

I have expressed concerns about Camden County's fiscal future for the last three years. I have counseled restraint and very careful spending. I have been largely ignored. Now the county is in real financial trouble.

For the last year, commissioners Greg Hasty and Beverly Thomas have voted for every spending "bill" to come before the Camden County Commission. My concerns have been routinely ignored while Thomas touted her accounting degree and Hasty referenced his four decades in business. While constantly claiming that my fiscal concerns for the county were exaggerated, Hasty and Thomas have put us in a financial ditch.

County government expenditures will outstrip income by nearly \$5 million in 2016.

In the 2016 budget crafted by Hasty and Thomas, serious cuts were made to the road and bridge and sheriff's departments in lieu of a large, unaffordable pay increase for county employees. When I suggested restraint and smaller raises, I was ignored.

I have repeatedly cautioned the other two commissioners about cutting services to pay for this pay raise. I cautioned that the hard numbers strongly suggested we were looking at millions in revenue shortfall in 2016. The numbers were obvious to anyone who can read a budget. This has been known for several months and is not a new revelation. This is information that Hasty and Thomas have consistently ignored.

I refused to vote for an unaffordable pay raise. I voted no for the 2016 budget and I even refused to sign it after Greg Hasty and Beverly Thomas approved this fiscal disaster. I have been repeatedly ignored.

Now comes the revelation that deficit predictions were low. The certified public accountant that Thomas and Hasty voted to hire says the predicted shortfall is more than the \$3 million I estimated. According to the CPA's numbers the county will fall \$4.9 million short in 2016 !

If Greg Hasty would spend less time lying about me and more time reading the budget, the citizens of Camden County would be better served. Government at all levels owes taxpayers budgets that make sense not run up huge deficits. My fellow commissioners are far more worried about re-election and nonsense allegations than serving the people of Camden County.

Cliff Luber
Your 2nd District Camden
County Commissioner