

## **From the Desk of Brent Shull**

Friends and Neighbors,

I am sure by now you are aware that I voted against the lowest bid on the Salt Barn. I was troubled by way the bids were delivered, labeled and presented. It was also troubling that the lowest bid came from outside of our community. There was roughly \$10,800 dollars difference between the next bids. That should have been a no brainer in the eyes of some people! But yet I was still hesitant with awarding that bid! "You may ask why?" \$10,800 dollars is a lot of money and it is taxpayer's money that the Town Council needs to be smart and frugal with. Yes, you are right; all of that money came from local taxpayers, homeowners and business owners. But not one dime was going to be paid to a local home or business owner with this bid. Instead It is going to a contractor out of our county and one that pays no income tax and I am not sure about property tax. One thing I do know is the town of Hamilton does not receive a penny of tax from this contractor. This why I made my decision to vote no.

I read an article out of USA Today explaining how the money stays in your town when you patronize local businesses, it states that local businesses build and sustain communities. When you use local businesses, you improve the economy, create jobs and keeps money flowing. It helps build your tax base, support local schools, fire and police departments.

A local contractor is more likely to buy materials from the local lumber company, use local accountants, banks and bookkeepers. When they make money they are more likely to spend their money locally and donate to our School and local charities.

Let's take a dollar given to this contractor and follow it, where it is used to pay for materials from a business out of town and we never see it again.

Lets see what happens if we give the dollar to a local contractor. It will go to a local business here in our community, they will pay their employee's with part of that dollar and they in turn will spend it at one of our local restaurants, gas stations and grocery stores... all local. They pay taxes here in Hamilton and that dollar will multiply right here in our community! Does that justify spending \$10,800 dollars? I think so!

Is voting against an outside contractor that will spend very little in our community and give nothing back worth \$10,800 dollars? In the larger picture, I felt it was! I felt our tax dollars should be spent right here in our community!!! This is why I voted the way I did!!!

Oh yes If looking out for my fellow taxpayer's and businesses is being part of good Old Boys Club, I am glad to be a member!!!

Brent Shull  
Hamilton Town Council President