

I am very thankful that unlike 1992, today the county is fiscally sound with substantial reserve funds, a status that took years to accomplish. In this increasing complex and ever changing governmental arena a reserve is needed more than ever. Too often the situations facing county government are divided into rigid and distinct categories; too often services are crisis-oriented and organized around categorical funding; too often state agencies and funding criteria create barriers that keep positive action and functional communication between agencies and systems from meeting our citizen's needs. Having financial stability provides a strong position to negotiate rather than having to depend solely upon the discretion of state or federal bureaucrats.

Before I conclude, first and foremost I want to extend my deep gratitude and appreciation to the people of Mercer County for the honor and privilege to serve as your county commissioner.

Also, I wish to thank my assistant Linda Thomas who served me faithfully these many years and to all the department and agency directors to whom I have had the pleasure of being liaison commissioner. Throughout my tenure I have had the opportunity to be liaison to just about all areas of county government and believe that I gained more from our association than they from me. And to "all" my colleagues (all nine) I will summarize our interactions and relationships as...it was the best of times and the worst of times, but at the conclusion much was accomplished.

Finally, I believe that God sends people and opportunities into our lives. These are unique moments in time where the door opens wide and the immediate, and at times, the distant future changes. God has done this for me throughout my family life and my working career. Mature in that understanding...I always played the hand that was dealt. It is with this challenge that I leave office and look forward a new adventure.

Recess to Salary Board.

Public Comment: Vivian Moon voiced an objection about the 50K allocation. Ken Ammann asked about the land purchase, and stated he agreed with V. Moon regarding the 50K allocation. Treasurer Richardson asked about the closing date of the land purchase.

Questions of the Media: The Board answered questions posed by the press.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Mr. Seamans
Meeting adjourned at 11:37

Seconded: Ms. Lazor

Mercer County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Chief Clerk