

*Comments from BLOG, FaceBook and Emails regarding Madison County Engineer  
Pay and Call for Procedural Audit  
June 2009*

No wonder it takes so long to get things done. What can I do to have this guy put away? This is thievery and he should be required to pay the money back and go to jail.

I smell a rat.

has any of the sups considered a lump sum bid for engineering services? Like advertising bids, have each engineering firm propose 2 designs and their relative costs for each. You bring more bidders and therefore more pricing competition to the benefit of the taxpayers. Sounds like you need a better purchasing agent not afraid of politics and new sourcing strategies.

For your information—If the service level provided by differing engineering firms is somewhat equal then why would our Madison County Supervisor's decided to pay at a higher price? While this article speaks directly to Warnock and Associates and what they have been paid; in reality it is more reflective of how our supervisor's conduct business on behalf of the Madison County Taxpayers. The decisions around the county engineer are so reflective of how other decisions are made – usually without a good financial handle on the issue at hand – i.e. the proposal to raise taxes over 20% and ultimately backing down to just 10% or the decision for Madison County to go back into the Garbage Business without a financial handle on proposed total estimated annual cost.

Thank you for your attention to this. It is highly appropriate and appreciated.

Wonder if it's possible to follow a money trail of these big bucks. This doesn't pass the smell test.

THIS GUY WARNOCK IS UP TO NO GOOD. I WOULD VOTE TO DROP HIM AND IF THERE IS SOME CHRISTIAN ENGR DOING THE SAME WORK THEN I WOULD GIVE HIM THE BUSINESS.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. What can we do about it/who do we complain to? What about WLBT, etc?

How nice to know that Rudy is doing so well...

Am I missing something, or is it not okay for someone to be contracted out to do work for somebody that they already work for?!!

It sounds like an inappropriate conflict of interest to me.

I usually refrain from commenting on political issues, but I have to be very open and honest about my feelings and thoughts with this matter - primarily because of the current economic crisis the entire country is facing at this time.

I cannot understand why the taxpayers must pay these attorneys, engineers and architects a percentage, rather than a flat salary like a majority of government employees are paid?

With the recent passage of the by-the-glass liquor law in Rankin County, the good times we have always enjoyed here in Madison County are going to be trimmed by the loss of tax revenues from our Rankin County neighbors.

Our roads are horrible but we have paid \$9.4 million to an engineer and then we are told there is a shortage of money to repair roads or build a much needed interchange at the Gluckstadt exit?

It is poor governance and pure greed that has placed our country in this fiscal crisis - don't you think it is time to revisit and revise these payment methods?

Too damn much, if you ask me. I assume that he doesn't get to keep it all, does he?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE MONEY FOR THE CONNECTOR ROAD AT THE END OF NISSAN RD? HAS MARY, TIM AND WARNOCK SHIFFED THIS MONEY TO ONE OF HER PROJECTS??? THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE MARY AND HER BAND OF CROOKS THE UNDOCUMENTED ACCESS TO THIS TAX PAYERS MONEY!!!

Wow, good gig if you can get it. I know Rudy and the appointees as well as the appointers. I knew of nothing wrong Mike did except not spin the appointers. Obviously, Rudy is an excellent spinner. This is padding like a 32-A trying to live life as a 39-DD. I know Rudy's family and he should be ashamed. Obviously, that element of self regulation is missing in Rudy. Pay Mike a visit, he will be dignified and diplomatic, I hope.

**No wonder he had \$600,000 to spend to run against Dick Hall. Why does the state Auditor or AG not get in this? They are absolute wimps.**

Thank you for your concern for the taxpayers of Madison County..  
This situation merits further illumination...  
Keep up the good work..

I wonder if the State knows about it?  
Who would that fall under, the State Ethics Commission?

Let us have the truth of the audit!

Wow; way to go, DI!

D. I., I am proud of you for taking on this task.

This will get interesting!!!

The performance audit, much like the county supervisors who voted no, is a "no brainer." The potential savings from auditing the Calhoun Station project alone (about \$300k) could pay for 100 comprehensive audits, to say nothing of the other \$9.5 million already spent. Anyone who doesn't want to see this happen is likely on someone's payroll...

I'm appalled by the vote of the Madison County Supervisors not to have the State Auditor or Attorney General investigate the money paid to Rudy Warnock. I thought County Supervisors were to protect the citizens not fill someone's pocket with money. What do we need to do as citizens to get an investigation into this problem done by the State? What are the Supervisors who voted against it hiding from the citizens?

Thank you for your efforts, along with Mr. Crosby, to try to see that our county gets "what it pays for". I find it very disturbing to see that constantly the other three Supervisors vote against the two of you to try to find out for the county, what and how much we are paying the County Engineer. It would appear to me that this information would be readily available to all Supervisors. Is there some "reason" the other Supervisors are unwilling to demand this information?

Also, do all Supervisors, or majority, have to agree on requesting an Audit from the State Auditors office? Or can this be done by the two of you?

I am not aware of the "rumors" about the difference in the payment to Warnock Engineering firm and the "actual cost" of work, but this sounds like a case for the Attorney Generals office. He also may be a "friend" of the other three Supervisors that sound like they have "self interest" in the Warnock Engineering firm.

Keep up the good work! Honesty will pay off in the end!

I appreciate your efforts for openness of information but sorry these are not or shared by more Supervisors.....

We are really making progress on this ill responsible spending and what I believe to be illegal contracting with a professional engineer.

D.I. is really to be commented on his actions, I am so proud of the way he handled himself in the board meeting. I believe his action is going to be enough to get the state auditor to take a more active action in their on going investigation. D.I. is a true public servant

Tim was also the President of the Board of Supervisors and was the leading force of the tax swindle a few months ago. He also has been pushing to spend millions on the Reunion Interchange that should not be strapped on the Madison Co taxpayers. He used to be a good guy when he was a city alderman in Madison. Now he is aligning himself with the two Democrats on the Board of Supervisors (Paul Griffin and Karl Banks).

These three are claiming to be against the investigation because of the cost associated with bringing the state auditor in. I think they are afraid of what an audit will uncover.

These same three have "boxed out" DI Smith and John Bell Crosby on numerous issues.

If you know of anyone in the Canton area that would be interested in unseating Karl Banks or someone in the Madison area to unseat Tim Johnson please let me know.

Great to see it in the C Ledger this am. Maybe that will bring need attention to the situation-----  
What about Mayor Hawkins/ Butler? Where does she weigh in on this?

Way to go D.I!!! Don't let this die.

I think that letting a commission conduct an internal audit is a big mistake and is not going to reveal all that is wrong if anything. It's a simple case of the fox guarding the hen house.

Warnock needs to be dismissed as county engineer. There is too much suspicion for the citizens of Madison County to trust him or his supporters on the Board.

Please keep this going.

What can we do to help get this stopped? The city is misusing our hard earned money. This makes me really angry that we can not at least get an investigation done to see if there is any wrong doing. Is there anyone at the state level that I can send a complaint to?

Good news! Keep up the good work!!

Thanks DI stay on there butts. This is past the point of ridiculous.

As you know, I attended the Board meeting yesterday to help with .... I ended up staying longer to catch up with what is going on in the County.

I just wanted to share one thought with you. No matter what personal opinion people might have about you and your actions, I was deeply saddened and embarrassed by the way you were treated. You did not deserve the bashing you withstood, and I hope you know that the people who watched these events unfold know it was wrong too.

Thanks for all you do D.I.

DI,

Thank you for being the voice of reason on the Board of Supervisors. It amazes me that the supervisors voted against looking at Warnock's invoices--this would not be an expensive or time-consuming procedure, and would clear up any questions that linger in any resident's mind regarding Warnock's process of subcontracting. Please continue to be the voice for citizens like myself who want to ensure that our tax dollars are being spent appropriately and with oversight.

Keep up the good work,

Keep fighting for us! This is an outrage! I am so glad you are not a part of the "good ole boy" shenanigans!

Again, thanks for all that you do!

So does this mean that the audit is dead, or is there another way to bring it back up that would be acceptable to at least one of the three "no" voters??

I appreciate you bringing this issue to light. So disappointing that the other three didn't support you and John Bell!!!

Thanks for the information, DI! I like getting your emails and staying informed. I forward them out to all my friends throughout Madison County!

D. I.,

I really enjoyed reading this release!

Hang in there - we can get this bunch of thieves!!!! and free the county from their control.

Thank you for taking the time to come up with a comprehensive strategy to address this situation. This seems to be a reasonable approach that should be acceptable to all parties. Many taxpayers will take great interest in this report.

The performance audit, much like the county supervisors who voted no, is a "no brainer." The potential savings from auditing the Calhoun Station project alone (about \$300k) could pay for 100 comprehensive audits, to say nothing of the other \$9.5 million already spent. Anyone who doesn't want to see this happen is likely on someone's payroll...

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Thanks for your continued support of the citizens and John Bell also.

It is obvious that the "Good Ole Boy" politics are still alive in Madison County. How long will the taxpayers of Madison County stand by and watch their hard earned tax dollars wasted? We need more Supervisors like you, Mr. Smith, that care about the citizens and not about their personal agendas. Madison County will hopefully one day move ahead to become a "World Class" county to live in when we stop this way of doing business!

**Great job D.I. Keep up the great service. We are very proud of you.**

**Why are Tim Johnson et al so opposed to an audit? Smacks of suspicion!!!**

**Good for you, D.I.! Thanks for your service to our county and state!**

**Just watched the story....keep 'em honest!**

**Mary and I just watched the story. Great job D.I.! Their voting against these items simply makes them look as though they have something to hide. Mr. Johnson told TV3 that he welcomed an audit from the State yet he voted against asking them for one. He wants to save the taxpayers the expense of an audit is why he voted against it!!! What a JOKE! ... Read More How about we do away with a contract engineer and hire a full-time county engineer that can NOT bid on county jobs! Talk about the fox watching the hen house. What a gig, get paid a flat fee plus expenses for being the county engineer and then bid on the same jobs with your private engineering firm and then bill the county up to 10% of the total cost of the job plus expenses. According to the recent article, Mr. Warnock is billing enough just on mileage and vehicle expenses to pay cash for a new vehicle about every 10 months, that is incredible!**

**Please keep the pressure on them and let the rest of know what we can do to help make an audit of these expenses a reality.**

**Let us know what we can do. Something is rotten in Denmark....er... Canton. An audit needs to be done. Tim better be serious about not running again. In the meanwhile, watch your back**

**We have two weeks to get petitions going again. We did it once, we can do it again.**

**Something has to be done. Now is the time. We can save our county millions of dollars if we stop this now. Thanks to the Madison County Journal for running this story and D.I. for doing the right thing. I have been upset about the County Engineer awarding his company the contracts since we were in Canton with our petition drive months ... Read Moreago. If this isn't a conflict of interest, I don't know what is. People, let's get behind D.I. and John**

**Bell Crosby. We could hire several engineers to just work for the county. Four or five engineers earning \$200,000 a year would be a bargain. No outsourcing. I say "Let's try it."**

**The problem is Rudy (the player) Warnock is good friends with Tim Johnson (Elvis). This is the reason why Timmy didn't vote for the audit.**

all for it!!!

I applaud you for standing up against possible corruption in Madison County. As an engineer that routinely proposes and costs out work, I have seen first hand how the rules can be bent or outright broken. The ethical way to compete for work is to cost out not only your involvement, but any subcontractors that will be involved. The total amount should reflect the subcontractors total contribution as well as yours and your organization.

An unethical method is to submit a proposal with costs for a turn key job by your organization, with full engineering costs based on your organizations labor rates. When the contract is awarded, a subcontract is let to do the bulk of the work at a fraction of the proposed cost. Thus the balance is pocketed by the individual or organization. In my opinion, the subcontractor is "on board" with the unethical firm.

It appears that Madison County wants to do an investigation. An outside audit is the most appropriate way to spend our taxpayers monies, not burden existing County employees or provide an opportunity for an internal coverup.

To appropriately determine misuse of funds in this case, the value of the subcontractors work must be assessed in comparison to the total services provided. This should be relatively easy to do regardless of who investigates this issue.

Thank you again for staying on top of this. The only way to stop corruption in local, state, and federal governments is to root it out and kill it.

This doesn't "Smell" right! We're BLESSED to have you looking after our district, and demanding accountability.

D. I., after reading the article about the supervisors meeting we just want you to know that we are in total agreement with you that there ought to be an investigation of Warnock's firm. We appreciate you and all you do to look out after the interests of Madison county residents and Dinsmor.

Let's hope what ever Arthur and his team turn up is clear and easy to understand so we don't get in to a long and drawn out expensive effort. Personally I think there will be multiple issues including the lack of specification on limits for subcontracting.

DI, keep the heat on!! As they say, Follow the money and you will find the crooks. All Madison County knows who they are. I hope Arthur does a DEEP investigation.

I just want to know who is going to play you in the movie...Clint Eastwood or George Clooney?

Clint Eastwood!

There should be two types of contracts that fall under a Performance Audit: 1) the overall contract that governs the operating relationship between Madison County and the county engineer and 2) there are individual contract for each project. I would suspect that Mr Johnston will find in almost all instances that compliance exists between the construction project contracts, the billing, and payments by the county. Best Practice review and Business Process review will come into play in the overall contract of the relationship between the county and the engineer. This is where the SLA is created along with deliverable results.

Several questions I have are:

- 1) On behalf of the county who negotiates these and all contracts?
- 2) On monitors all contracts and agreements for compliance?
- 3) To what degree is the BOS plugged into the oversight role?
- 4) Has the entire BOS had an opportunity to sign off on an internal review?
- 5) An Independent audit with persons have the proper skills is needed