

## **Arbitrarily Stifled**

Wainscott

October 2, 2011

Dear David:

The Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee meeting last Saturday was advertised as an opportunity for citizens to ask questions of the local candidates. When Bill Wilkinson was asked the inevitable questions regarding Wilkinson Twomey Krupinski Metropolitan Airport (W.T.K. on your ticket), everything quickly went south. Two questions were asked, neither of which was actually answered by the supervisor, and emotions grew a tad testy.

At that point, Diana Weir, longtime Republican operative, and co-chairwoman of the committee, disallowed any further questions regarding the airport, despite the fact that it is of primary importance to many of the people at the meeting, including our 165 constituents in the rapidly growing Quiet Skies Coalition. I am not sure under whose authority Ms. Weir arbitrarily stifled our community's questions, but that is what occurred. No vote to muzzle us was taken, yet we were muzzled sure enough. If she had a black bag handy, she might have put it over my head —just for trying to ask a W.T.K. Metro question!

At any rate, I would like to (safely) share the question that I expected to ask of Mr. Wilkinson. It is this: In a time wherein you, Mr. Supervisor, specifically acknowledge the severity of the local and national economic situation, and the scarcity of public monies, how do you justify spending millions of F.A.A. dollars (read federal taxpayer dollars, our money, not some donation from Bill Gates) to make improvements at an airport that mainly serves a tiny fraction of the wealthiest elements of our community?

Furthermore, why are you so intent on improving the rich man's W.T.K. Metro, while local transportation via our dilapidated highways and substandard rail lines slips further and further into a state of dysfunction comparable to that of Myanmar and Mauritania? Isn't this a clear case of capitalism for the poor and socialism for the rich?

One other question: Is it not an indisputable fact that the vast majority of people in this town derive no benefit from W.T.K. Metro, while many of us suffer continual detrimental effects? (Now that is an easy question to answer.)

Sincerely,

**BARRY RAEBECK**

Chairman

Quiet Skies Coalition