

## DUNN COUNTY IMPACT ISSUES

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donna Scott, and I am a County Commissioner from Dunn County. I am also the former Emergency Manager for the county.

Oil development has impacted more than just roads. It's impacts are felt in all areas of the county. I will try to paint a picture of what is taking place in Dunn County to our infrastructure. It has become overwhelmed.

### **Law Enforcement**

Dunn County's law enforcement staff has grown from **one sheriff and two deputies** in pre-development years to its current level of **one sheriff and eight deputies**.

Here are some enforcement activity numbers, indicating an increase across the board.

2008 Traffic Citations ----- 1062

2011 Traffic Citations -----2386

2008 Criminal ----- 273

2011 Criminal ----- 345

2008 Felony----- 8

2011 Felony -----21

Numbers are up 500% since 2006.

The Dunn County Sheriff's Department has seen a marked increase in truck weight enforcements, increased calls from accidents and fights, to domestic abuse incidences.

As of January 2012 Dunn County has hired an assistant state's attorney to assist in part with the increased case load.

Our sheriff's department has seen an increase in budgetary needs.

**Pre-Oil Activity Budget 2007 – \$207,739.25**

**Oil- Budget 2011—\$456,717.00**

**Oil-Budget 2012—\$671,767.00**

Housing is also an issue for the deputies that are hired.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Development in Dunn County has gone from one part time Zoning Code Administrator to one full time Administrator. The county has also hired an Assistant State's Attorney to assist with our planning and zoning needs.

Prior to feeling the impact of oil activity, our Planning and Zoning Board met three times a year. That has changed to meeting once a month with amounts of requests much higher than in the past.

### **Zoning Permits Issued:**

**2009 - 11**

**2010 – 23**

**2011 – 121**

Subdivision development has gone from zero requests in the past 25 years to **seven** in the **last two years**.

As of August 2011, Dunn County has hired Ulteig Engineering to update our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code, due in part to the increase in the number of applications in the last year.

Six crew camps have been approved in Dunn County since development has increased. These approvals have made approximately 1,300 beds available. Housing is a concern for the county and this is a partial solution in helping to ease our need for temporary housing.

Dunn County's population is now at 3,500. With the increase of the crew camp population, this increases the county's population by a third.

A moratorium has been put on crew camps in the county until May 31, 2012, giving our county time to see how full these camps may become. What this will do to the county's infrastructure in terms of emergency services and law enforcement as well as the county service industry is an unknown at this time.

**Pre-Oil Industry 2007-- \$3,056.88**

**2011-- \$8,400.00**

**2012-- \$70,000.00**

### **Water**

A big issue that is facing Dunn County presently is the need for water. The need has been there for years, considering ranching and farming needs, but with there are new needs that face us. From fracturing of oil wells, to crew camps, RV camps, and commercial and industrial use, there is an increased demand for water. The cities in the county are in dire need of potable water. The county and cities are running out of water and are unable to meet the demands for developing housing, industrial uses, and commercial sites. Presently Southwest Water Authority is not able to meet these needs. Both the cities of Dunn Center and Halliday are low on water and cannot currently meet the demands being placed upon them.

### **Road Department**

A gentleman by the name of Bob Oshefske that works with the ND DOT assisted with acquiring numbers for the traffic counts in Dunn County. Killdeer was used for the numbers search.

### **Traffic count numbers:**

**July 2006 – 2,050**

**July 2009 – 3,325**

**July 2011 – 6,700**

I will speak of one road in Dunn County and the heavy “gravel truck traffic” that is on that road. The road is 19<sup>th</sup> Street. This road is coming

from Scoria Buttes east. In one 24-hour period, there were 448 gravel trucks alone on the road. This is not counting the cars and pick-ups that travel the road additionally.

Our road workers grade that particular road, and in 24 hours, one cannot tell that the road has been graded. This is taking place all over the county.

Dunn County has grown from 15 road employees in 2007 to 30 employees in 2011.

Budgetary costs for county roads has gone from \$2,250,000.00 in 2007 to \$31.2 million in 2011.

### **Emergency Services**

Emergency services is suffering from a crisis within a crisis. Volunteers are aging and quitting while calls are on the increase in both our fire and ambulance squads.

The Killdeer Area Ambulance squad currently has 20 members, with 3 paramedics, 2 EMT-Intermediates, 5 EMT-Basics, 6 responders and 4 members that are CPR certified. Killdeer Area Ambulance currently covers 467,067.71 acres of land in the county. This is 730 square miles. They respond to 65 square miles in McKenzie County as well as 33 square miles in Billings County.

The following is a comparison of assistance calls over the past four years and a breakdown of dispatches in the last year for Killdeer Area Ambulance:

2008-- 129 calls

2009- -115 calls

2010 --174 calls

2011 – 200 calls

Falls: 17

Motor Vehicle Collision: 55  
Misc: 55  
Assaults: 6  
Burns: 2  
Medical call to oilfield personnel not on site: 8  
Non work related oil trauma: 2  
Medical call to oil sights: 5  
Motor vehicle collision involving oil traffic: 40  
Oil related trauma on location: 10

**Halliday Ambulance**

Squad Members: 24  
EMT Basics: 8  
Advanced First Aid: 6  
First Responders: 9  
Certified Driver: 1

Halliday is responsible for 262,419 acres or 410 square miles in Dunn County and 109.75 acres in Mercer County.

Their run history is as follows:

2006 - 13

2009 - 25

2010 - 40

2011 - 36

Halliday's Ambulance Squad relies solely on its volunteer members. Calls are doubling and more severe calls are being answered. If the funds were available to hire permanent individuals to replace volunteers, we face a dilemma finding appropriate housing. One EMT is currently employed within the county and there is a need to hire at least one paramedic. However, there is very little housing available.

As of January 17, 2012 there are 39 oil rigs actively drilling in Dunn County. The ND Oil and Gas Division has estimated from 80-120 personnel are on each rig. If we figure 120 persons per rig that is approximately 4,680 personnel in Dunn County working on the rigs alone. This is greater than the total current population of Dunn County. We know that all 4,680 personnel are not living in Dunn County. If a medical assistance call comes into one of Dunn County's ambulance jurisdictions, it is their responsibility to answer the call and respond.

Many of the 911 calls being placed on cell phones are from out of state cell phones. This means the 911 fee does not remain in our state. These are monies that are funneling out of state.

**Ambulance Budgetary Costs:**

**2009 – \$98,830.03**

**2010 – \$118,000.00**

**2011 – \$201,132.00**

**2012 – \$404,000.00**

**Fire Department Budgetary Costs:**

**2009 – \$60,249.03**

**2010 – \$378,963.93 (Includes necessary equipment purchases)**

**2011 – \$166,792.60**

### **Social Services**

Applicants are coming to our Social Services office in Killdeer looking for help in receiving food and housing until they can find work. Typically there can be up to a 45 day application period before the applicant receives benefits. Up to 2009 the applications ran about 5 applicants per month. Currently 2011 there are 15 to 20 a month. Food stamps that were issued pre-oil impact were 40 recipients a month as of 2011 it stands as 80 per month with the projected increase of 150 a month.

### **County Administration**

The impact to county administration has been an increase in employees. There is also the difficulty in finding qualified individuals and increasing salaries to attract and keep qualified people. Auditor/Treasurer/Tax Director /County Recorder/Clerk of Court/ more traffic, more phone calls, more questions, and more email, which has made it difficult to do the normal requirements of the office.

**Auditor/Treasurer 2009 \$112,735.19**

**2010 \$137,590.32**

**2011 \$205,702.00**

**Tax Director 2009 \$44,088.00**

**2010 \$49,502.68**

**2011 \$61,653.00**

**County Recorder 2009 \$127,292.98**

**2010 \$136,323.68**

**2011 \$213,429.00**

**Clerk of Court 2009 \$38,113.91**

**2010 \$49,821.00**

**2011 \$61,279.00**

**2012 \$68,879.00**

## **Schools**

Our School Systems need housing in order to hire new teacher/replacements for retirees which remain in the community. From 2003 through 2009 5% of the Killdeer School teachers did not live in Dunn County. Today 25% of the teachers to commute from outside the county as there are no places to live within the county.

## **Day Care**

Daycare issues – Currently there are two Day Cares in the Dunn County with one in Halliday and one in Killdeer. Killdeer Day Care will be closing August 2012, due in part to the inability to hire. Day Care providers cannot pay enough to attract workers. If they could pay enough to be competitive with the oil field who could afford to use them?

Wages that are paid to wage earners have lured prospective employees from our local restaurants, grocery stores, health care providers, and manufacturing plants, gasoline stations, and other retail stores. There is no shortage of jobs, but rather a shortage of people, and yet not enough housing.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for allowing me relay to you information regarding the impact that Dunn County faced with. I also want to say that while there are defiantly challenges that we face, we are meeting them in the best way we can with the resources that we have available. Yes there are challenges, but North Dakota's best resource is people and they have faced and dealt with challenges in the past and I have every confidence that they will continue to do so in the future. Thank you again for your time in listening and helping to develop a formula that will help our counties deal with our demands on a local level.

Donna Scott

Dunn County Commission