

Rancor continues at board of supervisors

February 27, 2023



At the board of supervisors, Branden Bieber of Smith River continues his quest to speak his opinions during public comments and on the consent agenda. The appearance of contempt and frustration both from Bieber and Board Chairman Darrin Short is palpable.

Bieber cites Brown Act permission to speak for up to three minutes for each agendized item. Short and the board limit public comments on the consent agenda for a total of three minutes for all consent items combined. On average there are between 18 to 30 items on consent.

Bieber thinks this arbitrary decision is unfair. Bieber continues to reach the 180 second threshold all too quickly and at first is gently urged to finish his comments and within a few moments, and then, not so gently, reminded by the Chairman his time has expired. In two previous meetings, Short has utilized the sheriff to clear the chambers on one occasion and asked Sheriff Scott to remove Bieber from the meeting the following two weeks, respectively

In his defense, Bieber says he's not trying to disrupt the wheels of government. He's attempting to exercise his Constitutional rights. Bieber admits he's frustrated by what he perceives as, in his words "an indifferent board."

Bieber continued, "Government should be working for the people, not just for separate political Sacramento interests which include indigent, poverty stricken folks, indigenous (Tribal interests) but also for people like me, the middle class."

Bieber sees his quest of peaceful civil disobedience as justification for violating an unfair time frame to express his grievances. Bieber emphatically states, “The board of supervisors is not listening to its constituents”

The Smith River resident said he became very interested in how the county was spending its precious revenue when he learned Public Health Officer Aaron Stutz, MD, was drawing a .5 salary of \$150,000 as the PHO for Siskiyou County, a \$156,000 salary as the PHO for Del Norte and committing an every-other weekend work schedule as the emergency room physician at SOUND Medical, emergency room contractors for Sutter Coast Hospital.

Bieber said, “Stutz’ hours do not add up. He resides in Siskiyou County, a ten-hour round-trip. When does he sleep?”

Bieber asked the board to investigate the inconsistencies in what Bieber claims as an unrealistic, grueling work schedule.

Bieber vows to continue in his words “civil disobedience” and hopes others in the community will display courage and follow suit.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, February 28, at the Flynn Center. The meeting starts at 10 a.m.