

Follow-up Questions from Citizens on Industrial Park Article

1. What is the status of the funds to build a road through the Towns County Industrial Park? These funds were never awarded by the Federal Highway Administration. (Documented:) However, the funds to construct a road through the Park are available provided certain requirements are met, including that the property for R.O.W. be deeded back to Towns County.

2. What is a self-propitiating board for an industrial authority? What power does it have? A self-propitiating board is where the members set up in their by-laws the procedures whereby they name the person to be appointed including themselves when their term is up, thus keeping the board membership under their control for as long as the board exists.

Self-propitiating boards, where present members dictate who stays on the board, have tremendous powers and even dictatorial powers. They have the power to sell your public property and purchase property, issue tax-free bonds or even to take your property through eminent domain. Yet they answer to no one for their actions or to no official elected by you the people.

3. What are the differences on the issues that need to be worked out between Commissioner Kendall and Chairman, Jerry Nichols, Clay/Towns Industrial Authority?

a. The Clay/Towns Industrial Authority defends the self-propitiating board.

I strongly feel that boards wielding this much power should be appointed by officials elected by the people, then the elected official is held accountable by the people for the actions of the board members he appoints.

b. They defend board members doing work for the boards on which they serve.

I feel this is a conflict of interest and oppose board members doing work for boards of which they are a member. UPON TAKING OFFICE I ADOPTED A CODE OF ETHICS FOR TOWNS COUNTY and an Ordinance making it illegal for board members to do work or receive money or anything of value from boards of which they are a member.

c. Deeds were recorded taking all restrictions to create jobs off of some Industrial Park property, which was sold to developers.

I oppose this and strongly feel that if these restrictions are taken off, the property should be declared surplus and the law of selling surplus public property followed by advertising the sale, letting all citizens have a fair opportunity to bid and to get the best price for the public's property

If the above issues can be resolved, proper steps as required by the Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration (primarily: 1. Property for R.O.W. deeded back to the County. 2. Environmental study. 3. Conduct legal bid process) can be taken to make applications for funds to build the road through the Park.

