

TO: Town of Richland
Town Board Members
Supervisor Kern Yerdon

FROM: Councilman Robert L. North

DATE: January 10, 2023

RE: Personal Complaint

To Be Read During "PUBLIC COMMENT"

Very recently, I feel I have been the recipient of one of many attacks made by a fellow Town employee in regards to incompetency in preparation of Water Fund Budgets. Just so you know, that employee has made these same remarks to other employees.

As we all know, it is easier to blame someone else when specifics of a certain situation are questioned. Pure gossip or fabricated answers are easier to give when a "quick" answer is expected. I realize that an in-depth investigation takes much longer to produce than a documented and informed answer.

All employees adding to the internal bickering need to STOP now. This type of work behavior causes nothing but disrespect of others, hard feelings toward one another, and damages self esteem, not to mention the destruction of mutual respect for each other that is very difficult to re-establish.

During the past ten days, I have been approached by three (3) Town of Sandy Creek residents and two (2) Town of Richland residents referring to the Town of Richland's total budget in general and The Town of Richland's Water Budget in particular. These conversations were mainly directed at me for my preparation of the Town's budgets during the past 24 years. I only prepared the budget. Each department head made their financial requests and the Town Board made their decision to accept or not to accept the figures that I was given. Most of these conversations stemmed from the two recent water rates that the Town of Richland Town Board had forwarded to the Town of Sandy Creek Town Board. .

For what it is worth, I wish to inform you that I have prepared and submitted all these FUND budgets, EXCEPT the Water budgets for all these past 24 years. At the same time, I also held my elected position of Town Clerk and Tax Collector solely by myself for more than 12 of those years. During my tenure as serving as the Budget officer, I did so without compensation for most of those years.

The Water Fund Budget has always been prepared by the Town Supervisor and approved by the Town Board.

At this point, I want to inform you that I am "hurt" and ashamed by my fellow employee that made the above mentioned remarks. How and Why do they dare lie, gossip, and run other people down so they don't have to be responsible for their own insecurities and actions. I have become upset to learn that others that I work with, or have worked with, do not realize and know my personal convictions and work ethics.

As most of you are aware, these type of problems are not only the problems with the Water District. This is not just happening with the Water District. Most of the Town employees are walking on eggshells daily.

These insinuations have a tendency to harm or even ruin one's reputation and character.

With the knowledge of this complaint, I am hereby requesting and asking the Town Board to acknowledge my concerns and have an outside independent auditor research the above mentioned complaint and inform me and you (in writing) of their findings.

I am asking also that this complaint be made part of organizational minutes of today. I am forwarding this memo to the Town Clerk and each board member, as well as our attorney, Mr. Seiter.

Once we receive a letter of documentation as requested, I am asking that those answers also be attached to these minutes.

We, as a board, need to be able to work together for the betterment of our community which serves our taxpayers and constituents. All I am asking is that we all display simple compassion, understanding, truthfulness, and mutual respect of each other. We need to get along and work for a common goal of proper representation of our taxpayers.

Let's start today in making the changes mentioned throughout this memo. After all, We should not be mirroring the workings of our state and federal governments. I believe we are headed in that direction if we do not start changing our ways.

THANK YOU !

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) North
Town of Richland Town Councilman

CC: Attorney Graham Seiter