

JOINT RESOLUTION 01-02-2013

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL OF
NEWTON COUNTY, INDIANA
SETTING FORTH AN AGREED STANDARD OF CONDUCT AND MISSION
STATEMENT FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, the Newton County Board of Commissioners serves as the executive body for the County of Newton, State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Newton County Council serves as the fiscal body for the County of Newton, State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, both entities and each of their members are in agreement that recent events and circumstances now provide for a unique opportunity to reevaluate and define the higher purpose of county government and its elected officials and representatives; and

WHEREAS, both entities further agree that identifying and adhering to fundamental principles and sound fiscal policy is central to the success and future of Newton County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, both entities further agree that a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct is vital to establishing and maintaining public trust and confidence in county government; and

WHEREAS, both the Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Newton County Council have determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Newton County to reaffirm their shared commitment to improve county government by acknowledging these basic principals and fundamental beliefs; and

WHEREAS, both entities wish to commemorate this agreement and understanding by formal resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by both the Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Newton County Council that both entities hereby resolve to adopt and adhere to the following principals and standards of government while in the service of the citizens of Newton County, Indiana:

DUTY TO THE CITIZENS OF NEWTON COUNTY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to treat citizens with dignity, respect, honesty and fairness. County officials shall properly administer the affairs of Newton County and promote decisions that only benefit the public interest. Newton County shall (*at all times*) consistently focus upon its primary mission of providing excellent local government services necessary to secure the safety, health, and welfare of its citizens, and to provide such services without placing undue burden on its taxpayers or resources

TRANSPARENCY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to perform their respective duties in keeping with the fundamental principle of an open and accessible government. All business of Newton County shall be conducted in compliance with the Indiana Open Door Law, and all

reasonable efforts shall be made to conduct the affairs of the County in an open and public forum. It shall be the goal of Newton County to foster an accessible and responsive process for citizen involvement, and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to hold the taxpayers best interests in mind at all times, and to evaluate all decisions with the objective of obtaining the best service or product for the County at minimal cost to its taxpayers. The parties herein reaffirm their commitment that Newton County must operate within its financial means, and all effort must be made to ensure that county government exercise the highest standards of financial stewardship and accountability, assuring financial stability for the taxpayers.

COOPERATION: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to adopt and develop a spirit of cooperation between the executive and fiscal branches, as well as encourage teamwork among all agencies, departments, and officials.

EFFICIENCY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to focus upon efficiency in County business by utilizing technology and other creative methods to maintain or improve services without unnecessarily increasing staffing or cost.

INGENUITY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to encourage creative and strategic thinking and to look “outside of the box” for solutions and improvements in local County government. It is in the best interests of Newton County to adopt a pro-active, innovative, nontraditional approach to program development and implementation.

PROFESSIONALISM: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to maintain the dignity and respect of their office. Each and every member of county government shall maintain a respectful attitude toward employees, other public officials, colleagues and associates, and maintain a positive image to the public at all times.

COMPETENCY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to actively promote public confidence in county government by performing the duties of their office to the highest standards. Newton County shall renew its efforts to promote effective and responsive Board decision-making at all levels of county government.


INTEGRITY: It shall be the practice of all elected officials, employees, and representatives of Newton County to faithfully comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the county, and impartially apply them to everyone. No member of county government shall at any time engage in outside interests that are not compatible with the impartial and objective performance of his or her duties. All county officials accept the responsibility that his or her mission is that of servant and steward to the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Newton County, its Board of Commissioners, and its County Council are in full agreement, support, and commitment to adhere to the forgoing

principles of government and to endeavor at all times to apply them to the governance of Newton County, Indiana.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners and the County Council of Newton County, Indiana upon the dates set forth below.

**NEWTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
THIS 2nd DAY OF JANUARY, 2013**



KYLE D. CONRAD



TIM DRENTH



MICKEY READ

**NEWTON COUNTY COUNCIL:
THIS 2nd DAY OF JANUARY, 2013**

LUKE ABBOTT




SCOTT CARLSON



GREG JOHNSON



CANDY HALL



TIM LOHR



SCOTT MADISON



MICHAEL MARK


ATTESTED BY:



SHARON DEWING
NEWTON COUNTY AUDITOR

DATE: 1-2-13

ATTESTED BY:



SHARON DEWING
NEWTON COUNTY AUDITOR

DATE: 1-2-13