

Opinion: Silly Me, I've been Talking to the Wrong People!

February 6, 2025

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Anybody who attends local Board of Supervisors' meetings would naturally assume when addressing the Board about matters of importance which would allow the public to participate in a relevant fashion, the board might be somewhat interested in what was being said. Not so with our board, only whining and complaining allowed.

The local constituents should have issues with the way the BOS for years has handled the Consent Agenda and has grave concerns. A three-minute time period is all that is allowed to ask for some transparency about consent agendas which contain a bulk of the County's business, often as many as twenty to twenty-five items. Changes to this policy are routinely ignored and a majority of the County's business is passed 5-0 with near zero transparency or concern by the Board. Wouldn't want to have to work at it, when it is handed to you on a platter before each meeting? The only thing remaining is to sign off 5-0 on the dotted line.

This behavior is incomprehensible from ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES on the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors who often complain about the lack of participation by THE PUBLIC! Nothing like built in censorship.

Then again, why would this BOS want to be listening to those they represent? Shucks, THE PUBLIC, those wannabes! It is what the BOS is there for, you say? A blinding light! A moment of clarity! I am talking to

the wrong people!

When anyone views the agenda prior to a Board meeting, following each item on the agenda is the person who authored a particular item for the Board's attention. Rarely, for years have any items been authored by a member of the Board. If it does happen, it is even more infrequent the item is of any significance. Bold statement to follow...

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors takes its marching orders from the County's unelected! Director of Health and Human Services is by far the unrivaled leader of this pack, followed by the Executive, then the Department of Community Development. Most of the County's other unelected get in on the act at times, but clearly the Board is expected to rubber stamp everything the unelected propose. Why change a good thing for Supervisors Howard, Short, Wilson, Starkey and Chair Borges? No work is required.

Some of the Board appear to be involved in governance like Supervisor Starkey, others not so much, Chair Borges. When it comes to the actual process, it is hard to discern any deviation from the path so clearly delineated in a typical agenda. Why make a fuss, seems to be the typical response when items appear on the agenda and not a single important question is asked? Seems our venerable chief administrative officer has the answer. The questions are asked before the meetings and concerns are addressed, just out of the sight of the PUBLIC! How kind of the Board to be advised away from public scrutiny! And what those questions and concerns might be? Never to appear in PUBLIC! So Transparency! Pardon the intended misspelling is disturbing.

This "We know what's best for you" behavior is insulting.

It boggles the mind, a Board made up by five distinct individuals, with differing personalities, different outlooks on life, and definitely different ways of viewing the responsibility to the welfare of the citizens of their respective districts, can be so alike when voting on issues. 5-0 may seem like everyone agrees, but do the Supervisors really agree 99% of the time? Or, is something else afoot? Do the Supervisors of Del Norte County really call the shots or AM I TALKING TO THE WRONG PEOPLE?