

17230 State Route 50
Altamont, TN 37301
January 24, 2011

Grundy County Commissioners
Mayor Lonnie D. Cleek
To Whom It May Concern

Ladies & Gentlemen;

The past five months have been a tremendous challenge to me professionally, personally, and as a public servant.

Upon receiving the fire marshal report on our current jail in early September of last year, I spent considerable time and effort in gathering information related to the designing, constructing, and financing of a facility to meet our needs and the cost associated with the housing of inmates in other facilities along with the fact that bond interest rates in October 2010 were at a historical low with the trend being upward.

This persuaded me that we must act quickly. Accordingly, I assembled a package containing several resolutions addressing these needs. I presented these resolutions to the commission on two occasions and they were rejected both times.

Since then, I have become aware of a proposal that is supposed to do the jail project and the school projects without a property tax increase. First, I am skeptical that this can be done. Second, this action would most likely degrade the quality of all of the projects. Third, this would consume all current resources and commit all available resources far into the future - thereby eliminating the consideration of any future needs.

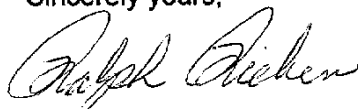
I have expressed my concern about the slow pace of resolving the issues surrounding the building of the jail and the effects these delays are contributing to the escalating cost for financing and construction. Although I am a licensed Professional Engineer with experience in design, construction oversight, management, and finances, my input has generally been viewed as an obstruction to the current bureaucratic process.

Examining the situation, viewing alternatives, and evaluating several options, it appears that it would be in the best interest of everyone if I just step aside.

Therefore, I am submitting my resignation as a Grundy County Commissioner effective at 11:30 PM CST, Monday, January 24, 2011.

To the people of Grundy County and particular those in the first district, I want to apologize for my decision to abandon you at this critical time. However, may I say in my defense? In the twenty-eight years that you permitted me to be your representative, we were able to get those things that we needed, reject those things not needed, and do it all in a responsible and sound financial way. I am leaving as a commissioner with the government of Grundy County in excellent financial condition and I choose not to participate in its financial decline.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph Rieben