Consider This Week's Words of Wisdom

Sometimes the best way to convince a man he is wrong is to let him have his own way.

**Ten Commandments for Open Meetings**

- **One** Do not allow executive session conversations to stray to speculating about possible or imagined lawsuits.
- **Two** Do not act on anything not listed on the posted agenda.
- **Three** Do not stretch the personnel excuse for executive sessions to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information, and the Iowa Newspaper Association and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, two groups to which the Carroll County Farm Bureau holds their elected officials to the standards below.
- **Four** Do not dial up the “negotiations” excuse to suddenly exclude a department’s job descriptions are policy decisions and not appropriate topics for a closed meeting.
- **Five** Do not stretch the personnel excuse for executive sessions to speculate about possible or imagined lawsuits.
- **Six** Do not allow executive session conversations to stray to speculating about possible or imagined lawsuits.
- **Seven** Do not violate the spirit of the open meeting law with frequent phone, email or text dialogues with other members. Reach consensus at the meeting. **Eight** Do not make a habit of whispering or passing notes at meetings. You are elected to speak on what you have to say loud and proud.
- **Nine** Allow other to speak, include everyone in agenda topics for a closed meeting.
- **Ten** Be as transparent as possible. Do not hold executive session simply because counsel advised it is “legal” to do so. As the saying goes, “If you do not know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else.”

**Letters to the editor:**

Farmer promotes healthy lifestyles in area

E-mail observer@win-4-u.net

**A Room Of My Own**

Today in The Observer and the Hamilton Post, we are featuring local artist Ruth Meth. Meth is known for her beautiful paintings and front porch sales at all the local outdoor markets.

**Auctions**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted Professional**

**Steel Buildings**

**Miscellaneous**