

The other side of the story...

SPET: Bundled and Bamboozled

Can we trust the SPET Ballot? There's \$77-million in spending proposed; are projects described fairly? Descriptions have been **beautified**. They've been highly polished to sound more attractive. And there's a good bit of 'bundling' in some of them, too.

Our electeds 'polished' especially hard on the \$22M Rec Center Expansion and the \$8.5M Gregory Lane makeover.

Rec Center Expansion

Prop 9 reads: "Teton County/Jackson Recreation Center Expansion and Renovation, Community Climbing Gym, King Street Extension, and Stormwater Treatment."

Any 'bundling' in there? Why combine the Rec-Center with King Street extension and Storm Water Treatment? What do those items have in common? Answer: Nothing. It's all bundling.

Why isn't Big Government addressing infrastructure as part of its ordinary, annual budget? Maybe they overspent elsewhere, maybe on outside-the-box projects voters would never have approved?

Truth is, our electeds overbuilt town and that's created a traffic problem. Voters never had a chance to vote on overbuilding, more congestion, more traffic. But they're now letting us decide if we want King Street hospital access. Maybe we want King Street access to come out of the general tax collection, not out of SPET?

Ask yourself, is most of the \$22M going to the indoor climbing gym? Not likely. This SPET item is, in fact, a street redesign.

It's carefully 'wordsmithed' listing the shiny new Rec Center things the public would like. Then, as if an afterthought, they slipped in a new street and stormwater treatment.

Most worrisome? Any unused funds collected will be used to operate the Rec Center. That's illegal. Rec Center operation is an annual operating budget item, not a SPET capital project. And, if they can't afford to operate the Rec Center now (they can't), why should they be making it bigger? Maybe Prop 9 is one big budgeting shenanigan?

Gregory Lane Redesign

Is Prop 6 the same kind of hoodwink? Ask any elected what the \$8.5M is for and they'll say, "sidewalks so kids can get to school safely." Maybe the real story here is years of neglect and slipshod zoning?

Gregory Lane is mostly Industrial Park. It's been the dumping grounds for anything and everything town didn't know what to do with. Welding shops, beer breweries, auto body business — all crammed onto an awkwardly twisting road.

Maybe the entire area does need to be cleaned up, but billing it as a safe sidewalk for school kids is disingenuous. It creates distrust. Is Gregory Lane something that should be funded through SPET, or just a normal budget item?

Some think Big Government is hijacking a popular and useful tax mode, SPET, to build their Big City dream. But a Bigger and Grander Jackson Hole isn't what most folks want.

Bottom Line

Are these two SPET items any more than town and county covering their budget shortfalls? If we vote yes on this, will our electeds keep doing it over-and-over until we eventually vote no? Is SPET fueling the urbanization of Jackson Hole?

Ask yourself: Are our electeds focused on a "Livable Jackson Hole" or do they just want more, more, more? Vote carefully.