

Subject: RE: FW: Mr. Zerr's claims of staff action re Herbicides and Pesticides

Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2002 21:40:37 -0700

From: Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>

To: "Elizabeth James" <cagebc@yahoo.com>

CC: Richard Zerr <ZerrR@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Directors Team <managecomm@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Ms James:

Members of Council receive copies of all correspondence addressed to Mayor and Council. This correspondence is stamped by the Clerks office as follows:

Ack. Fax.... Mail.... E-mail....

Copies to MayorMail boxes....

Future Agenda Item....

Staff to report....

Staff to handle and advise....

Staff consideration....

File number....

PC Docs....

The item ticked off in this particular correspondence from the "Chair of the B.C. Association of Master Gardeners" was "Staff to handle and advise" which is not specific enough to indicate further action. If it was staff's intention to bring recommendations forward than this should have been acknowledged under "Future Agenda Item" and or "Staff consideration". But it was not and subsequently Mr. Zerr was in error and not the first time when he stated in public that, staff is working on this already thus in fact stating that my motion is superfluous and is thus creating unnecessary work for staff when in reality this was not indicated.

The reason this matter is sensitive is because several members of District Council who are clearly not familiar with the significance of the stamp affixed to incoming correspondence have repeatedly accused me precisely of this offense. The fact that you have written to Mayor and Council without receiving an acknowledgment simply means that no member of Council responded to you individually.

What would be appropriate is for the clerk's office to send an acknowledgment that your correspondence has been passed on to the members of Council. I make it my business to respond as often as I can. This too has been criticized by at least one member of Council who is definitely not familiar with standard business procedure (although she has been on Council for many years) of creating unnecessary work.

What applies to correspondence is also true for motions per se. Some of these motions may be an initiative I believe is necessary to do my job properly but it could also be a response to a specific request including through correspondence we have received.

Most municipalities have a system in place whereby such issues are dealt with as part of their agenda under "Correspondence And Any Business Arising

Therefrom". But we in the District do not do that. The result is that unless a member of Council such as myself for instance goes to the trouble and brings the matter forward in the form of a motion nothing will be done.

I made a motion that we rectify this by following the example of other municipalities who in fact deal with such issues under "correspondence and any business arising therefrom", but my motion failed.

I hope that this explanation will clarify the matter you have raised.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist.

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth James [<mailto:cagebc@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2002 8:26 PM

To: Ernie Crist; FONVCA (E-mail)

Subject: Re: FW: Mr. Zerr's claims of staff action re Herbicides and Pesticides.

Dear Clr. Crist:

It has always been my understanding that legally speaking any correspondence, whether sent by email or snail-mail, must be circulated to Mayor and Council if that is how it is addressed.

In the message, you seem to be implying that Staff was prepared to just receive and file this item, without it being forwarded to the addressees. Is this correct and, if so, does that explain why several of my own letters which were addressed to Mayor and Council, have rarely been acknowledged?

Sincerely,

Liz James

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[Part 1.2](#)

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