

## Hypocrisy

### *Saying Anything to Push an Agenda*

The Elbert County BOCC, affectionately known as the Kabuki Theater, just keeps the entertainment coming. At last week's study session Herr Schlegel continued to illustrate how little he understands of the word hypocrisy. For years all we heard is the tired old diatribe that "government is the problem." At last week's study session he was touting the opposite, wanting the BOCC to "control" not only the appointments to citizen boards, but now he thinks that only the BOCC has the experience and leadership to control the rules these independent boards adopt to govern the way they function.

The particular issue concerned the Planning Commission (PC). Currently this board is staffed by nine persons some of whom are imminently qualified to serve this function and others who selflessly serve because they want to help Elbert County become a better place to work and live and to ensure that development occurs in a controlled manner and is not just accommodating a politician or developers greedy objective. The planning commission is not empowered to approve developments in the county. Rather their function is to review, ensure compliance with regulations and the Master Plan, to enable citizen review and then to recommend a decision to the BOCC for their action.

Organizations, such as the PC, our Fair Board and other committees have been in place and functioning for many years. Each of these committees adopt a set of rules that govern how they function. Herr Schlegel now wants to insert "more control" over these largely volunteer boards. He wants to set the number of members they may have and wants to insert the BOCC by having the BOCC "approve" of the terms by which these boards function.

In other words he wants more "government control" in local affairs. Such an intrusion should not be allowed for a host of good governance reasons. It is the boards themselves that know best how many members it takes to ensure diversity of opinions and interests. It is the diversity of these boards that ensures that a single vested interest, such as a county wide water district, does not lose the scrutiny and public review it deserves. Both Rowland and Schlegel have stated that they want only "ideologically compatible" member on these boards. That is ideologically compatible, "yes men" to Rowland and Schlegel's agenda. This would ensure that their agenda, and only their agenda, gets implemented despite the fact they represent a very small minority of Elbert County voters. What Elbert County needs is more grass roots involvement in local government not more "top down," ideologically driven antics.

Hypocrisy thy name is Elbert County Tea Party.