

Good morning. There's a resolution to appoint David Schneyer and George Conklin to fill vacancies in the Sunset Lake LDC, whose qualifications appear to be that they are two good old boys with no particular expertise with nursing homes. There's also a resolution to approve medical services contracts for nursing and medical staffing for the ACC to some agencies in Virginia and New Jersey. Those contracts have sidestepped our HR department, for Infinitecare to administer, although they are still only supposed to be acting as consultants. Our HR department should be doing all the hiring and firing, not Infinitecare. I'm not at all surprised that the departing legislators would want to get their last shots in their project to jettison the ACC, but I suggest that both these resolutions should be tabled, at least. Certainly Mr. Conklin should recuse himself from any vote putting himself onto the LDC board.

The LDC is empowered to do whatever they want without any further input from the legislature. The Chair of the LDC has now long exceeded his 2 year term without being reappointed, as has Mr. Bockman. Neither of the LDCs formed in the first year of this legislature have followed their own bylaws, so there could be litigation against anything they did. The LDC has recently shared very misleading advice from their counsel, stating that the county is bound by the lease contract and can't withdraw from the CON application process or disband the LDC. Actually, the only contract in effect with Infinitecare is the consultancy contract, which can be broken with 30 days' notice. I'd like to hear an opinion from a lawyer who represents the taxpayers' and ACC residents' interests, rather than from an interest in privatizing the ACC. The public has shown that they have little trust in Infinitecare's abilities both through our election results and through an unprecedented show of opposition for the CON. Don't think that CON is a done deal. The Sunset Lake LDC is an ongoing problem, not a solution. In my opinion, all actions concerning the LDC and the ACC should be tabled for the next legislature to deal with rather than continuing to poison the well.

In closing, don't expect my thanks for the departing legislators' service, except for Ira, who hung in to do the best job he could, preserving his own dignity despite the contemptuous way he was treated. I've sat here watching over 3 years of legislative meetings, after Mr. Doherty's malicious attempt to sell the CHHA motivated me to step up as a community activist. Sadly, the CHHA has shrunk to about ¼ of the size it was before I retired five years ago, with a very high turnover rate, and the ACC went from 5 stars to 1 star. Many capable staff have left prematurely, and many county departments have been depleted or outsourced, weakening public services for those in need, due to the county's mismanagement. Nobody talks about it, but maybe that's why our opioid overdose numbers have not improved. I know that many Sullivan

County residents are as angry as I am, and I can't pretend to feel thankful for anything but the end of Doherty's dictatorship. I hope the new legislature will take the time to look closely at the true state of the county, hold people accountable who acted with impropriety for Doherty's agenda, and reestablish a healthy work culture among themselves as legislators as well as for the entire county workforce.