



HAS YOUR NEIGHBOR, PERRY GROTEN OF KELOLAND, JOINED THE RANKS OF FAKE NEWS BROADCASTERS?

The next time you are out for an evening walk and catch Perry in his front yard, stop and ask him why he is faking the news to help Lincoln County raise your property taxes.

- Toward the end of April of this year, a local farmer organized an opposing voice to the Lincoln County Commissioner's February vote to build a \$50 million Public Safety Center (jail), without a vote of the people. His name is David Tuntland. Tuntland formed an ad hoc committee, raised some money and did a large mailing to Lincoln County residents **to alert them of the total of \$103 million (at least) in new taxes** which this 'Taj Mahal' of a jail would cost us.
- He raised serious questions about the need of such a huge jail, the cost and even the legality of the Commissioner's vote. He got our attention in large part because local media hadn't covered any of this.
- Tuntland received an email request from KELO TV's Perry Groten, after he received the mailing, asking if he could interview him. Tuntland replied, in an email, "I am a farmer and very busy now. To do a media interview in this matter **would be 'my first rodeo'**." Later that day he wrote that he was concerned to do a live interview initially because KELO had been too quiet on this major story. Tuntland then offered, "*Send me your questions by Email. I will answer them and provide you with a couple of digital pictures of me. If you decide to broadcast this story you can put one of them on air with any of my printed answers that you like.*"
- Wouldn't that be a reasonable approach for a novice to do his first media interview? But Perry Groten's response to Tuntland's proposal was....**silence!** It appears Tuntland's suspicion of Groten's attempt to do a **media bushwhack** had merit.
- **But it got worse.** Lincoln County Commissioner Jim Schmidt needed someone to spin a story on the "poor" condition of the historic Lincoln County Courthouse. *BTW, isn't not.* Why? Because the **Commission changed course** (7/28/2020) and now decided to put it up for public vote in November. Schmidt (apparently on his own authority) is trying to set the stage for that November vote. So he hooked up with Groten! Groten's story (8/9/20), found here <https://tinyurl.com/y2k7oj26>, was spun full of exaggerations, half truths and some lies. All of which went uncontested in **Groten's puff piece!** He didn't ask other Commissioners or even Tuntland if they might have a different view of the condition of the Courthouse.
- On air, Groten mentioned a July 15, 2020, air-quality report to substantiate "mold problems" in the old courthouse. The problem is that the **report said just the opposite of what Groten reported.** You can read it yourself here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ycqv8v>
- Groten either took Schmidt's word for it and never looked at the report, or took a copy and never read it, or did read it and decided to misrepresent it. All of which are what 'fake news' reporters so often do.

A group of Lincoln County citizens have been shocked at what we've recently seen of the arrogance, lack of transparency and wasteful spending of the majority of our Commissioners. In part, out of gratitude to Tuntland, we've now formed a Non-Profit Corporation and are working to educate local citizens as to the wasteful attitude of our majority Commissioners. We encourage you to speak out! For a lot more details check our FB page and website listed below. **But for today, if you run into Perry Groten in the neighborhood tell him to stop being a 'fake news' reporter.** Or contact him at: Ph 605-362-9192 or Email pgroten@keloland.com. **Thank you!**

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