

# C COMMISH INDY'S OMMENTS

“Talk is cheap.” “Time is money and money is time.” “A well oiled machine runs smoothly.” “If you don’t have anything good to say about someone, don’t say anything at all.” “He without fault cast the first stone.” And so on and so forth, you get the idea. There are numerous quotes and sayings to express noteworthy thoughts and words.

For the past several months District 2 Employees, as well as myself, have been attending educational classes on the various aspects of county government from hands-on technical training to proper official procedures. We are diligently working towards making Grant County run more knowledgeable and competent. With this being said I intend to address some of the issues facing Grant County.

First all, the general elections are right around the corner. Voters of Grant County will have the responsibility to vote “for” or “against” a self-imposed land line phone and cell phone tax to help fund E-911. E-911 stands for Emergency 911 and provides the Communications Center personnel with immediate address information on a 911 caller. This information is critical in providing immediate emergency services to the citizens of Grant County in need.

Calls to 911 should be reserved for emergencies such as: A serious medical emergency; any type of fire; any crime in-progress; any other life threatening situations (traffic accident with injuries, etc.).

If Grant County E-911 is passed, it will have multiple functions with two primary job functions within the Communications Center.

1. **Receiving incoming calls.** When a telephone call is received by the Center either via 911 or on a non-emergency line, the Telecommunicator collects the information from the caller. The information is then prioritized for dispatching.
2. **Dispatching the call.** The operator then dispatches the call to the appropriate agency or agencies.

If passed, the center will be equipped with the latest technology in order to maintain Grant County's commitment to excellence! It will be operated 24 hours a day seven days a week and will be responsible for answering ALL 911 as well as non-emergency calls for the citizens of Grant County. Not only will this be of great benefit to ALL citizens in Grant County it is also going to be being mandated by State and Federal Agency's.

Grant County, now is the time to “step up to the plate” and “become a part of the FUTURE of Grant County” and Vote on E-911 in November. Just for your information, E-911 is being federally mandated; if this does not pass we will just have to spend more money to bring it back to the ballot again.

Confused? Need more information? Recently I attended one class on “Open Meetings” and another one on “Open Record’s”. Both were very enlightening and very informative.

“The people of Oklahoma have an inherent right to know and be fully informed about their government at any level” – Title 51 O.S.

Grant County has more information on this E-911 system and is “Ready, willing, and able” to provide EACH OF YOU with any and all information you need and desire if you let us know.

In addition to being “open and upfront” about E-911, Grant County also does not have anything to hide from the people we serve concerning any aspect to the Open Records Law of Title 51 O.S. This is a “two-way street” between the public official and the public in general; both have rights and legal obligations.

Grant County is a “Public body” just as the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture or Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is a “Public body” and all are subject to the “Open Record” Laws. Please remember, “Public Records” should be accessible to the public; “Private Records” should be kept private, and used only for the purpose for which they were obtained. Informational privacy encompasses an individual’s freedom from excessive intrusion (such as the illegal use of taping phone conversations or allowing others to “listen” in on a two-way phone conversations) in the quest for information and an individual’s ability to choose the extent and circumstances under which his or her beliefs, behaviors, opinion and attitudes will be shared with or withheld from others.

As a Grant County resident, you need to be actively involved and know your freedoms and rights as a citizen. Likewise, you should protect the freedoms and rights of the government and employees of Grant County that serves you. “What’s good for the goose is good for the gander.” “What goes around comes around.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy R. Bobbitt  
Grant County Commissioner  
District 2