



BIRTHING A NEW DAY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Although COVID-19 literally shut down many operations after just 90 days at the wheel, the new Jefferson County Board of Supervisors still has managed to work in a collaborative effort to make great strides for the citizens of Jefferson County. Being an all five new board, the supervisors didn't let this be a deterrence of digging in their heels, rolling up sleeves, locking arms and getting the job done.

As the Board embarked upon a new day, they analyzed the past leaderships efforts and built up on the positive. There was also a realization that all problems couldn't be resolved in 90 days, but have worked prioritize the most critical needs first. Although the Supervisors have been elected from each district, the countywide unit system have allowed them to build a stronger understanding of the not dividing the county into parts, but looking at the needs as a whole.

The Board has encountered many obstacles of lack of equipment to address road issues, delays in past audits, low self-reporting of the census, closures of county offices due to Covid cases, and many unforeseen barriers for a small county like Jefferson. However, they huddled together for new strategies for a new day and pulled the county up by its boot straps. They fully understand the problems were not going to go away, but in a collective effort, the Board has worked tirelessly in creating a new atmosphere for county government.

In the past nine months, the board is proud to give the citizens some news of hope and achievements. Since January 1, 2020, the Board has been successful in the following:

- ✓ Returned their raises back to the county's budget for a total of over \$50,000 for the duration of the board term
- ✓ Refused county issued cell phones to save county dollars
- ✓ Renegotiated and updated over 30 existing contracts for cost savings to the county
- ✓ Reduced the tax anticipation note borrowing to 1 million dollars, which is a reduction of over \$500,000 in the past 6 years
- ✓ Successful in not increasing taxes for county operations for 2020
- ✓ Acquired and signed contracts for over 1.5 million dollars in NRCS Emergency Watershed Projects to address erosion of 15 roads throughout the county.
- ✓ Acquired \$10,000 in grants to ensure safe voting precincts during the upcoming election.
- ✓ Partnered with local non-profits, food distributors, and farmers to provide of 450,000 pounds of meat, fruit and vegetables to the citizens of Jefferson County during the pandemic.
- ✓ Distributed over 75,000 masks to citizens during the pandemic
- ✓ Conducted door to door rallies to improve the census reporting for Jefferson County
- ✓ Creating an open-door policy and transparency in the county government
- ✓ Conducted interview with national newspaper that has been published in Belgium, French, Pakistani, Thai on the Jefferson County

The Board know that these accomplishments were due to stronger partnerships with the City of Fayette, other local, state and federal officials. The Board fully understands that this is not an overnight process, but are visionary and compassionate about making positive changes in Jefferson County. It is their vision that the following efforts will materialize in the next 12 months

- ✓ Stripe Main Street in collaboration with City leadership
- ✓ Bring more social activities that are family oriented to the county
- ✓ Improve economic development opportunities for the county by developing a strategic plan
- ✓ Evaluate new and innovative approaches for future non-traditional partnerships for economic growth
- ✓ Build a stronger regional partnership to seek grants and other funding
- ✓ Purchase equipment for the Road Department that will addressing the crumbling infrastructure of county roads
- ✓ Work in a collaborative effort with the new Central Transportation Commissioner to obtain additional funding from the state for qualifying roadways.
- ✓ Build a stronger relationship with state representation to seek appropriation for improved funding on projects for Jefferson County.
- ✓ Improve the appearance of the county by partner for future cleanup days