

I have thought and prayed and thought and prayed long and hard the past several weeks over this matter. Truth is it should have never come to this "stand off" and I will take my blame along with other members of this court as well as the City Council for not bringing it up for negotiations sooner. We all knew the old contract was expiring at the end of September.

However, I can't with clear conscience vote for an open ended contract. It is just not "GOOD business"! Plain and simple!

On the other hand...I don't feel comfortable voting to build a county fire department at this point in time although I am not opposed to it. I just don't want to rush into such a major undertaking as this without proper planning.

There are a lot of factors including wrong motives which have no place in such an important decision.

Two wrongs don't make one right!

For these reasons I am abstaining.