

THE FUTURE OF H2GO IS IN YOUR HANDS – HOW WILL YOU DECIDE?

HOSMER/LAUB FALSE CLAIM: From HosmerLaub.com:

“Our opponent [Jeff Gerken] has fought against cheaper rates and healthier water for H2GO customers. If left up to him, the plant already would be dead and so would H2GO.”

HOSMER’S TRUTH: From court record for litigation with Belville to save H2GO from takeover and dissolution:

December 11, 2017 email from Steve Hosmer to Belville Mayor Allen:

“Hello Mayor,

I have been working as a citizen to raise awareness and interest in making sure that Belville successfully acquires all of H2GO.

Some of us plan to be at the courthouse on Wednesday. Would you please call me so I can understand what, if any, role we could play to support your cause.”

JEFF GERKEN’S TRUTHS:

Only through Gerken’s quick action and partnering with Leland, was the complete and unlawful takeover of H2GO by Belville shortly after the November 2017 election averted, and the Belville plan to dissolve H2GO thwarted. Don’t believe it? Read the Superior Court ruling issued on April 22, 2019, and the accompanying highlights, available at GerkenBradley.com. Related documentation and media coverage are also available there.

Without Gerken’s leadership:

- H2GO would no longer exist, and there would be no H2GO election to vote in
- former H2GO customers would be paying their water and sewer bills to the Belville Public Works Commission,
- the 91% of H2GO customers who live outside Belville would have no voting power over the leadership of the Belville Public Works Commission, and
- everyone would be paying more for their RO water from H2GO/Belville than they will be under the regional agreement with Leland and Belville.

ANOTHER HOSMER/LAUB FALSE CLAIM: From HosmerLaub.com:

“He prevented H2GO customers from getting clean water, creating a delay of over 2 years. Finally, faced with a possible loss in the November elections, and under pressure from Leland, he suddenly decided to support the H2GO aquifer-RO solution. Will he change his mind again after the election? Who knows”

JEFF GERKEN’S TRUTH:

The proposed compromise plan with Leland and Belville was made possible not by any actions of Hosmer or Laub, but by Gerken’s leadership in refusing to allow the unlawful Belville takeover to succeed, and in calling for regional discussions as soon as the court ruling was handed down, in order to prevent any further delays in moving forward. The proposed agreement with Leland and Belville will accomplish the following, which despite the claims of Hosmer and Laub, they had nothing

to do with and never proposed – with the sole exception of the agreement to construct the reverse osmosis water treatment plant:

- Belville returns H2GO's assets – without any of the onerous conditions that Hosmer and Laub had proposed in late 2018 that could have easily resulted in the assets reverting right back to Belville
- Leland's water customers become H2GO's water customers, increasing H2GO's customer base from approximately 10,000 accounts to 13,000 accounts.
 - The transfer of customers will allow for a wider customer base across which to spread the costs of the construction and operation of the RO plant, resulting in significantly improved financials
- Leland also turns over all of its utility assets and its substantial dedicated enterprise utility fund, which will result in a near doubling of H2GO's assets and cash, further improving the financials of the RO plant
- H2GO builds the RO plant

WHY THIS DEAL IS SO GOOD, AND WHY GERKEN AGREED TO IT:

- Through the deal with Leland, H2GO will be in a significantly better financial position to avoid future rate increases, and to possibly even roll back the rate increases instituted in 2013 and 2014 to raise cash for the RO project.
- It is the deal with Leland, and the infusion of cash, assets, and customers, that allowed Gerken to support the proposed deal and agree to build the RO plant. For Hosmer and Laub to ignore the hard work and months of negotiations that went into the proposed agreement and to try to mislead voters into thinking it was a “sudden” decision to support the RO plant based on nothing more than a desire to win re-election and to succumb to “pressure” from Leland is without any merit and shameful. Absent the potential significant financial benefits to HGO customers made possible by the deal, Gerken would not have agreed to build the RO plant. And Gerken most certainly doesn’t consider Leland’s agreement to turn over utility assets and customers to H2GO that will almost double its asset base and significantly increase its customer base to be “pressure” – he’d instead call that a very sweet and advantageous deal indeed.

FURTHERMORE...

- Hosmer and Laub have aligned themselves so closely with Belville, and against Leland, that they have neither established any working relationships with any officials in Leland, nor have they ever proposed H2GO partnering with Leland in any capacity. Quite the opposite, in fact. If elected, how can they be trusted to work with Leland for the benefit of all H2GO customers, not just those who live in Belville and Compass Pointe?

A FINAL THOUGHT:

- If Hosmer and Laub can’t tell the difference between unlawfully giving everything away to Belville in order to get the RO plant built, and instead working with regional partners to find a solution that both gets the plant built, and at a much lower per-customer cost than “going it alone”, then do they really deserve your vote?