

Town of Lake Cowichan

Mayor and Council

April 13, 2023

While I was not able to attend the council meeting of April 11th in person, I did watch online.

In fact, there is one discussion that I have watched several times and I am confused by the debate that ensued.

I refer to the matter of the water "leak."

In the many meetings that I have attended, I am aware of numerous times letters addressed to The Mayor and Council have been brought forward. When the contents of the letter fall under operations or administrative matters, I cannot recall when that letter was not referred to staff to deal with.

From listening to the discussion, it is clear there is an existing policy for staff to deal with matters of this sort. And it is apparent that staff did follow policy and that there exists some history regarding the individual in question. Also, from the comments made, the location of the property in question is now public knowledge.

While I seriously doubt this matter was brought forward due to personal interest, it remains that by doing so, there is a perceived conflict of interest, which needs to be always avoided. The open discussion that ensued has the potential to set an undesired precedent.

I am pleased that the matter was eventually turned back to staff "for review and report", which in my opinion is what should have occurred at the start. Again, from the comments made during the council meeting, it is clear there is some background history that all members of council may not be aware of.

Going forward, I would encourage members of council to debate the policy not the issue. Staff was hired to do their jobs and from my observation of the meeting and comments heard, I believe they are doing exactly that. It remains the discretion of the council, if they feel they need more managerial control over such matters. If so, they should modify the policy to reflect those expectations.

It is not my desire or intent to chastise any member of council but rather provide an unbiased point of view of what the public observed.



W.D. Garrett

