

From John + Molly Morton

**Susan Philp**

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**From:** johnandmolly morton <johnandmollymorton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2015 7:17 PM  
**To:** Susan Philp  
**Subject:** A Much Better Idea

Hello Susan,

I dropped by the other day to discuss the P&F project but you were in a meeting. Thought I would follow up with this email.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why the Town of Basalt would ever entertain the idea of selling their Crown Jewel to a developer. It makes no economic sense and clearly there are no guarantees a hotel would ever be built. That's a big risk to take.

In hundreds, if not thousands of small European villages, there is always a Hotel d'Ville. These hotels, which anchor town gatherings, restaurants, stubli, galas, etc. are owned(for the most part)by the town itself! And financed originally by the citizens of the village. In many cases, the hotel will pay dividends back to the townspeople who have financed the hotel with taxes.

It is such a simple idea that it seems the powers to be in Basalt have not considered this option. The most important thing is that the Town of Basalt would own the land and the hotel for generations to come and would distribute dividends to everyone who pays taxes here.

What is required:

1. A bond offering raising capital for purchasing the land and construction of the hotel.
2. And not any hotel. A special hotel will charm, character, warmth with multiple dining options, terraces, fireplaces. Not just another box. My god, I cannot comprehend the lack of originality from the architects. A 'Wedding Cake' design for your boutique hotel. It looks absolutely sterile and unwelcoming. The hotel I envision would attract thousands of persons just wanting to visit it, dine there, stroll around the grounds. Like the Romantik hotels in Europe; or La Posada in Santa Fe. There are NO hotels in this entire RF valley which truly have charm and character. NONE. Not the Jerome. Not the Nell. Not the Limelight. So, you and the Council have an opportunity to create something so unique, so inspiring that generations to come will thank you.
3. And it will be Basalts! And everyone will be so proud to have something built which exudes warmth and charm and character. And the townspeople will support a bond offering. I am certain of that. But only if the bond offers a reasonable interest rate and only if the hotel, once successful, pays out a dividend.

I urge you to look at this option and not go forward with a developer who only plans to build 60 ugly condos and maybe, only maybe build a hotel at a later date and who really knows what this 'boutique'(catch all phrase to get your vote)hotel will really look like.

All of you have a responsibility to entertain all options and this is another. And, most importantly, the Town of Basalt will have their own Hotel d'Ville forever.

John and Molly Morton  
Basalt