



Editorial

In My Opinion

Let me introduce myself, my name is Mike Phillips, I publish New-Plains.com and its affiliate Elbert-Grab.com. I have been a registered Independent for a long, long time. I am not running for office. I have NO political aspirations, I will not accept a government position of ANY sort, ever. I do not suffer fools lightly, I will generally give people the benefit of the doubt once, but if I find out you've lied to me, I'll drop a house on you. Let's just say I have a thing about honesty, and I'm damn tired of the political corruption and shenanigans in Elbert County.

On Saturday, August 20th, at a Tea Party gathering of about 50 people concerned about Karl Nyquist's proposed Water District expansion, ex-Sheriff Bill Frangis took the microphone and, intoned with high drama, confided that Commissioner John Shipper was going in for surgery this Wednesday (August 24th) and would not be able to cast his vote on the Water District issue. The crowd might have been actually taken aback for a moment, had the news not already been leaked like a sieve all over the place days before. Frangis continued that Commissioner Shipper severely injured his knee (two weeks prior) at the County Fair, was in extreme pain, and would be so heavily sedated that his vote would be illegal. It was all very dramatic; Frangis should give up his political aspirations to succeed Del Schwab as Commissioner and go into theater, it would be more honest.

First, I'd like to point out there were many folks in the auditorium who have had similar and worse injuries (torn, ripped, meniscus, etc.). It is not life-threatening, or critical surgery, it is elective surgery. Repeat elective, as you can schedule it at your convenience if you are very physically active (which Shipper is not) and it bothers you too much.

To say the crowd was unimpressed with Commissioner Shipper's excuse for not making himself available for voting on an issue that has been scheduled for a month (considering he has never been sighted limping around grimacing in pain), let's just say they were impressed with the gall of his excuse. They also recognized orchestrated bullshit when they heard it, and several folks went looking for the muck rakes.

It doesn't take the well entrenched politicians leaking it out for me to surmise that John Shipper really wants to be re-elected Commissioner. And it doesn't take a genius to figure out that Shipper is "cutting class" so he won't be responsible for the outcome of the vote.

Now, I've been confined to a wheelchair for a long time, and deal with a substantial amount of pain every single day. And I'm also sixty years old and not subject to wild irrational conclusions. So not lightly do I say; John Shipper is a sniveling coward too gutless to show up, face the voters, and actually do his job. Re-schedule your elective surgery for the day after you vote, take a Tylenol for your little ouchy, and act like a man. I'll be there on Wednesday, and I guarantee I can match you pain-for-pain and more. If you can't do that, if you can't represent the citizens who elected you, then you don't even deserve to be a Commissioner for one term, let alone two.