

Wednesday November 7th, 2012

Dear editor,

I am writing to comment on the events of Monday night's town council meeting.

I understand that Council was not happy to hear what I had to say but they did grant me the opportunity to speak and I felt that it was important for them to hear what many people in this town feel. I was not surprised to hear some councillors react in an angry way but I was shocked when they stated that I accused them of being dishonest. I had chosen my words very carefully and tried to stick to the facts. I could not comprehend which words made them feel that way. I have to admit that I was initially shaken by this accusation because I pride myself as being honest and respectful and had no intention of such an accusation.

So I went home, read & re-read my notes, then read & re-read the report that we provided to council. On the 13th page of a 14 page document was a quote from an attendee of the public meeting stating "this will clearly be an election issue...It is time to put accountable and honest Council members in office..." It was clearly identified as the opinion of one person. At that point any remorse I felt melted away and I just felt sad. Sad that instead of addressing the issues presented to them, many on council chose to angrily focus on one word from a quote from one person. Once again an opportunity for open discussion was lost.

To make matters more ironic, my deputation was followed by a request from a local swimming organization for council to authorize major & likely costly alterations to the Centennial Pool to make it more suitable for competitions. More confirmation of what has been stated by the Friends of Central Park. That investing \$4-5 million in a 45 year-old pool is not a sound investment and does not give anyone what they really need.

I have also been asked "why give such a deputation now" in November when shovels are poised to hit the ground. My response is two-fold. First we applied for a deputation in the days following the public meeting but because of council's busy agenda, Monday was the first possible opportunity. Second, if a public meeting had been held between July 16th and August 27th, my deputation would not have been necessary. Council has shown that they are willing to engage the public as they did with the casino public meeting and then a frank discussion of the issue at Monday's council meeting. I do not understand why they did not choose the same path for their decision on our recreation facilities.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewin