



VILLAGE UPDATE

Thursday, January 26, 2017

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

If you follow the media, you will know that questions are being raised about newly-elected Councillor Eileen Wilke's qualifications to hold office. The municipality is subject to the privacy provisions of the provincial *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*, and to the law of defamation, so I am restricted in what I can prudently say about the entire matter. Here are the facts in the public domain that I can disclose.

At 4 pm on Friday, the day before our Saturday, Nov. 19 by-election, the Village Manager/CAO received a call and package of documents as described in the January 24/25 articles in local print and other mediums. He immediately contacted Elections BC and our lawyers, to be advised that there did not appear to be anything in the materials which would disqualify the candidate under BC or Canadian law. With no grounds for cancelling the election or candidacy, the municipality was obligated by law to hold it.

Subsequent to the election, the CAO met with Squamish RCMP, who confirmed that they too had received a package of transcripts and cover letter. They advised there was nothing for the municipality to do, and indicated the RCMP would be taking no action unless requested by the Ontario Provincial Police. If you have concerns regarding community safety, the Squamish RCMP are the people to call.

Even when the half-story broke in the press, the municipality was not at liberty to blurt out whatever crossed its corporate mind. Any remaining facts are part of a civil case now before the courts and therefore something I cannot comment on. At the risk of repeating myself, we the body corporate, Council and staff, were and remain subject to the privacy provisions of *FOIPPA* and to the law of defamation.

I can say that the Village's lawyers are confident that neither the Village, nor its officers, nor its elected officials, did any wrong. I remind you, the law is what Council does. Thank you to several residents who wrote to say that they recognise and acknowledge that, and what local government, even in little Lions Bay, could and couldn't do here.

Today on behalf of Council I have accepted Eileen's resignation as Councillor. The deplorable vitriol spewed out by social media trolls that brought this resignation about--some directed at me and Council, often with identical misspellings, most of it irrational, and all of it only half informed--angers and disappoints me. We have lost more than a Councillor. A by-election will be held in due course.

Here's hoping we can soon return to the so many better things we have to do.

Karl Buhr

WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

Public Works have been able to access both the Harvey and Magnesia Creek Intakes and have cleared granular debris consisting of sand and gravel from in front of the intakes. The water system is fully functional and water restrictions are no longer required. Thank you for your assistance in this matter as it does help a great deal.



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

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