

**Subject: FW:****Date:** Thu, 10 Mar 2005 17:45:50 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "Agnes Hilsen" <Agnes\_Hilsen@dnv.org>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

Ms Hilsen:

I cannot accept your position that I may raise this issue but only as part of the "Council Remuneration and Expenses Paid During 2004" item, as listed on the agenda for this coming Monday March,14,2005. As I read the Municipal Charter this is not an In Camera Item as you insisted before. Your rationale that this was the case since it involved a staff member and should therefore not be dealt with in public also escapes me since there was no staff involved. Councillor McKeon-Holmes is not a staff member and neither is Don Bell and never was.

What is more, the additional compensation request from Councillor McKeon homes did not occur in 2004 but has been made this year and well after the event. The statement that Council has the power to grant such a compensation is not the issue either. The issue is that the request must be dealt with in public for everyone to see not behind closed doors as was done according to the minutes.

Councillor McKeon-Holmes's request that she be paid over and above what she is entitled to under the policy, must be presented in the form of a motion and listed SEPARATELY on a public agenda which is what I am requesting.

However, permit me to again reiterate that Councillor McKeon-Holmes is NOT entitled to any payment other than the amount stipulated by policy for being ACTING Mayor simply because the outgoing Mayor Don Bell did not accept a salary from the District.

Don Bell was already being paid by the Canadian taxpayers in his capacity as MP elect albeit he was still Mayor. For him to accept the Mayor salary on top would have constituted double dipping.

There is a precedent for my position. When Councillor Crist and Councillor Peter Powell took over the full time responsibilities as Mayors in the absence of Mayor Don Bell on a previous occasion, neither Councillor Crist nor Councillor Peter Powell received any compensation other than for being Acting Mayor. That this cannot be otherwise was stated by the solicitor at the time.

Would it not be curious if a Councillor who accused Councillor Crist of cheating the taxpayers out of gasoline money, as was done by Councillor McKeon-Holmes and which turned out to be totally false and libellous, but for which she never apologised, would now claim payment over and above what she is entitled to under the law?

However, if Councillor McKeon Holmes feels that she should be so compensated, she or another member of Council may make a motion to that effect. However, it must be done in public and as a separate item rather than be hidden as part of an obscure item called "Council Remuneration and Expenses Paid During 2004". As it is, there is no specific listing for the reimbursement she is seeking on the March 14, 2005, Agenda.

If, as has been stated by District Management following my protest, Councillor McKeon-Homes has now withdrawn her claim then she may tell this to the voters of the District of North Vancouver in her own words. In the meantime I have seen nothing in writing that this has actually occurred. I do know that, as of this moment, the District Minutes show that Councillor Nixon made a motion that Councillor Mc Keon-Homes, in her capacity as Acting Mayor, be compensated by an amount equal to that

which the Mayor would receive because it "appears" that she did the same job as Mayor Don Bell. That motion was carried with Councillor Crist and Mayor Harris opposed with Councillor Lisa Muri absent.

As for the contention that bringing this matter to the attention of the public is a violation of Council Policy since it is an In Camera Item, I cannot accept this either. One cannot be in violation of a policy concerning an item which had no business being In Camera in the first place especially since the request itself is contrary to existing policy.

Ernie Crist

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> From: James Ridge  
 > Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 11:17 AM  
 > To: Ernie Crist; Agnes Hilsen; Mayor and Council - DNV  
 > Cc: 'fonvca@fonvca.org'; 'Cagebc@yahoo.com'  
 > Subject: RE:

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> Some points of important clarification.

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> Council has full legal authority to set rates of compensation for  
 > Acting Mayor. It made temporary adjustments to those rates in the  
 > spring of last year to reflect the fact that the Acting Mayors would  
 > need to step fully into the Mayor's role during the then-Mayor's  
 > unpaid leave of absence, and in some cases would have to forgo other  
 > income to do so. Council more recently adjusted the period of that  
 > change by two weeks, in response to a notice of motion.

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> This two week adjustment to the period of the special Acting Mayor  
 > compensation was requested not by Councillor McKeon Holmes, but by  
 > Councillor Nixon. The adjustment brought some consistency to the  
 > application of the Spring 2004 adjustment, and could have meant  
 > additional income for both Councillor Nixon and Councillor McKeon  
 > Holmes, however both have refused the additional compensation. The  
 > discussion properly took place in Camera because it involved a  
 > discussion of certain personal issues related to a former member of  
 > Council.

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> James Ridge  
 > CAO

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> From: Ernie Crist  
 > Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 12:14 AM  
 > To: Agnes Hilsen; Mayor and Council - DNV; James Ridge  
 > Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org; 'Cagebc@yahoo.com'  
 > Subject:

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> Ms Hilsen:

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> On Feb 24, I wrote an email to you requesting that Councillor  
 > McKeon-Holmes' claim to be paid the Mayor's salary for the period  
 > when, in fact, she was only Acting Mayor be brought forward and be  
 > dealt with in public as a regular agenda item.

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> Councillor McKeon Homes requested compensation over and above that  
 > she was entitled to on the grounds that Mayor Bell made no salary  
 > claim against the District as he was already receiving compensation  
 > from Canada's taxpayers as an MP elect.

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> That Councillor McKeon Holmes as a result received monies from  
 > District taxpayers over and above that she is entitled to, is in my  
 > opinion a violation of existing Council policy but is also unethical  
 > if not illegal and will make the District liable should a taxpayer  
 > pursue the matter in a court of law.

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> In any case you will recall that I requested that this matter be  
> reviewed and dealt with in public. You will recall that you stated  
> that you would seek legal advice. As of this moment I am still  
> waiting for a response and so is the press which is keen for this  
> issue to be clarified.  
>  
> As a side issue, you may recall that Councillor McKeon Homes  
> previously had accused Councillor Crist of cheating on gas mileage.  
> Upon investigation, those charges turned out to be totally  
> unsubstantiated. However, Councillor McKeon-Holmes never apologised  
> for the slanderous remarks she made in public.  
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> Please advise as to if and when the item will be put on a public  
> agenda.  
>  
> Thank you,  
>  
> Ernie Crist

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