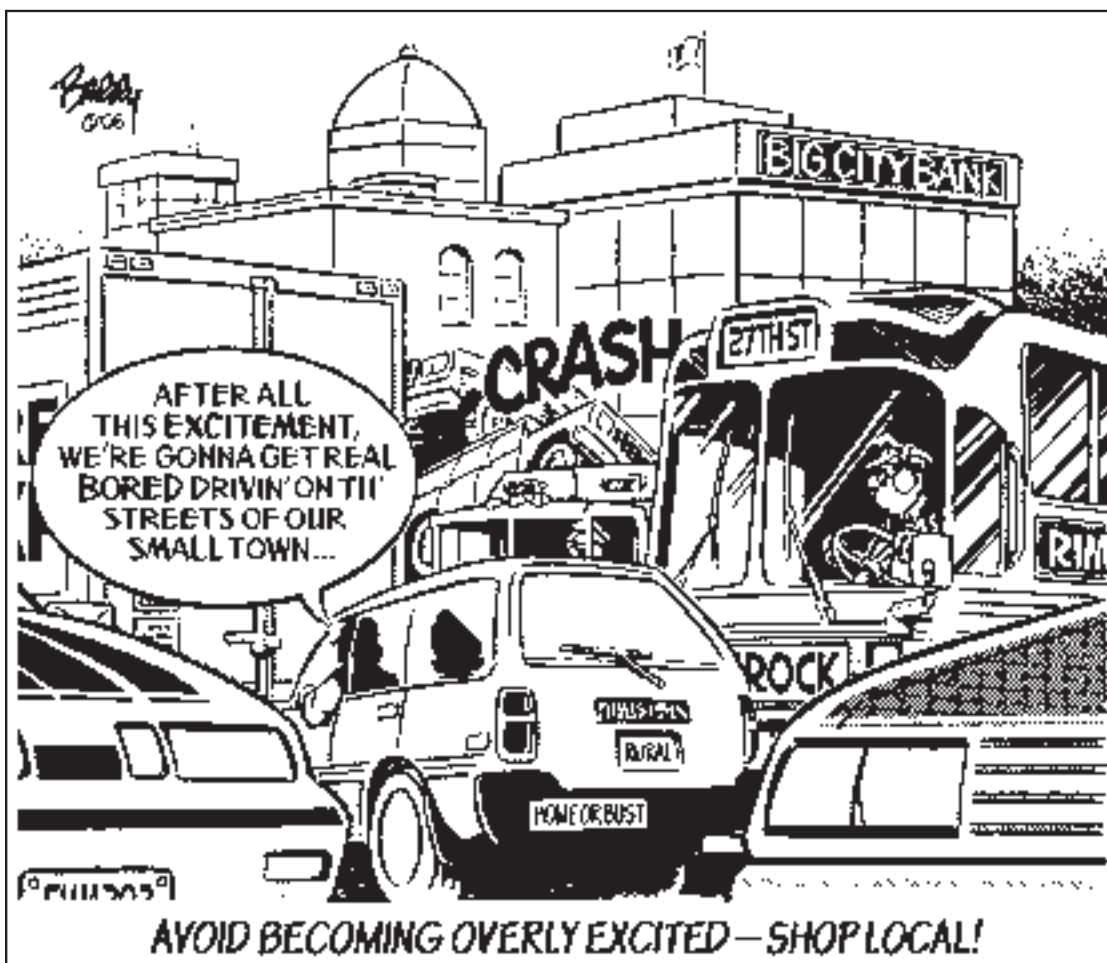
Web poll results

Each week the Comet polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the Comments link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

Last Week's Results:

What do you think should be the basis for Carroll County's economic development?

18% Agriculture
10% Tourism
23% More roads/highways to entice bigger businesses
25% Quality of life
25% Maintain and enjoy what we already have
Total responses: 40

**Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith**

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

New Filings

Benjamin D. Brooks was charged with two counts operating while intoxicated - endangering.

Robert E. Frazee was charged with two counts operating while intoxicated - endangering, unsafe lane change movement, open alcohol container and driving while suspended.

James R. Sacha was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering and habitual substance offender.

Newton D. Pearson was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering.

Latroy T. Whitley was charged with driving while suspended.

Sabrina A. Plunkett and Leslie Field were charged with check deception.

Michael T. Sanders was charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

The following cases were found for the plaintiff: Delaplane & Son, Inc. vs. Fite's Mobility; Erin Capital Management, LLC vs. Tracy L. Claiborne; Steve Hart vs. John Coy and Sarah Coy.

Maria G. Villagrana pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license and to a child restraint system violation. She was fined \$500.

Tera L. Downham pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

She was fined \$500.

Wesley A. Mayhew pled guilty to intimidation. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, all suspended, one year supervised probation and participation in an anger management program.

The following cases were dismissed: Delphi Community School Corporation vs. Roger Smith; Delphi Community School Corporation vs. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mitchell; Delphi Community School Corporation vs. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moore; Horizon Veterinary Service vs. Paul and Debbie Applegate; Carroll County Clerk vs. Scott Smith; Carroll County Clerk vs. James Slaughterbeck.

A default judgement was entered for the plaintiff in the case of Erin Capital Management, LLC vs. Tracy L. Claiborne in the amount of \$4997.69.

In State of Indiana vs. Jay Pullen, the defendant was found not guilty of battery resulting in bodily injury.

In State of Indiana vs. Julie M. Pullen, the defendant was found not guilty of battery resulting in bodily injury.

The following cases were dismissed: Delphi Community School Corporation vs. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mitchell; Delphi Community School Corporation vs. Mrs. Rhonda Strange; Delphi Community School Corporation vs. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moore; Horizon Veterinary Service vs. Paul and Debbie Applegate; Carroll County Clerk vs. Scott Smith; Carroll County Clerk vs. James Slaughterbeck.

A default judgement was entered for the plaintiff in the

following causes: Salin Bank and Trust Company vs. Robert V. Davis and Elizabeth M. Davis; Beneficial Indiana Inc. vs. Jennifer K. Landis and Christopher E. Landis; Erin Capital Management LLC vs. Lulu B. Kennedy; and Discover Bank vs. Donna Coup.

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Monday, Dec. 4

√County drainage board: 8:30 a.m.

√County commissioners: 9 a.m.

√Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.

√Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.

√Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

√Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7

√Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building

Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Should county general fund money be spent to subsidize a recount in township advisory board races?

Yes - everyone deserves to know who really won

No - we should accept the results of the voting machines