

Ravalli County Commissioners

From: Philip Tummarello <pjt803@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2013 11:18 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Website Email -

Dear Commissioner Burrows:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issue of Jan Wisniewski's reappointment to the

Ravalli County Planning Board. I would like to take this time to address an issue raised by former commissioner

Rokasch. My recollection is he asked the commission to investigate the costs incurred by Ravalli County

taxpayers on behalf of all religious institutions. In that regard I would like to advise the commission that

Mssrs Inconshola and Long are practicing Catholics. I have attended mass with Tony Inconshola at historic

St. Mary's Mission in Stevensville on several occasions.

To my knowledge, The Salish-Kooteni Confederated Nation is not in and of itself and religious organization. In

the event I am mistaken, please feel free to advise Mr. Rokasch of this: in 2013 Catholic Relief Services provided

medical and other temporal aid to over one hundred million persons in ninety-one countries around the

world without cost to those aided. The only requirement was being in need. Whatever tax-exemption has

"cost" taxpayer's has more than been offset in demonstrable and quantifiable material advantage to the general

population. The Catholic churches in this county as part of the Diocese of Helena have contributed to this

mission of alleviating human suffering.

I find it rather ironic to have witnessed the invectives directed by Ms. Grandstaff who called the

commissioners "heartless" and Mr Rokasch's statement that the members of the commission were "woeful

human beings" then are publicly morally outraged by comments reported to the commission from someone else

in Hill County by Mr. Wisniewski as being "racist". The purpose of racial slurs is to demean the group to whom

they target so as to communicate the targeted group as being somehow less human. In my view, this is

precisely what the comments made to the commission by the two former commissioners was attempting to

achieve. If they directed those comments the tribal council members, would that be racism? It was solely

Mr. Rokasch who interjected the matter of skin color when he stated he was "ashamed" to have the same color

skin as Mr. Wisniewski. Apparently this statement had some sort of internal relevance to what Mr. Rokasch was

saying in his prepared remarks but sadly, it escaped me.

May I ask if there is any record of Ms. Grandstaff or Mr. Rokasch publicly denounced the participation of

the late Senator Robert Bird of West Virginia as a grand dragon of the Klu Klux Klan. Mr. Byrd admitted to such

and yet served in the U.S. Senate for approximately forty years and was also the majority leader of the Democrat

Party. The KKK participated in reprehensible crimes against african Americans of lynching, fire bombing, beating,

humiliating, intimidating and otherwise degrade the personhood of all persons of color, Jews, and Catholics.

Please inform me of any public statements as members of the Ravalli County Commisson by Ms. Grandstaff

and or Mr. Rokasch on that issue or if they communicated in any manner Senator Byrd should resign.

Sincerely:

Philip Tummarello
Stevensville