

Message for Council - Feb 7, 2019 - Elaine Huxter

Before I start I need to apologize that I am unable to stay for the rest of the meeting tonight, I have to leave and go directly to another meeting that I have to chair.

I am here tonight because I wanted to share some thoughts on what has been going on over the past months.

I am not here to defend or support any person in this room. This is not personal for me. At the end of the day I want what is best for this town, just like I was when I was on council.

Before I start I want to thank council for their work over the past three years. This is a thankless job. There is no personal gain to be had from being on council. There is no big pay check. There is no social status. In fact you take a lot of abuse. It is virtually a volunteer position done by a group of people who are supposed to be trying to make the town a better place for the residents. I believe this town council deserves so much better treatment than they have been getting over the last few months.

Here is a bit of a reminder of ~~the~~ our history:

When we were on council a number of years ago we experienced some of what you are going through right now. There were councillors that chose to promote their own agenda and personal disagreements with other members on council. It had nothing to do with what was right or wrong. Investigations by both municipal affairs and the RCMP including a forensic audit proved no wrong doing. Yet, some councillors continued to bring any *progress of the town to a halt. We had great ideas, things that would have made all our lives so much better (and more economical),* Nope, these councillors thought it was more important to be right and cause all kinds of bad press and personal grief to both town staff and other councillors.

Members of council, I am here to encourage you to keep up the good work and forward vision you have for the town of Steady Brook. Continue to look for increased revenue for the town without increasing the mil rate. Look for development opportunities that will improve the quality of life for all residents. Keep working to get us the best water you can. Continue to hold events that bring the townspeople together and are a source of pride.

Keep your head up, be proud of what you are doing and don't get drawn into petty interpersonal disagreements that do nothing for this town. Work together to make this town the best it can be. You have an important job. Don't be afraid to speak your mind at meetings.

I believe that any councillor that causes our town to incur loss of revenue because of a personal vendetta is out of order. Instigating issues that cost the town money is out of order. This will cause our taxes to increase and I for one don't want to pay for that kind of waste. It is ridiculous that history is repeating itself.

About the land, as my young friend said so well a few council meetings ago, the land is bought, right or wrong. Let's move forward. Let's make sure we don't lose money on it. Lets get over it. If a decision is made to sell the land now, please do not do it at a loss. The development idea is a good one, if it wasn't we wouldn't have all this controversy.

We have a beautiful town here. What is the matter with us that we can't let our councils, both past and present, get on with running the town. Why do we promote all this drama and unrest. What a huge waste of time and effort. If you don't agree with something, speak your mind, have fair and reasonable discussion and if you are outvoted move on. Professionalism is a must.

In conclusion, please, I implore you, when you are thinking about your job *as a councillor ask yourself the question, "am I doing this for the betterment of the Town of Steady Brook or am I doing it to serve my own interests or grudges.* If it is the latter you should resign.

Thank you.