

Subject: Points of Correction re: Council meeting, May 26, 2008

From: Lori Waters <lori@watersbiomedical.com>

Date: Sun, 01 Jun 2008 18:27:25 -0700

To: Central Saanich Council <council@csaanich.ca>

CC: Gary Nason <GNason@csaanich.ca>

BCC: Michael M'Gonigle <mgonigle@uvic.ca>, Allison Habkirk <ahabkirk@shaw.ca>, Don and/or Eli Chambers <elichamb@islandnet.com>

Dear Mayor Mar and Members of Council,

I just wanted to take a few moments to respond, for the record, to comments made at the May 26th Council meeting.

Mr. Towler stated that there was no evidence or data to support claims of coercion regarding the petition process. By way of correction, I just wanted to point out that I wrote to District staff informing them of the problems we had with CSWVA members trying to have us sign the petition on the spot two days in a row. Karen Harris spoke in public at a meeting on May 1st, with District Staff present, about how she and her husband were coerced and repeatedly harangued by a CSWVA member about the petition. Other community members spoke at the same meeting, indicating that they had also not received attachments, and had had problems with CSWVA members. I have spoken with other members of this community who also complained of harassment, and I brought this up at the engineering meeting. One of them is an elderly neighbor of mine who told me that she felt she had no choice but to sign the petition. I understand that there were also requests by people such as Gary Crawford, who wished to have their names removed from the petition, and there were others present at the engineering meeting who stated that the information given to them regarding the petition was not truthful. Complaints of this nature are also documented in District communication from the first petition process in 2000, when Council received several letters, detailing complaints of harassment. They include a letter from the District to Ms. Knott, advising that CSWVA must remove a citizen's name from the petition as she was harassed into signing at that time. These are on file however I can supply you with the full text of these letters should you wish. Based on public documentation of the process, Mr. Towler's claim that there is no supporting evidence for coercion and/or harassment is not true.

Mr. Towler also stated that anyone who asked for documents related to the petition was supplied with them. I believe I sent an earlier note about this, however, Mr. Towler did not supply the documents to my husband and I when we requested them. This was also brought up in the Engineering meeting May 1st. Mr. Towler's response to me upon my request of the documents was: "[The petition area is fixed though, and covers any property abutting Mt Newton or Senanus Drive from the current end of the watermain \(1339 Mt Newton\) to the end of Senanus \(480\).](#)" CSWVA never supplied these documents, and Council will recall my earlier emails where I was sent to an FOI process because of my request for the catchment map and list of included properties.

Lastly, it has been noted many times in staff memoranda that the proposed waterline does not meet the OCP, and it clearly does not meet the Regional Growth Strategy. More on this later.

I note that Mr. G. Denford brought up that the Senanus residents supply 75% of the tax base for Central Saanich. BC Assessment states: "***Property tax is a tax on wealth, sales tax is a tax on consumption, and income tax is a tax on income. Considered together, these taxes generally insure that people with greater wealth or greater ability to pay, contribute more tax.***"

While I understand that Senanus residents may feel a certain sense of entitlement based upon the taxes they pay, it also needs to be recognized that our taxation system is one of proportion. Every member of this District pays proportional taxes according to the laws of British Columbia. The fact that these residents are paying more taxes is simply indicative of the amount of wealth and value indicated by their properties. Wealth does not bestow rights upon any citizen to work outside of the Bylaws of their communities.

Thank you for your time.

All the best,

Lori

