



CITY OF ELY

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White Pine Board of County Commissioners
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Sent via email to: wpclerk@whitepinecountynv.gov

Dear Commissioners,

I was surprised to see item 1.C.2 on your agenda for this week's meeting. Considering the time, effort, and work that both the City of Ely and White Pine County put into reestablishing the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) barely three years ago. This was an unanimously pursued endeavor that also had wide support from the community.

Abolishing the RPC would be a poor course of action for the following reasons:

1. Without the RPC there would be no appeal process for property owners and/or developers seeking variances or zone changes or other redress. Their only course to pursue would be costly litigation, an unnecessary expense for taxpayers. Of course, the City and County could respectively establish their own Planning Commissions but why set up and staff two separate boards to do the job of one.
2. The progress that has been made in the past few years with the RPC has included, but not limited to: bringing in uniform building codes between the City of Ely and the County, together with our shared Building Official; created a uniform process and one-stop-shop for property owners and developers; and contributed to a greater sense of cooperation in our community. Discounting these and other benefits by abolishing the RPC would be a step in the wrong direction.

I have heard concerns that the RPC needs to have its own legal counsel as the every-other-month tradeoff between the City Attorney and the DA's office is awkward and onerous. I can see some of the validity in that, and perhaps the County Commission and the City Council should consider allocating enough in their budgets to allow the RPC to hire counsel for the limited need they have for their one meeting a month.

I have also heard the concern that there are those who resent another board of "non-professionals" having a say on planning and property use issues. To that I would point out that legislative bodies and

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boards of determination in our country are not typically staffed by “professionals” but by chosen community members who are placed there to review the information and make sound judgement calls. In short, when our country needs a rocket scientist, we don’t elect or appoint one; our elected/appointed bodies hire one.

With our housing needs and our communities on verge of some steady growth the RPC will be a valuable tool. I would respectfully request that agenda item 1.C.2 be quashed and would ask that there be an opportunity for the City and County to jointly address any operational concerns for the RPC that may exist.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Nathan Robertson
Mayor