

Subject: RE: to Mr. Bell

Date: Mon, 31 May 2004 15:56:00 -0700

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

To: "Vladimir Cicha" <walterci@telus.net>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

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

Dear Mr. Cicha:

I voted against the increase in taxes this year as indeed I have done for the last 5 years. During each and every budget debate I stated the reasons why.

During debates, I made numerous proposals to make the District more efficient and cut taxes without in any way shape or form cutting the level of services. One such item, by way of example, is the continued subsidy to the City via our recreation facility agreement under which the District is subsidizing the City of North Vancouver big time. They are building the high rises and we are building the playing fields. Another big item is the refusal of District Council to reorganize the North Vancouver Recreation Commission along the Parkgate model and by so doing, save millions of dollars annually again without curtailing the level of services. None of my proposals were ever accepted by District Council. These are but two items.

The situation today is that the District, which at one time had the second lowest taxes in the region, has now the second highest. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. During that time we have also virtually liquidated the District Heritage Fund. We are talking about tens of millions of dollars. A large portion of this amount was used to cover operating expenses. To put it bluntly, it was not much more than a slush Fund.

There is also the liquidation of the Infrastructure Reserve Fund which in 1997 stood at \$91 million dollars and which has also disappeared more or less. While everything is legal, I am sure, I have never been given a detailed account as to where this money was spent. Repeated questions on my part have either been ignored and/or I have been warned not to harass staff by "getting on their back". At the Council level my questions have been consistently ignored. All other members of Council have been endorsed by one civic party or another and I cannot even introduce and explain a motion in public without getting permission from one of the other members of Council first. This is the level of understanding of democracy in the District today.

This is the situation. You may be aware that our CAO, acting on the instructions of the Mayor and Council, is going from department to department asking whether Councillor Crist has harassed any of our staff.

The solution is for the public to pay as much attention to local government as it does to provincial and/or federal. Get involved and ask questions is my advice to the residents. We had open budget meetings with not a single person present other than staff and/or the elected officials. At such meetings nobody is much impressed with ideas which might challenge the status quo or disturb the cobwebs. I am certain you understand the situation quite well. It is my conviction that the quality of local governance will increase in direct proportion to public involvement. With this in mind I salute your input.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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

From: Vladimir Cicha [<mailto:walterci@telus.net>]

Sent: May 31, 2004 1:17 PM

To: infowe@dnv.org

Cc: Ernie Crist

Subject: to Mr.Bell

Dear Mr.Bell:

Let me tell you frankly, that I do not like very much the fact that I am taking for an ox or even idiot by the Property Tax Office.

Despite of some article in NSN about this year property tax increase being about 4.95% (why, by the way), mine is 6.72%(type A) 7.67% (type B) and 8.37% (type C) respectively! I am not willing to pay the above tax untill I receive detail explanation of such an increase.. What is going on in my case especially is nothing but outrageous!

I live in the house fot 17 years, no improvement has been done, house is very ordinary and I do not see any reason for paying year after year higher tax and not even that ... substantially higher than is an average increase!

And you and the Councilll are asking re-elicition again and again! It really needs to be thickskinned, I you pardon my words.

Your timely answer will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Vladimir Cicha, 942 Tudor Avenue, N.Vancouver 604 984 8807

cc.: Mr.E.Crist



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