

Subject: Anger management: Ongoing dispute with Council, Management and Ms. Shana Burrows

Date: Tue, 4 May 2004 00:06:08 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: "Clr. Ernie Crist" <criste@district.north-van.bc.ca>

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, council@dnv.org, James_ridge@dnv.org

3 May 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

Copies of your recent exchange of email correspondence on this matter have been received, read and considered. There is no doubt that it is a touchy subject, with both sides claiming the moral high-ground. The following comments are made in the absence of some of the pertinent information. They are made, also, in full recognition that you are not likely to agree with them.....

This matter has been ongoing since 2001. You point out that you apologized for your behaviour and that, in your opinion, the embers have been re-ignited recently for political purposes, with no further action on your part to trigger Council's reconsideration. With regard to your contention that you have no need for anger management since, in your opinion, you did not yell in anger.....the only comment I have is that, like beauty, anger often is most clearly seen in the eye of the beholder.

While I have no personal doubt as to the presence of a 'political' component, I have no way of proving it; nor, I suggest can anyone else; that is the nature of political rhetoric. It becomes particularly dangerous when it borders on defamation and/or threatens a person's career.

Acknowledging these aspects of the situation, it nevertheless concerns me that taxpayers must continue to foot the bill for ongoing Staff and Council time on a matter that should have been resolved many months ago. Citizens must also pay what one expects are substantial invoices for legal counsel, with no expectation that the matter will be resolved. In the public arena, bursts of he said/she said assertions flare up from time to time; assertions people cannot substantiate, one way or another.

What I suggest is that, in the event either party feels right to be firmly on their side, the matter be taken before the Courts for a decision. If no-one is prepared to take that course of action then, for everyone's benefit - including your own, the matter should go to arbitration.

Failing that, the only option I see is for James Ridge to take all parties *in camera*, ask them to shake hands all around, and let that be an end to it. Certainly, if any further event should cause the matter to again flare up, it is Mr. Ridge who should deal with it - acting firmly to keep *all* political considerations out of it.

Such a course of action may not be very satisfactory - to you or to Ms. Burrows. Certainly it won't be welcomed by anyone who believes Justice comes in only two colours - black and white. Nevertheless, the ongoing spate of emails will achieve nothing - except more legal bills taxpayers cannot afford. Such emails also divert time and attention away from the business of the District; business that taxpayers pay Staff and Council to manage efficiently.

Sincerely,

Liz James

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