

From: Sharon McKeiver

Sent: June 8, 2020 2:15 PM

To: J M Jones

Cc: Crystal McMillan ; Martina Chait

Subject: Letter to Mayor Jones and Douro-Dummer Councillors regarding June 2, 2020 D-D Council Meeting

To: Township of Douro Dummer

Attn: Mayor J. Murray Jones

June 6, 2020.

Dear Mayor Jones and Douro-Dummer Township Councillors,

Excitedly I clicked the right buttons to tune into the You Tube recording of the June 2, 2020 D-D Township Council meeting, and was really looking forward to a lively exchange of ideas and loads of information about how our Township was faring during this COVID epidemic and perhaps where to next.

My focus in this letter is about the culture of that meeting and my disappointment with apparent lack of exploration and exchange of ideas, thoughts and thorough, deep deliberations among Councillors about agenda items, etc. Forever, most Councillors had encouraged citizens to attend Council meetings, and then, interestingly, at this June 2nd meeting, particularly over an important item (9.8 - Temporary CAO position) on the agenda , which was a significant segment of the 'new' way forward, they provided little information and few exchanges of thoughts and alternative ways of thinking.

To my surprise and disappointment as well as that of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, bang! Three Councillors decided to ignore the advice of the WSCS Consultant (read beforehand by the Township Clerk), and for reasons of their own voted to limit the temporary CAO's appointment to three months, rather than to extend it to the end of the calendar year, as suggested by the Consultant. So, without providing further information, discussion, exploration or any kind of open explanation of their points of view, the three Counsellors chose not to follow the Consultant's clear, expert advice in moving the

organization forward with the Township's reorganizational plan during this unusual COVID-19 overflowing with unknowns and challenges. The motion, made by one of the three, carried 3 – 2 seemingly in a vacuum of information and discussion. Just an empty 'bang' kind of decision-making.

Disappointingly, at this meeting I felt staleness, a lack of information, lively deliberations and exchanges of ideas in decision-making to improve the organization and care for D-D citizens. Plainly, in my view, all Councillors, individually, needed to explain clearly and thoroughly their reasons (e.g., information they had gathered, their points of view, stumbling blocks, etc.) for their chosen vote on motions, particularly at this meeting on agenda item 9.8 - Temporary CAO position. At future meetings I believe they need to do the same because through this kind of Councillors' 'talk' citizens and others will increasingly come to know and understand the flow of Council's decision-making.

A meeting is 'a meeting of minds' through lively discussions, sharing loads of information, interruptions, wrestling about issues and values, disagreements and collaboration. Due to a lack thereof, this June 2, 2020 D-D Council meeting had a stagnant feel which led to apparent uninformed, sloppy or 'sleepy' decision-making, again particularly regarding agenda item 9.8 -Temporary CAO position. As an onlooker, a virtual visitor, I had expected the opposite – to be mindfully welcomed, even drawn into a learning, informative and exciting deliberative process during Council's discussion of some items. From these intelligent, caring and dedicated Councillors I expected more, much more substance, much more delicious filling in the sandwiches they had made.

Mayor Jones and D-D Councillors, thank you for your hard work, time and devotion to caring for D-D Township and the needs of its citizens, entrusted to you. Especially, in this era there is no doubt that you have a tremendous amount of difficult, tedious and very valuable work ahead of you in formulating a new plan forward for this organization. Indeed, a wise idea, especially with the help of WSCS Consulting group, and very exciting! In my mind, tons of information, far-ranging points of view, values, beliefs and aspects of fairness and justice abound out there for you to flush out, explore, analyse and evaluate. Finally, after many, many hours of respectful, open, collegial and exciting back-

and-forth deliberations among you, you will be able to choose what you believe is the best path forward for our Township and its citizenry. Enjoy! I appreciate!

**Respectfully,
Sharon McKeiver**