

Clinton County
Leader
Plattsburg, MO
Circ. 2250
From Page:
4
5/27/2010
16951

350,000 worth of cash regis- plaining the program in de- Plattsburg

No Gravel, No Transparency, No Nothin' but TALK 800
Letter to editor

In the early fall of 2009, the Citizens Oversight Committee for Clinton County (COCCC) were contacted from a concerned taxpayer in Turney, who was not getting answers from Jim Gorham the Village Chairman pertaining to how prior FEMA funds granted to Turney were dispersed. (This citizen is Tim Mulligan who was elected last month by the voters to serve on the Turney Board.) During a prior Turney Board Meeting, Tim said it was noted by Gorham that \$4,000 had been granted from FEMA and the Village was taking bids for cleanup. Three bids were submitted, one from Tim Mulligan and one from Clint Sumpter, Turney. The third bidder's identity is not available at this time.

There were also other complaints to the COCCC pertaining to gravel on the roads. At this time we encouraged those citizens to attend the Turney Board Meetings and voice their concerns. Their response was that they had been complaining for years to Gorham, and very little gravel had been applied with the exception of

gravel on the street that runs in front of Gorham's building, and pea gravel applied to the park playground across the street in front of Gorham's building.

In November 2009, Jimmie Christopher, Lathrop COCCC Liaison and Audit Coordinator attended the Turney Village council meeting and presented a formal written request for copies of all records pertaining to distribution of the FEMA funds granted to Turney, and it was rejected by Jim Gorham openly at the meeting. On a taped recording Jim said, "Jimmie, you are giving that to the wrong person!" In response, Jimmie sent the same request via registered letter to the Turney City Secretary and Holder of Records, Sherry Soto and Soto responded in writing back to Jimmie that she (Jimmie) had sent the request to the Soto's home address, and to please resend the request to the Village of Turney's P.O. Box. FYI...Who's going to sign for a registered letter addressed to a P.O. Box?

Throwing up Smoke Screens is temporary, be-

cause the smoke will clear, and the truth will be revealed. Gorham has refused and continues to refuse to cooperate and provide the COCCC with documentation of any, and/or all requests for disclosure pertaining to FEMA funds granted to the Village of Turney. Nevertheless, any documentation granted at this point would be regarded as questionable. Political posturing in effort to deflect the spotlight does not answer questions. But, these questions are going to keep coming... people are going to continue to attend meetings... people can and will drive up and down public roads... it's still a free country! The Sunshine Law states you have to provide the information the COCCC within 72 hours of the first request and you've been in violation for a long time... since the fall of 2009!

AGAIN... "Jim, where's the FEMA money? Speak into the mic... you are being recorded!"

Mylissa Stutesman,
COCCC, Media Correspondent,
Plattsburg

