

# The Rio Rancho Tea Party

Volume 1



May 2014

## Where's the Beef?

### SURPLUS IN UTILITIES FUND...AND THE CLOCK KEEPS TICKING

They say government moves slowly. Define slowly. The Public Works Department has a \$15 Million surplus in the Utilities Fund from the water rate increases that began over a year ago, and we expected to see evidence of the much-needed water projects by now. After all, that was the point of the increases.

The water service line replacements that have begun along Pecos Loop are actually being paid for with the \$1.047 Million accepted from the State last September, and the surplus remains unused. Not surprisingly, the contract for replacement of the first 550 service lines did not go out to bid until January 2014, even though the City received the State funds in September 2013. TLC won the contract at \$1900 per line and work finally began this March. Just as the momentum was building, city staff wasted valuable time trying to push the second contract for 600 additional lines to OMI at a cost of \$3000 per line, without having to go out to bid. The Governing Body was adamant that

this should go out to bid, yet the city website still does not reflect a bid request.

Before that bid request goes out again, we have to ask - wouldn't it be smarter and cheaper to "buy in bulk", as some city councilors have suggested and pushed for? Staff should put the contract out to bid for 1000-1500 service lines at a time, to get us a bigger bang for our buck. With 14,000-15,000 service lines to replace, time is money and we are losing an estimated half billion gallons of water a year through these breaking lines.

Other utilities projects the City has known about for years and are included in our ICIP (Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Plan):

- 4 wells need re-drilling
- 2 waste treatment plants need updating
- 4-5 storage tanks to build
- Land needs to be bought for direct injection sites
- 13,000 acre ft of additional water rights to purchase

We realize big projects take time to plan and execute. However, given that they have known about these issues for years, now is the time for action. The City Manager runs the day-to-day operations of the city. He manages his department heads and should accept responsibility for how quickly things are getting done... or not. The Governing Body should not have to micro-manage.

We believe the City Manager should put forward a formal quarterly report to the Governing Body and Utilities Commission on what action is being taken toward these goals. The citizens deserve to see tangible proof that there is forward movement on these projects. No one wants to believe bad things will happen, but should a well go down, this could lead to peak water demand issues putting the city in a real pickle. Sure wouldn't want to be the City Manager if that happens.

#### June 2014 Meeting Agenda

- Guest Speaker — New Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull speaks on the FY15 budget.
- Primary Election Results Watch!

## RRPS Should Take Lessons From Its Own Anti-Bullying Campaign.

A line has been drawn in the sand, and Rio Rancho Public Schools does not want AIMS charter school to cross it. It seems RRPS needs lessons from

its own anti-bullying campaign. They've been on the attack since hearing the nationally-awarded AIMS charter school was preparing to add a second campus in

Rio Rancho. RRPS Superintendent Sue Cleveland and others hinted that the Governing Body might deny UNM West further funding from the higher

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# CORE VALUES



We are dedicated to constitutional freedoms, free markets, limited government and fiscal responsibility.

Our commitment to seeking truth and accountability is the hallmark of the Rio Rancho Tea Party.

## RRTP Executive Board

The RRTP is non-partisan & takes no official stand on social issues. We unite on our core values.

## RRPS Should Take Lessons from Its Own Anti-Bullying Campaign (continued)

education GRT for future buildings if they lease space to AIMS, prompting Councilors Wilkins and Scott to put forward a resolution to clarify the Governing Body's position on this matter. The resolution approved by the Governing Body stated that the City would welcome AIMS and would not withhold future funding from UNM West under the higher education sales tax due to AIMS leasing in the current building.

Unfortunately, RRPS has persisted in its attacks. School Board president Carl Harper stated in the Journal (April 26) that "AIMS will be paying a sweetheart low rent to UNM". However, the amount is set by the State of New Mexico, and is yet to be determined. AIMS and UNM have indicated the lease is temporary, and UNM West's lack of enrollment involves many factors that will not change overnight.

The City is currently paying UNM West \$ 1.5 million/year toward its 60% commitment for the original cost of construction of the building. That money will cease flowing to UNM in December 2014 when this obligation is fulfilled. From a business stand-point, it makes sense that UNM is going to have to make up for that supplement in some way, while still dealing with low enrollment at their campus. UNM owns 220 acres at the City Center, and we will be watching them closely to make sure the full-service campus is realized. In the meantime, bringing a second AIMS campus to UNM West acts as an incubator for future students, who will hopefully populate that campus in future years.

The irony of this situation is that last year many of the people whose mantra was "don't give up on our kids" during the higher education

GRT election, now seem more concerned about maintaining a monopoly on Rio Rancho educational opportunities and funding. This school will provide a high-quality alternative for Rio Rancho families. One size does not fit all.

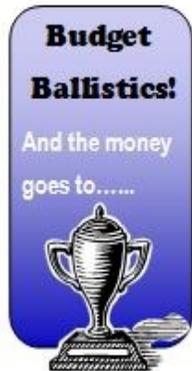
One of the Rio Rancho Tea Party's core values is supporting free markets. We believe competition will make everyone strive to be better. RRPS should stop flexing its muscle and extend its hand to welcome AIMS to Rio Rancho. If the school does not do well, then RRPS has nothing to worry about.

In the interest of seeking truth, we are hosting guest speakers Kathy Sandoval, Director of AIMS, and Dr. Wynn Goering, Director of UNM West at our May 6<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting.

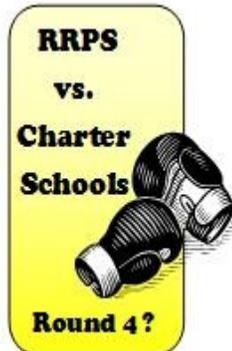
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Our fresh new website is just what the doctor ordered! We promise to keep it relevant and informative, with just a dash of humor. Add us to your favorites!



*We've got your back!*



## Standing For The Fallen Saturday May 17, 2014

TO BENEFIT SOLDIERS ANGELS GERMANY AND OUR WOUNDED HEROES AT LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

### MOST NEEDED DONATIONS:

- (ALL DONATED ITEMS MUST BE NEW)
- PLAIN WHITE UNDERSHIRTS AND PLAIN T-SHIRTS (M, L, XL, CREW NECK ANY COLOR)
  - LOUNGE/ SLEEP PANTS (M, L, XL, ANY COLOR)
  - DEODORANT, SMALL SIZE PREFERRED
  - LIP BALM
  - TOOTHPASTE (ANY SIZE)
  - SOCKS (WHITE, ANKLE OR CREW LENGTH)
  - GOOD DISPOSABLE RAZORS (TRIPLE OR QUAD BLADE) **NO REPLACEMENT BLADES**
  - NAIL CLIPPERS
  - GOLD BOND (OR SIMILAR) FOOT POWDER AND BODY POWDER
  - SHORTS, BAGGY BASKETBALL TYPE (M, L, XL, ANY COLOR)
  - SHAVING CREAM (AEROSOL CANS, TRAVEL SIZE)
  - MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED

### LOCATION:

RIO RANCHO  
528 AND SOUTHERN BLVD  
(IN FRONT OF WALGREENS)

### TIME:

8:00AM-5:00PM

