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2012 in Review

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Robert Rowland says we're sailing into 2013 with \$6,095.00 and some change in the County's General Fund. Del Schwab says we have \$626,446.44. *That's a real big difference, apparently someone is crooked or stupid; or both. We'll see if the County makes payroll and pays its bills in a timely manner in January, February, and March before property taxes start rolling into the dusty coffers.*

Kurt Schlegel has told department heads that they must be creative and work within their allotted budgets. That's why the County Clerk has to close the Motor Vehicle Department on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is urging any dissatisfied customers to not only write the Commissioners, but the Colorado Department of Revenue as well. *Contact the Department of Revenue because it's our understanding, according to the County Clerk, that the County is breaking Colorado law by not being open full time - not that our elected officials have ever been known to break the law or anything.*

Community Resource Services, which initially contracted for \$64,500.00 to help figure out the County Budget, had as of October cost the County about \$123,000.00 (*ever wonder why County finances are in bad shape?*). If we actually had an accounting system that followed National Accounting Standards, and not one designed to obscure how the BOCC is playing fast and loose with the General Fund...

The Compactor is still closed and there's very little information forthcoming about any reopening; just letters and fees relating to the Colorado Department of Health. *This fiasco lies directly at the feet of Commissioner Kurt Schlegel who publicly stated on numerous occasions his desires to do away with the Compactor. We are 98% sure he orchestrated the mess, and wish someone would sue the County and put ALL the players under oath to sort out the truth of why this once viable revenue stream is now costing us more legal fees and disruption of services to the citizens.*

Lark Fogel negotiated the Town of Kiowa's water problems with the receiver and got the citizens more water. She suggested that the County could save a great deal of money by resolving its legal issues. *We translate this as, if the BOCC didn't operate like bone-heads relying on short-term bandage solutions and rhetoric and actually fixed problems they wouldn't get sued so often and create compound problems.*

Jill Duvall was the first Commissioner candidate to suggest a recycling station at the Compactor, which was brought up by Commissioner Schlegel a few months later. *It continues to amaze us how most of the good ideas in this County come from Democrats (who are vilified as liberals and progressives) and then those very same ideas are co-opted by Republicans who promote themselves as innovators and founts of wisdom.*

The results of the Republican Primary seemed to amaze everyone except the 40% of Republicans who bothered to turn out and vote. *Rowland and Ross interpreted their win as a tea party grassroots swell "for them," whereas we think it was a vote against the status quo and the myopic way the County has operated for 20-years. Republicans seem to know something is wrong, but are loath to take any responsibility for their feckless selection of candidates actually qualified to perform the duties of the office.*

Neither Robert Rowland nor Larry Ross appeared in public forums to discuss issues with their opponents. *We attribute this to Democrats having facts and ideas and the Republicans mostly relying on pseudo-Patriotic rhetoric which they knew wouldn't hold up in an actual debate. Especially Mr. Rowland who has proven himself to be a serial liar.*



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process, charge you a bundle, and provide you incomplete information, so you can start over and spend more. This is all "revenue generation." You'd be better served to sue them and get what you need under the process of discovery. And as a bonus, someone might go to jail or at least get recalled.

Donald Pippin was allowed back in the County Building after having been accused of terrorism by Commissioner Schlegel. *(After the County spent time*

Steve Valdez, Sue Littlefield, and John Dunn all announced their intentions to become Commissioner - **and lasted about 20-minutes each in the good ol' boy GOP system. Steve Valdez keeps on pitching every election though, and we applaud him for the effort.**

The Courthouse/County Building turned 100 and was celebrated; Kiowa turned 100 and was celebrated. Gas and Oil Fracking at the Sylvester Well, named in honor of Chief Judge William Sylvester of the 18th Judicial District, was approved by the BOCC. **The celebration of the latter was much quieter, but will have a much longer term effect if a fracking accident at Sylvester pollutes the aquifers for all of us - at which time heirs of the judge will probably change their last name to "Jones."**

Open Records Requests still cost \$20.00/hour and the time searching for them cannot be verified independently. **So if the BOCC wants to continue to bury information, all they have to do is drag out the**

and legal resources for Schlegel's stupidity, and will likely cost more under Pippin's pending civil suit. Although his affidavit was "investigated" by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in 2012, Mr. Pippin believes that the new District Attorney, George Brauchler, will be more thorough in his research (**you know, the CBI would actually look at the accounting records and not just take the BOCC's word that everything was okeydoke**) and the affidavit will be resubmitted.

The food at the Republican County Assembly was much better than the food at the Democratic County Assembly. **We are shocked, just shocked that rich folks eat better than po folk.**

Well, that was some of the low-lights that went on in the County this year. For some of the high-lights and what went "well," we refer you to our index of past-articles for your reading pleasure.

Happy New Year. Let us hope 2013 is a better year.