

Subject: Response to letter from Mr. Jeremy Dalton re audits;

Date: Fri, 5 Mar 2004 10:21:34 -0800

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

To: "Nathalie Valdes" <Nathalie_Valdes@dnv.org>

CC: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Dalton;

Thank you very much for your correspondence regarding the appointment of the external auditors for the District. I have discussed this matter with our CAO Mr. James Ridge and this item will come before Council as part of the budget adopting process in early May.

As to the concerns you have raised, I wholeheartedly concur. I have on numerous occasions attempted to address this issue. However, in many instances I did not receive a seconder to my motions. The result has been that such legitimate matters could not be aired in the Council chambers and or explained to the public.

You will remember that the very first item by Mayor Bell following the previous election, with the assistance of Council, was to decree that, henceforth no member of Council (read Crist) may explain a motion to the public unless it is seconded by another member of Council first.

That this should happen in a democratic forum is nothing less than extraordinary. This aberration of civic democracy was possible among others because of the general crisis besetting our society which is reflected in both apathy, cynicism and lack of vigilance in matters of importance to the community. The price of this apathy so cynically exploited has been monumental. It will go down in municipal history (and some people including myself will make sure of this) as a curious and extraordinary poor example of democratic standards as well among others, as a curious interpretation of fiscal management to say the very least. Future generations will definitely hear about this.

However, as I stated earlier, your main concerns regarding the re appointment of an external auditor will be addressed shortly.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

