

I'm tired, yes I am tired. I'm tired of months of negativity. I'm tired of the unending criticism. This Board has been labeled as irresponsible, as unqualified and as puppets of special interest groups in our community. Unfortunately our critics operate exclusively on social media. This band of eight, eight apparently very unhappy residents have been quick to publish posts that take known issues within our aging community, often elevating those issues far beyond their true merit, often using plagiarized quotes taken of context to generate fear and distrust.

Let me begin with the social media rhetoric around our water system. Yes, it is a 50 year old system and it is showing its age. If you were to believe the social media posts of one resident, the water is unfit for consumption, we're draining the aquifer and the system lacks the volume to provide fire protection for our community. All of those allegations are false. Our water is perfectly safe per the Arkansas Department of Health, we are not at risk of depleting the aquifer and our Fire Chief with 35 years experience assures us his department has the tools it needs to fight any Holiday Island Fire.

Additionally there is continual chatter about the water system leaks. Yes it does leak, sometimes leaking 60-70% of what is pumped back into the ground and eventually the aquifer. We know it leaks. We don't like that it leaks. Known leaks are repaired quickly but the vast number of leaks are not visible or able to be detected. We have had experts using state of the art listening and visual technologies attempt to find the leaks without success. What's left is to begin excavation and replace the water system. Some rough estimates place the cost of that project at 60 to 75 million. Obviously we don't have that kind of money so it would have to be borrowed. We estimated repayment would cost every property owner \$150 to \$200 per month and would take at least 35 years. Are you beginning to understand the pain of solutions. Help us with solutions, not constant reminders of the problem.

Now let's talk about the golf operations. Golf was the key driver behind the formation paper written in the 1970's by the MacCulloch Corp when they formed our community. Now, over 50 years later our community golf courses continue to define for many what Holiday Island is and how it is differentiated from the rural countryside of NW Arkansas.

Very few golf courses operate profitably. They nearly always require some fashion of subsidy. Normally that subsidy is accepted by the community because of the green space recreational opportunities they provide.

The cost of operating our golf courses has increased along with inflation. Our efforts to control expenses has been outpaced by operation expense. We need to do better. A recent evaluation by a Florida golf consultant has added additional fodder to the social media buzz. First of all, this wasn't an audit as the band of 8 have labeled it. We asked the consultant to view the operations and give us his opinion, nothing more. His summary was presented to the Board on

December 19th and we will be discussing his suggestions in the upcoming weeks. Some of his recommendations are worthy of consideration. Some just don't fit outside of his Florida environment.

My point is that for the band of 8 to take Mr. Cowman's summary, cherry picking numbers from the summary and accusing this Board of gross mismanagement is both terribly wrong and extremely judgmental. Publicly stating on social media that his Board is made up entirely of golfers making golf operations decisions to benefit ourselves and other golfers could not be father from the truth. In fact, only one member of this Board even plays golf regularly. This Board is committed to doing the right thing. We most likely won't appease everyone. Lines will be drawn and conversations will take place but reset assured, this Board is committed to changes that will positively impact the operation of our golf courses and associated services.

I conclude by saying that the continual cyber sniping by this group of keyboard critics does far more harm to our community than any of the supposed problems you repeatedly report. None of you attend our meetings, none of you communicate directly with your Commissioners, you just sit in the shadows and post, often without regard for facts, the truth and never offering solutions. That's why I'm tired.