

Glenda Wiles

From: John Calsbeek [j.calsbeek@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Jan Wisniewski

Dear commissioners:

I was dismayed this morning to read the comments made by Mr. Wisniewski regarding "drunken Indians" filling jails, at the recent meeting. It does not matter if Mr. Wisniewski first declared his comment as that of a private citizen or not. The fact is that he is a trustee of Ravalli County, appointed the Chair of a county board by you, the very board whose meeting he made the comments at. It is completely unacceptable.

I have read Mr. Wisniewski's counselor's letter threatening the county commission to not violate his rights under the First Amendment. It is too typical to hid behind the veil of "free speech" in a case like this. Certainly the commissioners have the power and legal right to reprimand another county representative for insensitive and offensive racist remarks.

Further, the fact that you, the county commission as a body, have to take this much time to discuss and decide whether or not to apologize to our neighbors and fellow Montanans for the actions and words of one idiot is remarkable. The apology needs to be made simply because conduct occurred at a county meeting, which you all are in charge of. It is that simple.

Please do the right thing, apologize and then reprimand Mr. Wisniewski. Also, it should go without saying that come the end of his appointment term in December the commission board should not extend his appointment.

Sincerely,

John Calsbeek
Florence

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