

**Subject: RE: Public input**

**Date:** Wed, 27 Oct 2004 19:37:31 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Valerie Moller" <valeriem@blaze.ca>, "Richard Walton" <richard\_walton@dnv.org>, "Lisa Muri" <lisa\_muri@dnv.org>, "Maureen McKeon Holmes" <Maureen\_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, "Alan Nixon" <Alan\_Nixon@dnv.org>, "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Brian Platts" <bplatts@shaw.ca>, "Elizabeth James" <cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Cathy Adams" <cathyadams@canada.com>, "Corrie Kost" <corrie@kost.ca>, "Eric Andersen" <andersen@sagafc.com>, "Peter Thompson" <bedeconsulting@shaw.ca>

Dear Ms Moller:

Councillor Walton may have been quick to assure you that it was not a personal attack when he cut you off during public input and a TV watcher may have given you equal assurance that Councillor Walton ran a well chaired meeting, but the truth is that, he did not, at least not in my opinion. Anytime a Mayor and/or Chair or Acting Mayor cuts people off from speaking the truth especially when it is stated in a measured, relevant and responsible manner as was the case in this instance, he has failed in his duties to the public at large.

In addition to your case, by way of example, what was done to Mr. Fred Gooch again last night was totally inappropriate. Mr Gooch has never said anything that was irresponsible and neither did he do so last night. However, any excuse is being used to prevent him from expressing himself in his own fashion. The right way of handling such a matter is for the Mayor to assist such an individual rather than patronize, encourage ridicule, trivialise what such an individual has to say and/or make such a person feel uncomfortable.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist,

---

**From:** Valerie Moller [mailto:valeriem@blaze.ca]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2004 6:06 PM

**To:** Richard Walton; Lisa Muri; Ernie Crist; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Alan Nixon; FONVCA; Brian Platts; Elizabeth James; Cathy Adams; Corrie Kost; Eric Andersen; Peter Thompson

**Subject:** Re: Public input

Councilor Walton was quick to assure me it was not a personal attack when he cut me off during Public Input at last Monday's council meeting. His explanation of how he interpreted my comments is understandable, even if I don't agree.

Because I felt angry about the development issue, I put a lot of thought into preparing what I wanted to say to Council. I was surprised my wording was not acceptable (it was not intentional), and that the same statements with slightly different wording would probably have been alright. Which brings me to the point that the "average Joe citizen" does not have the mind of a lawyer, and I feel concerned as to how one is supposed to speak on contentious issues with every word having to be analyzed. I hope this will not discourage people from speaking their minds on such issues.

Having said that, I believe Councilor Walton to be a fair-minded person who did what he thought was right. I agree with Liz James that he chaired a well-run meeting.

Enough said.....

Regards,

Val Moller.