

Follow the money

As I remember, the residents of the town of Eagle voted down Eagle River Station in January 2010. How is it that the Town Board has essentially approved ERS and the final vote is Feb. 14?

Call me ignorant, but I thought this issue was off the table. I decided to do some research to find out who composes the Eagle Town Board of Trustees and why they insist on steamrolling ERS. The following connections I found to be noteworthy:

Mayor Ed Woodland: An attorney who specializes in construction litigation, commercial litigation, estate planning and probate.

Scott Turnipseed: His company Scott S. Turnipseed AIA specializes in custom residential construction and custom residential architecture. Not to mention architecture consulting and commercial development. It seems obvious as to why commercial and residential development would be in his best interest. Perhaps his company would stand to make a substantial amount of money?

Scot Webster is a real estate agent for Slifer Smith & Frampton. Houses built mean houses to buy and sell. Need I say more?

Tom Boni, Eagle town planner, is a big proponent of Eagle River Station and in an excerpt from an article in the Eagle Valley Enterprise, Boni states that at "full build-out of both phases of development, the town estimates ERS would bring in excess of 1,700 jobs and 1,200 employees. ERS consultant planner Tom Braun said the developer believes about 500 employees will be needed for the first phase of the project."

As many people before me have stated, these jobs are temporary! They will drive the economy temporarily. Once the building is complete, we will have empty store buildings and empty houses, and those of us who love Eagle will be left to feel the ramifications of foreclosures and negligible property values.

Construction jobs have been driving this valley since the '90s. It's time for our esteemed Town Board to find a solution to create jobs that aren't related to construction and real estate. Maybe try to attract a company like Hewlett-Packard. But when half of your Town Board has something to gain from development, it doesn't bode well for land preservation.

Eagle River Station and Haymeadow won't die until there are new members of the Town Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission (who are appointed by the Town Board of Trustees).

Several of the members of the Eagle Town Board are up for re-election in April. Make a statement and vote against them, or better yet, run against them! Save our valley, and make your voice heard!

Erin Mundo Eagle

Vail Daily Feb 9, 2012