Clark County misinformed again — our gain is a loss

After probing deeper, I learned today that our county owned golf course that staff told our Board in our February 23 hearing was profitable and finally making money, was actually losing money.

Back in the 1990’s Clark County Commissioners foolishly cosigned for a debt incurred by the Port of Ridgefield. The Port defaulted on that multimillion dollar debt on a boondoggle that has lost hundreds of thousands every year since.

Our county still owes $5 million on the property that was last appraised at $3.5 million. It’s not a park, nor is it considered a component of our recreation program. It’s a government run business that has been competing with the private sector at an annual loss.

The Comp Plan that Madore and Mielke approved in November moved the Ridgefield Urban Growth Boundary to include the golf course. That instantly appreciated the value from around $3.5 million to around $30 million.

The county could continue to run it as a money losing business, or sell it so it could become a business park for the private sector to create hundreds of jobs. The proceeds from that sale would more than pay for a much needed central precinct and jail upgrades for our sheriff if we elected to do so. The option could be considered later.

This video clip shows the three liberals repealing the sound financial decision and killing the potential option for our sheriff. You will also hear staff tell our Board that it makes money and will help fund our parks.

http://www.cvtv.org/vid_link/17885?start=5875&stop=7180

It turns out to be false. When we checked the numbers today. We learned that the one year (2015) that staff reported as finally profitable, turned out to be another quarter million dollar loss.

It is not in the making of errors that defines our judgment and character. We can forgive errors. Rather, our response to correct such errors is what defines our judgment and character. I asked staff today to reschedule a hearing so our Board can correct it.

The answer is no because the three liberals still want it as is. So citizens are suffering such lost opportunities with such unsustainable financial decisions that continue to mount week by week.

The “spirit of the charter” with staff surrogates sitting in the seats of what ought to be citizen representatives has reversed course for Clark County. No longer are we solving problems. Our Board is too busy reversing everything for the sake of undoing the accomplishments of the last three years.

How do you like the new spirit of the charter?
Mike Stupak, Lewis Gerhardt Jr, William Keith Mathison and 14 others

3 shares

Brian J. Rohan Appalling
Like  Reply  3  9 hrs

Brian J. Rohan What does Stewart know about business? How long has that golf course been established? Is she for real?
Like  Reply  4  9 hrs

Dennis Fuqua Thanks for keeping us so well informed. But I very sorry this is happening.
Like  Reply  1  9 hrs

Douglas Kazda So Clark County taxpayers have been subsidizing this golf course for a number of years? Glad to know the money I contribute is managed so well!
Like  Reply  1  9 hrs

Kurt Mach I am not aware of any government owned businesses that have ever been profitable. They do not have to live by the make money or die law of the real world. The people that run them risk nothing. They can just appropriate more public money to keep the doors open.

Sadly, they compete with real businesses for customers. The people who frequent them pay twice and their real world competitors are forced to subsidize them. It should be criminal.
Like  Reply  3  9 hrs

Diana Dave Boswell So this is why my property taxes have gone up over 100% in 10 years?
Like  Reply  1  8 hrs

Aaron Glanville I like enjoy playing at Tn-Mountain, but the county would be better served to sell the course. Shame the board members who are unable to make tough choices but are willing to pull the wool over our eyes.
Like  Reply  3  7 hrs
David Clark Keep exposing the lies and corruption!
Like Reply 1 6 hrs

Butch Grumbly It's all about go against republicans and not about solid government.
Like Reply 1 1 hr

Barry Weyhrauch A government owned business losing money?! Whaaaaaat?! *sarcasm*
Like Reply 1 hr

William Keith Mathison It is criminal
Like Reply 1 1 hr
Butch Grumby It's all about go against republicans and not about solid government
Like  Reply  1  Yesterday at 5 20am

Barry Weyhrauch A government owned business losing money?! Whaaaaaaaat?! *sarcasm*
Like  Reply  Yesterday at 6 00am

William Keith Mathison It is criminal
Like  Reply  1  Yesterday at 6 00am

Caroline Plumlee What a trio of knuckleheads Not their money, they don't give a damn
Like  Reply  23 hrs

Raisa Dyer Corruption III
Like  Reply  23 hrs

Brittany Sund David Madore could you please post the documents showing the losses? I would be interested in seeing the figures
Like  Reply  4  22 hrs

David Madore Brittany Sund, I asked for the records Staff said it will take some time to provide them I plan to share them as soon as they are available
Like  Reply  10 mins

David Wheeler Sounds like it's as profitable as the Hilton Convention Center in the 'Couve And as profitable as the Clark County Amphitheater All built with the help of the taxpayers And those two entities are the answer to why the county and City of Vancouver fought the casino in LaCenter so voraciously Gub-mint don't care much for competition
Like  Reply  1  21 hrs

Jim Johnson Let me guess now- the solution will be to halt you from posting here on FB, along with not being able to talk to Staff directly? If we need to know, then the newspaper can just tell us (or not)
Like  Reply  1  21 hrs

Margaret Tweet Now County Manager Mark McCauley and a former County Manager strongly urged the county council (prior to David Madore) NOT to go to bid for a county contract. Best business practices? http://couv.com/10-year-contract-renewal-for-tr
Like  Reply  19 hrs  Edited

Josef Pfister Amazing Just amazing
Like  Reply  10 hrs