

I am saddened and disappointed by the lack of foresight shown by the Select Boards of Hubbardton and Castleton in the decision to sell the CVS building to a private entity. This is truly a blow to the citizens of these communities.

Concerns were mentioned that the proposal submitted by the Recreation Department and the Boys and Girls Club would not cover the operating costs of the building. The original cost given to the committee, composed of private citizens and members of the Rec. Department and the Boys and Girls Club, was \$80,000. With figures based on other Rec. Departments from cities all over the state, a 25% utilization of Rec program memberships, plus the rental income from the Boys and Girls Club and the daycare, covered the operating costs. It was expected the program would grow in intervals over 2-3 years. Other revenue avenues were to be accomplished through grant writing and fundraising. The citizens were committed to have this vision succeed!

With that being said, it seems the revenue producing capabilities of a robust Rec Department under the leadership of a full time director was not even considered. Rather the sentiment of "taxpayer burden" was the focus.

If a lease is negotiated with the Rec Department and the private entity owner of the building, there is no budget for that in the Rec. Department's figures. Ultimately, the taxpayer will need to provide the lease money by an increase in the Rec. Department's budget.

Ironic, isn't it?

Respectfully submitted,  
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Castleton resident