

>>> John Sakowicz <sako4@comcast.net> 01/20/20 11:39 >>>

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I've been asked to be more specific about my reasons for asking you to pull Calendar Item 4m from Tuesday's Consent Calendar.

Specifically, the history of ownership of 631 South Orchard Street has, at the very least, the appearance of impropriety.

The purchase of 631 South Orchard Street has the appearance of a bailout by the County.

It stinks.

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo, RQMC's Timothy Schraeder, and RCS's Camille Schraeder, in figuring out a way to buy back the Orchard Avenue property from Redwood Quality Management Company (RQMC), which bought the property a few years ago with a special grant from the County in a deal that was aborted mid-grant before any construction began, is essentially bailing out RQMC.

Remember when 631 South Orchard Street was one of two primary sites under consideration for an as-yet undefined Measure B-funded mental health facility?

I refer you to the following from a Board meeting last year: "Consent [sic] Calendar Item 4i: "Ratification of Purchase Agreement, for the Purchase of Real Property in the Amount of \$423,000 Located at 631 South Orchard Street, Ukiah; and Authorization for the Purchasing Agent or Designee to Sign and Execute Any and All Agreements, Amendments and Other Documents Related to the Purchase of Real Property at 631 South Orchard Street, Ukiah (APN No. 002-340-44-00), and Authorize Chair to Sign Same"

The Consent Calendar Item 4i never indicated where the \$423,000 would come from. (Measure B?) Nor did the Consent Calendar Item explain why the County had to pay for the property in the first place, since it was paid for with tax dollars to begin with.

As Mark Scaramella of the Anderson Valley Advertiser pointed out, why ask questions now?

"Mendocino County has never missed an opportunity to hand over large chunks of unaccounted for cash to Redwood Quality Management before — why stop now?"

I'm strongly suggesting to you that the Board needs to understand the convoluted history of 631 South Orchard Street, the history of ownership and aborted programs, and how public funds were used in the past, and how public funds are currently being used -- or misused, as the case may be -- before the Board votes to approve the resolution described in Tuesday's Consent Calendar Item 4m.

The County-RQMC-RCS relationship is just too cozy. It cries out for an independent financial audit.

Transparency and accountability in government aren't just buzzwords; they're everything.

At Tuesday's meeting, I'm just asking you to tap the brakes before you rush to approve Consent Calendar Item 4m.

Give the public an opportunity to know what's really going on with the County-RQMC-RCS relationship at 6321 South Orchard Street, Ukiah.

Give some context. Some history. And please do it in plain English.

Thank you.

John Sakowicz, Candidate, Mendocino County 1st District Supervisor