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**From:** [T & K](#)

**To:** [Bishop, John](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2013 11:37 AM

**Subject:** Curry County Law Enforcement Facts:

John,

Below is text from an email I sent yesterday to a very good friend of my wife and myself. During a discussion Wednesday with my wife, the friend brought up the subject of law enforcement and her concerns. Those concerns were apparently based in large part on news articles she has read in the local paper.

The individuals name along with the first sentence of the email has been removed. Everything else remains. After receiving a very nice short email response last night, I decided to send this to you.

As always, thank you for listening and for taking the time to speak privately with me after the meeting Tuesday.

Tom (Huxley)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2013 4:39 PM

**Subject:** Curry County Law Enforcement Facts:

Last night I attended the Port of Brookings Harbor commission meeting in part because I learned Sheriff John Bishop would be speaking before the commission. During the public comment period I stated the following (paraphrasing).

**Curry County Commissioner LIES and Deceit continue. Discussed House Bill 4175.**

**With nearly \$35,000,000 in road fund reserves, in early February 2013 during a public meeting the Curry County commission chair (Smith) stated to those present which included the Sheriff, "July 1st is when we're going to have to go into a 2.1 (million) budget scenario. We're going to have to lay off 65 employees."**

**Days after defeat of the law enforcement tax measure in May, commissioners informed the media they were "borrowing" \$950,000 from the road fund.**

There is no borrowing involved. John is well aware of this legislation and what it allows. So are county elected officials, county counsel and the county roadmaster. We spoke at length after the meeting and I told John in no uncertain terms that for Smith to knowingly make the threatening statement in February with full knowledge that no one would be laid off was reprehensible.

When asked about the accuracy of the number of deputies referred to in a August 24 Pilot article given the \$950,000 "borrowed" from the road fund, John offered that more deputies were now being hired.

I continued, telling John that thousands of man hours of county employees time have been unnecessarily wasted while the deceit continues. He concurred and then offered that his staff had just spent an enormous amount of time gathering information requested by the Port Commissioners regarding the recent history of incidents logged by his department down at the port. I ended the conversation stating to John that he should in a public forum notify and educate the citizens of Curry County about House Bill 4175 as most are totally unaware of this "dirty little secret (HB 4175)."

Some individuals would argue that road funds should only be used by the road department to maintain county roads. The county roadmaster recently responded to a question regarding a list of roads which have been "accepted" into the county road system. The roadmaster could only recall three roads in the last 25 or so years. We pay federal taxes which in part go to fund various state road infrastructure and maintenance yet many of our roads are NOT maintained. Given these facts, should \$\$\$ sit in a road fund war chest while we pay more taxes? I think not.

HB 4175 allows for the transfer of road funds to be used for law enforcement and the patrolling of county roads by road deputies at least through the end of 2015. Commissioners could have transferred adequate funds for the Sheriff to hire 16 road deputies last year (not that such a number is required) and had a known funding source for 4 years. A companion Senate Bill 496 expands the use of available road funds to include direct and indirect administrative costs along with associated law enforcement dispatch functions.

Please click on the following link for more information. Please also feel free to forward this email to others who might be interested in learning the extent of this continued deceit by our elected officials.

I would encourage you to email John directly at [BishopJ@co.curry.or.us](mailto:BishopJ@co.curry.or.us) and ask him pointed questions you would like answered. Forward this email to him. He has always been very courteous in responding to correspondence I have sent him.

Tom

[http://www.currycountytaxes.com/curry\\_county\\_taxes\\_013.htm](http://www.currycountytaxes.com/curry_county_taxes_013.htm) This page is dedicated to House Bill **4175** that was approved by members of the legislature in early 2012. This bill allows Curry County Commissioners in seven Oregon counties to transfer available funds from the county road fund with **NO** requirement to return or pay back those funds to the road department. The Curry County road fund currently has available reserves which may be used that total nearly **\$35,000,000!**