

Anna Hirst
Selma McAlaster

June 4, '98

Interview with Jeff Golden
(former J.C. Commissioner)

- Q. From your experience, do you feel 3 people adequate for number of commissioners?
- A. Yes, work load can be done by 3 commissioners. Not convinced that increasing the # would add anything to be gained.
- Q. Is there a problem with a majority of only 2?
- A. Could be a problem. No strong opinion about it.
- Q. Your opinion about Joe Charter's proposal for districts and 7 members?
- A. Does not support districts. Gives rise to other problems. Doesn't agree with 5 or 7 at large. Would lead to divisiveness. Less friendly to land planning. Rural districts well represented now.
- Q. Do you think comm. should be fulltime?
- A. Doesn't think it would serve public to be part time. Thinks issues complex and many problems.
- Q. Doesn't Administrator carry out policy?
- A. Admin. can carry out and influence by:
1. framing policy options.
2. implementing policies or not. Not necessarily fault of Admin. if Comm. not willing to challenge.
- Q. Is there a reason for partisan elections.
- A. Makes no sense for " " .
- Q. Some dept. heads appointed, some elected. Is there a reason to have one or the other?
- A. We are doing fine this way. There is a problem sometime when policy is not separated from budgeting, i.e., ex-Sheriff Smith complained that dept. not getting enough money. He felt pot patches important, but Comm. felt rural areas not getting enough patrol. Then Smith complained of not enough money for rural patrol.
- Q. Appointive vs. elective?
- A. Difficult for elected officials to oppose elective process.

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- Q. How did you feel about the organ. of bd. when you were Comm?
- A. We didn't have portfolios--we had liaisons.
- Q. Is it important to have more public input?
- A. In some cases yes, in some no. Public input for its own cause, no. Specific causes are justified. His primary concern was air quality.
- Q. Are some issues more important?
- A. Need to be considered issue by issue, i.e., library.
- Q. What is a political issue?
- A. Promoting a ballot change. Political indicates votes.
- Q. Some people feel Bd. does too much administration.
- A. Present Admin. will not suffer board taking over.
- Q. What questions should be asked of candidates?
- A. Opinions on budget-- Role of Admin. & Bd. where they stand on state-county issues, i.e., water & ground water, (role of govt.) transportation, etc.
- Q. What are your ideas on city-county division?
- A. Administration for each should be held accountable.
- Q. Does county interfere with city issues or v.v.?
- A. City ^{people} pays taxes which support sheriff, etc.
- Q. Are you interested in entering politics?
- A. Perhaps Congress. Too involved with environmental issues for a local stance.

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