

Subject: RE: permits

Date: Tue, 3 May 2005 09:23:08 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

This email below is from a resident and is forwarded to you without comment courtesy Ernie Crist. My reply to this and yet another email from the same person is attached to the other email which I will send to you also.

To: DNVCouncil
Subject: permits

Dear Mayor and Council

I have a need to have repairs done to my house requiring a contractor with special skills. There are only three or four such contractors in the Lower Mainland. I asked for estimates and one declined, saying he preferred not to do work in North Vancouver due to the bureaucratic nightmare at the District Hall. I wondered what he was talking about, so I went to the Hall to see about getting a permit. I was told it will take four weeks to get an appointment to APPLY for a permit, and then about six weeks to receive a permit to start a repair !!! I was told the application will have to go through the environment check and the bylaw check etc before the engineers repair design can be checked and approved. Why? Is the District going to take the responsibility if the engineered and stamped design fails ? NO. The engineer will be responsible. The District process approved the poor design of the work done by the previous owner.

I was successful in placing a contract to have the repair work done. I asked the contractor what would happen in other Cities and Districts in the Lower Mainland if he had to apply for this type of permit. He said it could be give to him immediately or up to three days later. And how does North Vancouver compare with other jurisdictions? It is the worst , by far , was his answer.

The staff at the Hall said they were very busy. Are not all the other Halls busy too? Why is North Vancouver so inefficient?

I believe Council has been convinced that all this approval and delay is necessary for the betterment of the District. I believe it is so they can keep their jobs and for the management to increase staff size so they are responsible for more people and therefore are worth their high salaries and maybe more. Which other government other than the Provincial Government, has so many Arbourists and such a large environment bureaucracy? And has a policy that all applications must pass through the environmental department?


Maybe Vancouver.

I believe, as we responded to a District telephone survey, the District needs some serious belt 'tightening'. That is where you might find the funds to repay Western Stevedore. Maybe we need to have an internal look at the operations of our District hall to find out what is really required and fewer comments from Councillors such as ' that is the price you pay to live in North Vancouver'. A couple of years ago , Council approved a '0%' increase but there was not the WILL within the staff to make it work and the taxpayer ended up with a huge 'makeup' increase the next year.

COUNCIL--- it is necessary to look within and stop passing the cost of District featherbedding on to the taxpayer. If the District was a private business, it would be bankrupt. It should be reviewed. And NOW.

Regards

Eyes a little more open,

 winmail.dat	Name: winmail.dat Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64
---	---