

To my HAVASU 6000 friends:

Mark Nexsen opened a swap meet booth for his political campaign and re-election. He also passed out a new brochure, which you can find on my website; <http://www.billullery.com/wp-content/uploads/Nexsens-brochure.pdf> I'm encouraging everyone to read the thing.

Dub Campbell, a Nexsen supporter, visited our "*stop the sewer fee*" booth and we had a nice chat. (I've used Dub's concrete in some 500 DBU homes over the past 20 years.) Dub claimed responsibility for the brochure and the cost of printing. But, for sure, Nexsen wrote the text, which included an accusation of me using a charter to raise property taxes by \$80 million for a new college at Contact Point. Amazing!

How did Nexsen invent all that stuff?

Perhaps it started several years ago in a meeting in city manager Richard Kaffenberger's office on the university project. Mayor Nexsen attended as did I (as HFHE Executive Director), and several HFHE officers (Floyd Hamilton, Steve Greeley, Jo Navaretta). At that meeting, Kaffenberger suggested an educational tax district very much like what the voters recently approved for WAVE-JTED (about \$8 per year per average home). Everybody agreed including Nexsen and I put it into the HFHE business plan for the university campus.

Months later, I did personally negotiate the basic agreements with ASU. However, ASU wanted clarification on the campus proposal, a progress report on the acquisition of the BLM land, and a report on potential bonding and financing of the proposed campus. (The BLM 320-acre site, which mayor Jackson and I worked on, was valued at \$128 million. The city now has that lease.)

I then organized a meeting at city hall between ASU top brass, some HFHE officers (Ullery, Greeley, Navaretta), mayor Nexsen, and city manager Kaffenberger. Nexsen provided the city's bond expert who led the discussion. ASU had lots of questions on how the tax district might work and how the funding might be structured. ASU also offered the services of their Washington D.C. -- based lobbyist for BLM issues. As we adjourned, I thought the Kaffenberger proposal and Nexsen's bond consultant sold the new campus deal.

Simply contact Mr. Kaffenberger to verify the details; rickyk909@yahoo.com cell:702-325-4639. There are also minutes of those meetings.

Subsequently, the economy crashed, Havasu lost population, school enrollments shrunk, and the school district closed and mothballed the Daytona site.

Which was then offered to ASU at no cost. ASU liked that option as it would give them an opportunity to start small at a downtown site. But, ASU also wanted HFHE to raise \$2 million for Daytona campus renovations, which we did from private sources. There

were no tax dollars required for the initial campus project. Indeed, the school district saved thousands by getting a tenant for its shuttered Daytona school.

Thus, the Contact Point campus proposal was scrapped and ASU accepted the Daytona site. We met our obligation for the start-up campus.

In my opinion, possibly 15-20 years into the future, because of space limits at the Daytona site, any major ASU expansion could be accommodated at the Contact Point site and done totally with state funding.

NAU Flagstaff is now at about 20,000 students and that's exactly what I expect of ASU-Havasú. And yes, I want it sooner than later...

If we can simply get ASU to 6,000 students, we will see an economic impact of about \$150 million per year. Currently, Havasu's entire tourism industry impact is only about \$177 million per year. And, the wages on the average for a tourism-based economy are depressingly low. That we must change!

The campuses at Tucson, Tempe, and Flagstaff were built with state funding! Just a few years ago, the state even gave \$5 million to NAU for a building at its Yuma campus.

And, that's exactly what I expect for Havasu as I hope we can add a building at the Daytona site in the near future. We must demand our fair share and an equal level of state support for our new university campus!

So help me God...that will come to pass. We will grow our new small ASU campus into a major university and we'll do it with state funds. That's my vision!

I don't believe the politicians we now suffer under have a vision.

One final question...will Dub continue to lend his name to a "*Straight Talk*" brochure with Nexsen's lies and miss-representations? Quote; "*The proposals by Mr. Ullery for his Havasu 6000 are a vehicle to create his unwanted charter for Lake Havasu City that will allow him to raise your property taxes by \$80 Million for his new college at Contact Point. DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE ULLERY TAX BILL. SAY NO TO NEW TAXES.*"

Check the facts with former city manager Kaffenberger.

Hmmm...what about the \$25 million the city has done in big corporate tax rebates and incentives? What about the Olive Garden deal and how much did Nexsen offer them?

Within a few weeks, I'll publish a series of columns on such issues including the contents of Nexsen's brochure.

But, Nexsen is the only announced candidate for mayor. The city won't even have election packets available until about March 1. Good heavens...is Nexsen actually worried about what I might do?

Your thoughts?

Bill