

Commissioners have some explaining to do

To the editor:

I cannot seem to get out of my mind commissioner Barrette's offhand comment that it would be "not unreasonable to ask the taxpayers of Sullivan County to foot part of the bill for the nursing home."

There was a time, generations ago, when county farms were the last resort for the elderly poor and local taxpayers did foot the bill. But that was then and this is now.

Now we all send almost 20 percent of our earnings, on top of our regular income tax, to Washington to support Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. That money pays many facilities, including Sullivan County's nursing home, to provide that care.

A few years ago the then-county commissioners had put in place a management consultant who knew how to bring that money to Sullivan County and had run the facility so efficiently that it we were told it self-funding improvements and actually showing a profit.

But our new commissioners were so anxious to impose their political ideology that they fired the consultant, tried to impose their own ideas and so degraded the operation of the nursing home as to produce a huge deficit.

I hope that we voters have learned our lesson, that we cannot trust the management of our county's business to ideological amateurs.

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