

Attention Homes

You'd think a guy with a Master's degree from Lacrosse University would be better at managing people and business affairs.

Oh, that's right. The degree is bogus and taught this former police chief exactly nothing. Nada. Zilch. Zip. Nothing.

You'd think a guy who had a coerced confession gained by his underlings at the police department only to have it ruled unconstitutional by the Court would have a clue as to what can and what cannot be done legally.

Now it looks like he's taking his "skills" - or lack thereof - to what was once a very good, necessary and beneficial program, Attention Homes, and may take that organization down the tubes.

Always working for public or donated money, this guy just can't get the hang of how to deal with people. There is always another publicly-funded job out there for him, it seems - no matter how badly he bungled the last one.

Attention Homes is making major changes as the result of diminishing funding and recently terminated a number of employees. Instead of just using Reduction in Force to reduce staffing, this "leader" chose to set AH up for further claims by making unprovable accusations against one of the employees in conjunction with eliminating his position. In spite of that allegation, the staffer's pay was continued until the date he should have worked, not the date he was ousted.

Days later, he was offered a "Separation Agreement" which, in effect, required the by-then former employee to agree not to disclose any wrongdoing with federal funds he may have known about in return for a payoff. Didn't the CPD teach the master's degree holder that forcing someone to do something under duress will never hold up in a court of law? That must not have been one of the days he missed at Lacrosse. If the former employee is aware of misconduct, he has an obligation to report it - not cover it up for about \$750.00 in the form of a payoff.

Vote FOR increasing to five commissioners. Vote AGAINST electing them by district.

I've heard the arguments against five county commissioners. Basically, now that it could become a reality, cost is being cited as the reason not to enlarge the commission from three to five. The cost of salaries for two more commissioners, remodeling office space, letterhead, business cards, etc., etc.

And, while it may add cost, it doesn't have to. There is still the opportunity to lower the salaries of the four seats that could be in play. The only necessary cost might be office space and part-time officeholders don't need much of an office. The commissioners conference room could be eliminated and respacing of three offices plus that space to five offices would be at minimal cost and redesign.

The Planning Dept. has been moved out of the Historic Courthouse to the Archer property and other departments could also be moved out there. The Coroner's office was already taken from the Historic Courthouse to a different location. The county attorney and that bloated operation could be moved without a negative effect. The addition of two commissioners could be handled without much of a problem - financially or logistically.

With an approximate \$100 million annual budget, adding \$100,000 or so to potentially improve the county's operation and efficiency measurably is a small price to pay. Had the petition drive been done properly, the new members (which could ironically be the two "oldest" members) could have been elected at a lower salary and the third seat then would drop to \$24,000 a year after the 2012 election.

Having but three county commissioners at \$40,000 a year and health insurance

still costs residents quite a bit of money for three part-time jobs.

Remember, current county commissioners are under no requirement to take a cut in pay now but the two seats up for [re]election in the November general election are different. If they are required to agree to a reduced salary, say from \$40,000 to \$24,000 a year, so long as formal action is taken before those elected are sworn in, those two seats and two new ones elected in 2012 (if the proposition of increasing to five passes) could all be at the lower salary, as would the fifth seat when it is filled in the election of 2012. So, handled that way, all five seats could be at \$24,000 as of January of 2013.

As far as electing commissioners by district as opposed to "at large," I see no need nor wisdom for such a change. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated Laramie County population for July 1, 2009 was a little less than 89,000. Rounded off to 90,000, each district would have to have about 15,000 residents. Not voters, residents. The City of Cheyenne has all but about 30,000 of that population.

That option would require granting three seats to districts within the city limits and two outside the city borders. That would not make any sense in terms of area to cover. The two non-city seats would have multiples of the area to serve as any of the three from within Cheyenne. One of the two non-city county commissioner seats would almost certainly have to come out of South Cheyenne, which has a population of between 8,000 and 10,000.

The potential for a resident of the three other incorporated municipalities in Laramie County (Pine Bluffs, Burns and Albin) having one of their own elected, no matter how the gerrymandering is done based on equal population, is very small.

Right now, all three county commissioners reside outside the city limits. The daily wants the city to control county government as they do city government. To vote to elect commissioners, whether three or five, by district, would play right into the WT-E's hands and it would be the effective end of "county" government as we've known it. If you agree with the newspaper that the City should control all aspects of local issues, including unchallenged illegal annexations, you would want to vote for electing commissioners by district. That would not produce better representation. City residents already have the advantage of population to support candidates and they aren't getting elected over non-city residents now. The problem with local government is not the mailing addresses of elected officials. Voters choose from candidates presented them. If someone wants to change the mix, recruit better candidates to run. But, leave the "at-large" system alone. It ain't broke.



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VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE



Karen Fortney

Laramie County Treasurer

I have 21 years of progressive responsibility in the Treasurer's Office and have been Chief Deputy Treasurer since 1999.

"I will serve Laramie County by being fiscally responsible and providing courteous and professional customer service."

LIFELONG REPUBLICAN

My family and I appreciate your support and vote on August 17th. Thank You.

Paid for by Karen Fortney