

North Dakota Legislature Joint Committee Meeting
Wednesday May 30th
Williston State College

Dan Kalil
Chairman Williams County

Greetings from the Western Front, thank you each and everyone for taking the time to come here and get a first hand look.

I am going to do just a quick run through of where the County and a few of our departments are at this moment in Williams County.

First of all something very positive,
County Sales Tax:

In 2006 we went to the voters for approval of a half cent sales tax to construct a new Williams County Law Enforcement Center. This project would include a 112 bed jail, office space for the Williams County Sheriff's Department, Williston PD, NDHP, Drug Task Force, and DES. Sheriff Busching went to the public and eloquently gathered support. The voters approved the sales tax and the 15.1M project, by a nearly 60% margin.

At that time I projected that the half cent, county wide, would generate \$981,000 per year allowing us to pay off the bonds in about 21 years.

Construction started the spring of 2007 and the project was completed 18 months later.

Last month our County Treasure sent a letter to the State Treasurer asking that the state suspend the half cent sales tax. Five years and four months later there is enough money to payoff the bonds. We told the voters when we had received enough funds to payoff the bonds the sales tax would stop. I am pleased to tell you, we are there.

County Highway:

Temporary Bypass, Construction has started Cty 1 and 6.

Permanent Bypass, Stuck in environmental and cultural gridlock.

East Bypass, New bridge is in the process on Cty 6 at Carrollville, We need the State to takeover the East Bypass now.

Our philosophy on gravel roads is hang on and do the best we can for now, come back later when the rigs move on and rebuild.

We should double the size of our County Highway Department right now.

Lack of funds and housing has prevented that so far.

Last week with no fanfare, we broke ground on what we are calling our Multi use Building. It will be a 20,000 s/f four story building with office space on the main floor 18

apartments.

Like everyone else we have no housing for employees, so we're building it.

Recording Office,

According to NDRIN last year, Wms. Co. recorded 10% of all the documents recorded in the State.

Social Services,

Buried, foster care, child protection, you know the drill.

Recent action by the State providing State Employees at the NWHRC with a \$500 per month impact payment, is going to have a ripple effect through are S/S office and then through our entire operation.

Planning and Zoning

We need a time out. We need help. We are so over run that we cannot plan, only react. Comprehensive plan is two months out, best thing we could do is stop everything until then.

Water Depots;

Temporary housing;

Introduction of our Compliance Officer Stephanie Vagts,
Slide show.

Thank You!