

## Using Non-Profits

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I just read a “news” article at SunValleyOnline which has caused me to respond to the consolidation effort in a way I never thought I would.

I can hardly fault fine folks like NexStage advocates John and Laura Grabow and others involved with some of our great non-profit organizations, including the YMCA, for supporting the consolidation effort:

[http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005124966&var\\_Year=2009&var\\_Month=02&var\\_Day=25](http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005124966&var_Year=2009&var_Month=02&var_Day=25)

If you were tempted with a huge carrot of money to “create a theater hub near NexStage” or “fund events/convention/ice center next to Y” from the theoretical \$2 million in annual tax savings from the consolidation, wouldn’t you? Take a look at Sun Valley City Councilman Dave Chase’s “news” story at his business, SunValleyOnline, where he started a “list of the ideas how those savings might be used”:

[http://www.sunvalleyonline.com/news/article.asp?ID\\_Article=6512](http://www.sunvalleyonline.com/news/article.asp?ID_Article=6512)

If the intentions are to use these “tax savings” for pet projects, then this looks more like a continuation of the Ketchum financial policies that got them into this current predicament in the first place. Spending the “saved” tax money this way would surely not make government more cost efficient. Some of these ideas are certainly nice and could help the community, but financing them through an unsustainable level of tax savings and the destruction of a stable government, borders on recklessness. It brings their true motivation into question in my opinion.

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