
Remarks presented by Ford Peterson at the regular meeting of the Meeker County HRA, October 25, 2010.

Over the past few weeks, I have worked with the residents at the Dassel Apartments to help provide them with a voice. A year ago, their cries for help went unanswered. The victims and the witnesses were never given an opportunity to tell their story to Officers charged with the responsibility to investigate and take appropriate action. Due to the fumbled investigations, I used my www.mnpatriots.com blog to help the resident council get relief.

I attempted to garner the support of our elected officers at the state and am told that our County Attorney Beckman is the final arbiter of right and wrong. I have attempted to gain support from the other County Commissioners and could not even get them to call me on the phone. Today I am attempting to garner your human compassion for these residents and make you realize the amount of stress you are placing on them through your actions.

As a citizen of Meeker County, I have watched in disbelief at the ridiculous antics of this HRA Board. I have witnessed how the minutes of meetings are routinely twisted to present the Chairman's intent. I witness as the residents suffer untold abuse at the hands of these County Officers Wilde and Strand. In 2005 the State Legislature found the office of County Commissioner to be incompatible with the role of HRA Commissioner. Yet I find Wally Strand is Chairman of both—serving at the pleasure of our County Attorney Beckman. Because of the foolish opinions of our County Attorney Beckman, these residents have been unable to appeal to her office for justice or for relief from the abuses of your office. I witness as there is no protection afford them by our Sheriff's department, which is inexcusable. I witness as HUD instructs this board on proper conduct and witness you ignoring their council. I witness the Sheriff promulgating lies in defense of your activities to the disgrace and the respectability of his own office. I witness this board foolishly spending substantial amounts on needless legal fees for who knows what nefarious purposes. I witness this board expounding outright lies to the public regarding Director Tischer's compensation, when in the opinion of the residents, she should be commended. I witness the disgrace this board has become and demand that the abuses stop. Along with all my fellow residents of Meeker County, I too bear some responsibility in sitting back and watching the foolish executive management of this County pull their devious tricks. I demand the immediate resignation of HRA Chairman Strand and HRA Commissioner Wilde. The Meeker County Commissioners need to take up the business of appointing new HRA Commissioners as soon as practical. Leave these people alone!