

No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing

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WHY ARE THEY SO AFRAID OF INTERCOUNTY?

At the very end of the September 4th council meeting **Councilman Terry Ruck** proposed that the council form a committee to meet with **Intercounty Electric** and see what they have to say. RMU has made a practice of vilifying Intercounty and their rates so it would only be fair to let Intercounty correct the record but that was not going to happen. Even with MoPEP killer electric rates being the most destructive crisis to hit Rolla since RCDC was formed, Terry's motion died for lack of a second! They wouldn't even discuss the motion. They sat in stony silence apparently paralyzed by what? Fear? They've spent hours listening to Stoffer and Bourne drone on with their half-truths and propaganda but they won't even listen to what Cartwright has to say? What's so scary about listening to Cartwright? Has RMU forbidden the council to listen to what they fear might be such a good deal the council couldn't refuse it? Are the council members really that terrified of two pretentious old geezers who are desperately trying to hang onto the only power they've ever had, an ex-Judge who is so timid he won't speak against the rotten contract and the rampant nepotism staring him in the face and a former councilmember who voted for on the 1995 deal to illegally give RCDC millions to buy the B&S building? Are those sad sacks the boogiemens that have our elected representatives hiding under their beds?

At the last council meeting I asked **Councilman Hicks** why and he told me it's because "We don't have the expertise to meet and discuss this with Cartwright." We wish they had been so shy about their lack of "expertise" when they voted to do a TIF...twice. Their lack of "expertise" doesn't seem to bother them as they're get ready to hand over a TDD to **Mike Woessner** and **Jack Dietzmann** and have no idea what it is. Who told them they can't act unless the council has "expertise?" They have our \$26 million budget to buy all the "expertise" they need. If they can't do anything without the "expertise" then they shouldn't make decisions on trash pickup unless they're trash collectors and they shouldn't make

decisions on roads unless they're truckers and...come on guys don't be silly.

That "no expertise" line we've heard before from Magdits. It's the dodge he uses when he doesn't want to do something. If they are so paralyzed they can't politely listen to what the man has to say or so frozen with panic that they can't hire the "expertise" to advise them then **THEY SHOULD ALL RESIGN**. Have they been bullied by the "**RMU**" **Mayor Bill Jenks** who pushed them into the MoPEP contract in 2005? Have they been fed scary stories by **Stoffer**? Why are the RMU gang members so desperate to stay with MoPEP? MoPEP's doing nothing for us so MoPEP must be doing something for them...the question is...what is MoPEP doing for them to inspire such blind loyalty even when it means selling us out?

When **Tracey Watson** exposed the outrageous conditions in the MoPEP contract that RMU board member **Bill Jenks** pushed the council into signing in 2005, **Mayor Bill Jenks** started telling lies like, "If we leave MoPEP, we won't have any electricity!" What bull. With the University, the Hospital and a population of 16,000 all in a compact service area, we're low-hanging fruit that any electric company would jump to have for a customer But first we'd have to get rid of the RMU board and about a half dozen other overpaid deadheads over there. Unable to refute any of the things she exposed about the MoPEP contract, Jenks petulantly challenged Watson to find a better contract and Watson did. **Dwayne Cartwright**, General Manager of Intercounty Electric had already contacted the mayor and tried to meet with him but Jenks was pouting and wouldn't meet. Cartwright gave an interview to the RDN and expressed his willingness to talk to the city. The council didn't respond to that either. The RDN wouldn't print this so the public could at least read Cartwright's rebuttal to the RMU lies that are being told so, as usual NSN will bring you the news. On Friday, September 7th, Tracey Watson received this e-mail from Dwayne Cartwright and this is what the RMU crowd doesn't want you to find out:

"Following the news article and some of the questions that I've been asked following the article I wanted to give you the correct answers. I was somewhat disappointed in the news article maybe due to space or whatever some of the information was left out. As I have stated all along I'm not trying to get into a conflict with Rolla politics but if there was ever an opportunity to work with Rolla and the community in a positive way to address some of the energy issues we would be available. Here are some of the questions and answers.

1. Q. It would cost millions for IECA to build transmission lines and substations. A. No, IECA has a transmission line already in Rolla; it's been there for many years and serves one of our substations which are located in Rolla. The line travels along Forum Drive and 10th Street. We also have transmission lines surrounding the city serving substations around Rolla. We actually have more transmission capabilities in place than Ameren. Rolla and St James are served by one transmission line owned by Ameren which comes to one substation located

between Rolla and St James. You might recall the outage that Rolla and St James experienced when the Ameren substation burned a few years ago. Unlike Rolla we actually own our transmission lines; they are owned and maintained by Sho-Me our transmission cooperative. I realize that the transmission and distribution system is difficult for the general public to understand and therefore there is confusion.

2. Q. IECA could not legally serve Rolla. A. I find it amusing when folks start quoting laws, state statues and act like legal counsel. Check with the PSC, the City of Fredericktown, and Owensville. Yes we can serve municipals over 1400. It would involve legal agreements between the municipal and cooperative.

3. Q. IECA could not afford to purchase the City electric utilities. Is it \$20 million, \$80 million or “hundreds of millions”? **A.** If there were ever to be an agreement IECA could afford to pay the city for its investments. This is one area that municipals and cooperatives have something in common. The system is actually owned by the citizens of the municipality unlike Investor-owned utilities where the utility is owned by investors. The citizens and members of cooperatives own their systems.

4. Q. If IECA purchased or acquired Rolla’s electrical system the members of the cooperative would face rate increases due to the purchase. A. No, can’t happen, not only or board but RUS prevents us from doing this.

5. Q. IECA would take over water and trash service. A. No, we are an electric cooperative.

6. Q. IECA is going to have a 40% increase this year. A. NO, I’ve always been up front with our membership and have stated that we are going to have rate adjustments in the future. I even announced this at our Annual Meeting. I think it is important to keep our membership informed. I just returned from a meeting and Associated announced that the proposed rate adjustment for January ‘08’ would NOT be considered until April ‘08’. The amount of the increase has not been determined yet and I don’t know if it will change IECA’s rates yet. Due to the weather, lake levels, lowered than projected cost of natural gas and other factors Associated to date is having a good year. The projected rate increased of 40% is the project increase cost of generation over the next 12 years. This is not the projected increase to our membership. Has anyone looked at the projected rate adjustments from Rolla’s supplier for the next 12 years?

7. Q. This is the best option for Rolla. A. I can’t answer that question. There are many variables that need to be considered. One needs to take the emotions and personal agendas out and look at what is best for Rolla, both today and in the future. There are hard questions that need to be researched. I feel that folks need to set down at the table, research and communicate. I feel that it is important that facts, not confusion or half truths, are presented and sound decisions be made after considering all options and we are a viable option. It might be money well spent to have an independent outside firm to research.”

Dwayne Cartwright

IECA General Manager

Cartwright has since offered to meet with Butz and the Mayor *again* and Jenks has refused...*again*. The Rolla City Council could offer to meet with him. They can have their own meetings and talk to anyone they want, they don’t need permission from Jenks, but they won’t because they’re afraid it might offend the mayor and his RMU gang.

More MoPEP debt for Rolla utility rate payers to pay off. The MJMEUC/MoPEP Director in Columbia **Duncan Kincheloe**, has issued more revenue bonds and bought another **\$564,220,000** worth of stock in another coal-fired plant in Washington County, Illinois. This time he bought a coal mine with it. That’s all we need, more of his revenue bond debt to pay off and mine cave-in’s to apologize to widows and orphans for. These revenue bonds sold on September 10th. Anybody remember Dan Watkins reporting on this to the council? Dan

has been our MoPEP “representative” for years. He’s the guy who casts all the proxy votes to saddle us with all this debt. Just from the figures we have from *only* three out of seven investments we now have a total of **\$1,102,620,000** in revenue bond debt. We’re now one of the 31 dumbest towns in Missouri who are going to be paying off over a BILLION dollars in debt FOR THE NEXT 40 YEARS! While we’re paying 50% more than non-MoPEP towns for power, our “RMU Mayor” Billy Jenks is so frightened that he banned all these subjects and they can no longer be spoken of in public.

She doesn’t own a cat. We have to correct an error we made about **Councilmember Sue Eudaly** in our last issue, “Mayor Jenks has Hissy Fit.” We said: “*Sometimes when we have a weak mayor one or more members of the council will step up and fill the leadership gap. This won’t be Ward 3 Council*

Representative Sue Eudaly. Sue said she's positively glad to make her monthly "contribution" to RMU because it will all (somehow?) enhance Rolla's quality of life. Sue's take on issues is always a few degrees off plumb. Just how having utility rates that are nearly double non MoPEP towns will improve our "quality of life" is a mystery to all but Sue. Maybe if Eudaly had to feed a family on two minimum wage jobs instead of a cat she'd comprehend the pain of her less fortunate constituents." That was what we printed. We received this e-mail response from Eudaly: **"I do not own a cat."**

And the Blundering Board of the Year Award goes to... The geniuses on the RMU board, **Stoffer, Alfermann, Wiggins and Rolufs** who just gave **Watkins** a 5% raise also gave Rodney Bourne a raise of **\$27,000** to add to his salary of **\$73,424**. That's a 37% raise! **HIS RAISE ALONE IS MORE THAN MOST CITY EMPLOYEES MAKE IN A YEAR!** Can you believe their attitude? In March, while irate customers were starting the petition drive to get them audited they voted to spend **\$26,000** to redecorate the office of Dan Watkins secretary/wife. They are either oblivious of their lousy public image or too arrogant to care that they have a lousy public image. They also gave Dan a raise so now he makes **\$126,000** a year. Did they give him this raise because he obediently voted to add to our debt burden with the Prairie State bonds and didn't report it to the council...again? Did the linemen get big raises or just guys like Dan and Rodney-of-the-92-slides who make the big salaries? These actions were definitely a message to us. The message was, "F*** You People. We make our own rules and we don't care what you think about them."

MoPEP - Before and After. To give you an idea of how the MoPEP vampire is sucking this town dry, on September 30, 1999, RMU's retained earnings balance (reserves) was **\$17,465,440!** Their unrestricted cash and investments were **\$8,362,122**. They had a total of **\$25,827,562** in cash just sloshing around in the bank – more than the whole city budget! Their net income for the year ended September 30, 1999 was \$1.7 million. RMU's reserves increased every year and they still had an extra 5% to give away to the city and RCDC every year. In 1999 they paid about **\$10.5 million** to UE for wholesale power. By 2006 they were paying MoPEP **\$21 million** for electric power and investment debts. In only six years MoPEP's rates doubled! In that same time period Ameren's rates increased only \$2 per household. For the first time in over 40 years this year RMU put **\$0** into reserves. Our sources were RMU's own slides from July 9th and the

testimony Watkins and Bourne gave under oath to the PSC in the Southside hearing.

Dan and Roy and the "big woop." Watkins has been seen commuting in one of the big red expensive RMU cherry pickers. The grapevine said he bought it after RMU paid to recondition it and put new tires on it. We didn't believe it because that would mean that Watkins and the board were colluding in a scheme to defraud the taxpayers and that would be very dishonest. That is, we didn't believe it until **Roy Day**, who says he is **Dan Watkins** best friend, blew his stack at someone on that RDN chat thing. This is what Roy said:

"I know how Dan Watkins got that truck. The truck was SOLD to a PRIVATE DEALERSHIP just as it should have been, and then Watkins bought it from the dealership, just as any other citizen could have - even you. What's the big woop [sic] about him buying a vehicle from a private dealership that was up for sale to ANY person willing to pay the asking price??? Who cares who owned it before the dealership bought it.[?] When you buy a used vehicle, do you screen who was the previous owner??? Watkins is a citizen with the same rights as everyone else, so why don't you lighten up. Yes, Dan has been my friend for over 25 years and I'm getting tired of hearing people that don't even know him question his integrity and moral character. I doubt if some of you could stand up to the same level of scrutiny [sic] that he has been under this past year. By the way, thanks for the compliment, I'm the one that directed the PCSD bid process." (signed) **Roy Day**.

Well Roy, the "big woop" is in the details you left out. For instance, who was this dealer? It wasn't the same 'dealer' the sheriff's department uses to quietly dispose of Sugar Tree loot was it? The "big woop" is how many minutes did the dealer have it before Dan bought it, how much did Dan pay for it and was Dan the only person who had knowledge that the freshly reconditioned bucket truck with the brand new tires was available for sale? It's like all those healthy people who mysteriously have "heart attacks" and die right after your department pulls them over for minor traffic violations...the "big woop" is in the details that get left out.

The Annual Porkfest – Rolla's 2008 Budget

Picture the third floor of the newly renovated city hall where the new executive suite is located. Very few of us who will be paying for that **\$3.5 million** King-of-the-Cost-Overruns Butz/Hogan project for the next 20 years will ever be invited up to see it. The executive suite has some administrative offices and the offices of the mayor, the city administrator, a conference room, kitchen, large lounge/waiting room and a penthouse balcony. You read that right, a PENTHOUSE

BALCONY! The executive suite is where, in air conditioned comfort, Jenks and Butz planned the 2008 budget that will cut raises to the bone for city employees again next year...not the raises for Butz and the other suits, just the raises for the hourly blue collar employees. Those are the employees who pick up our stinking garbage in 101 degree heat, fix our sewers, fight fires and patrol our streets. Those employees aren't fortunate enough to work in the air-conditioned comfort of the penthouse

suite and they usually eat lunch out of a paper bag not in a private kitchen so the people who are lucky enough to work there shouldn't treat them like the underclass. It's also employee taxes that pay for these luxury working conditions for City Hall executives. In addition to the increased cost of electricity (yes, the city has to pay electric and water bills now at the new inflated MoPEP rates), the annual payments on the city hall run amok remodeling job will be **\$188,000** a year. Well you can see why there just is no money left for raises for people who get dirty at work.

The 2008 city budget meetings were held from Monday, July 27, through Wednesday, July 29, for a total of about 7.5 hours. The council has a catered dinner upstairs before the sessions begin to sustain them through the arduous process of rubberstamping the annual Butz deficit budget. Spending \$26 million dollars should take a prudent and thoughtful council at least two weeks of meetings but 7 hours is enough for the Rolla council; that's why Rolla's fiscal condition has been steadily eroding over the last ten years since Butz came here. These token budget meetings went like all the other token budget meetings:

There are four parts to budgeting Butz-style. **Part 1.** The council nods as Mr. We-Gotta-Have-New-Projects-or-Die, tells them his budget estimates are all "very conservative." Butz, the Big Spender, wouldn't know a conservative figure if it flew up his nose. The stock market is tanking, the housing bubble has burst, the subprime industry is in the crapper, we're almost in a recession and with the RMU rate increase taking millions in spending money out of circulation Butz is still projecting sales tax growth of 3%. If he had been on the Titanic he would have been ordering dinner while chairs were sliding across the deck. **Part 2.** Then Butz tells them what he is going to cut out of the next year's spending – employee raises (except his) and employee benefits (except his) and public services. Having watched this for years I've come to the conclusion that it really has never occurred to the council that they can tell Butz and the mayor that the employees and public works are off limits and force Butz and the mayor to make their cuts entirely out of pork. They've never ordered Butz and the mayor to make up for their fiscal mistakes and extravagances by cutting out pork for their cronies. They've never ordered Butz and the mayor to keep their hands off the employees pay and benefits. They never do that so every year the employees get hammered again. This year employees get only **1% increase** when the cost of living is **3.5%** and some say may go to **4%**. What brilliant management it was to cut employee pay increases the same year their electric bills went up by 50%.

What a coincidence that just a few days after being confronted by a large group of angry city employees Jenks "discovers" a Big Box store is coming to Rolla and all will be well. But the county is belt-tightening; their sales tax

collections are already flat. What did we say? Soak up millions in spendable income with higher utility rates and that's millions that won't be spent and earn sales taxes for the city, county, schools....

Then Butz gets to the only part of the budget he likes. **Part 3.** The new spending projects he gets to play with because of the money he saved in cuts from employee wages and public services. These are the decorative projects Butz just can't live without like renovating City Hall, remodeling the festive "Festival Lot," more embellishments for the bloated, money-sucking Rec Center, the silly Caboose or bulldozing the ass end out of Ber-Juan Park and leaving it raw and eroding.

We don't know who gets credit for the brilliant plan to spend over **\$2.3 million** of our taxes during the last two years buying real estate over by Vessels only to put some of it right back up for sale for **\$1.7 million** just before the sellers market went soft. Whatever brilliant real estate development scheme was "visioned" in the beginning, the "vision" fell flat on its expensive ass. The whole thing has that soft-headed foolish air about it that we've come to associate with Butz Ideas. The end result was an idiotically curved street that causes accidents, wastes city taxes, stripped out the reserve fund –again- and cost us big commissions paid to Mike Woessner. Woessner is Mayor Jenks' political godfather. When you buy yourself a mayor, you get to handle all the city's real estate deals and you get a mayoral lobbyist to promote your real estate investment bail-out even if he has to bulldoze a neighborhood for you. The rest of the property they'll use for The Hargis Truck Campus and a new \$550,000 hound pound. These are absolutely-can't-live-without projects aren't they? **Part 4.** The last and most important part of a Butz Budget are the so-called economic development projects demanded by lobby groups – RCDC, RREC and the Chamber of Decorators - political pork for FOM's, Friends of the Mayor. The Chamber gets a new park for a total of \$450,000. RREC, in addition to their annual welfare check and Elizabeth Bax's welfare salary, the RREC want \$500,000 for studies to have consultants tell us we should happily pay more taxes to support a Big Box development like the TIF project so the mayor's pal can get a profit out of his land investment. Then **Terry Brewer** will get his Ego Park which involves giving away \$15,000 or \$20,000 of the public's cash, equipment and labor into improving RCDC's private property while all of the above are paying no property taxes.

Years of John Butz fiscal mismanagement are piling up and soon he and the council will ask us to bail them out by approving one or more sales tax increases. Here's our answer: **NO TAX INCREASES FOR ANYTHING.** If the city council, Butz and RREC can't lift a finger to help us with our utility rates - why should we vote more money for them to spend on their Pork Pals and their cronies?