

Please see my responses in red. *[RLGG comment: Red comments are from councillors P. Banks & J.Banks]*

The following submission is in regard to the actions and verbal accusations of these 2 Councillors at the May 13th, 2024, Municipal Services Committee (PW) meeting where Councillors J. and P. Banks attempted to silence a delegation of a local public opinion group, the Rideau Lakes Grassroots Group (RLGG). They did so by seeking to remove this public delegation from the agenda and making several unfounded, unsubstantiated, derogatory and false accusations about RLGG as well fellow councillors, at an open meeting.

I understand by telling the truth in public it may cost us both up to three months pay but we cannot continue down this road. Councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] have caused a divide in council and have publicly supported the RLGG while lying to council, staff and the public for nine months about their help in creating this political group.

We have asked for help in closed meetings many times and tried twice in open, one of those on January 29th and our mayor has refused to step up.

The RLGG is not an opinion group, they are a political machine used secretly by two sitting councillors to sway public opinion using hate, conspiracy theories, lies and deception. Their main objective since August 2023 is to pressure 5 council members into building a new HUB/Office instead of retrofitting the current Chantry office.

Our defence is the truth.

Grassroots Members:

Marcia Maxwell: Rideau Lakes Councillor of 5 years, was also involved in a right of way lawsuit with Jeff and Paula Banks, where she lost money.

[REDACTED]

Wendy Alford: Ex Smiths Falls councillor, who lost in the last election and is friend of councillor Maxwell according to her.

Howard French: Ex Reeve Rideau Lakes and campaign manager for Laura Redman in 2023 by- election.

Laura Redman: Candidate in 2023 by -election against Paula Banks, self proclaimed political reporter and RLGG member. The person that councillor Paula Banks asked council for protection from several times starting in June 2023 and the same person that ended up assaulting councillor Jeff Banks at a council meeting in November 6th 2023 while in attendance with Howard French.

Dan Berty & Lesley Ulliyett: Main spokesman for the RLGG and his partner.

There were no false statements or accusations made by councillors Paula or Jeff Banks about the RLGG or fellow council members. All statements made are true and were made in the public meetings only after being discussed in depth numerous times in closed or through emails with no resolution from councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] being offered.

[REDACTED] Maxwell have had nine months to address the deep division they have caused in council. During many closed meetings they have chosen to either stay silent or be untruthful, until recently.

Council, the CAO and the clerk have been made aware of their RLGG membership and aid, this was planned to be discussed on the closed agenda for the May 13th 2024 meeting, maybe that is why the delegation chose that meeting.

Knowing this, the CAO felt it necessary to make the unprecedented move of sharing with all council the planned RLGG delegation on the same meeting prior to setting the agenda. This is the first time in councillor Jeff Banks 25-year history of politics this has happened, that is unprecedented.

Both councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] were made aware of this closed meeting and the planned discussions. Yet when the delegation came forward, they both chose again to hide from the public their membership in the RLGG. Councillors [REDACTED] and Maxwell helped create and have aided RLGG since its inception with distributing flyers attacking 5 of their fellow council members because they refused to spend 8.5 million on a new HUB/Office.

Not only did they not make that partnership known publicly, they voted for this delegation to go forward knowing this group was printing conspiracy theories and lies undermining the township and that divided council and the community with their help.



Mary Ellen Truelove

To: Mayor; Linda Carr; Joan Delaney; Sue Dunfield; Debbie Hutchings; +4 others

Cc: Shellee Fournier



Thu 5/9/2024 2:38 PM

Good afternoon Council,

We are in the process of finalizing the agenda package for Monday.

There will be 2 delegations and we just wanted to give you a heads up that Wendy Alford will be attending as a delegation on behalf of the Rideau Lakes Grassroots Group.

Purpose of the Delegation: [Who we are](#), [How we started](#), [Response to May 6 Meeting Comments](#)

Regards,

Mary Ellen Truelove

Clerk
Township of Rideau Lakes
613-928-2251 ext 293
www.rideaulakes.ca



Paula Banks

To: Mary Ellen Truelove; Mayor; Linda Carr; Joan Delaney; Sue Dunfield; +4 others

Thu 5/9/2024 2:43 PM

Cc: Shellee Fournier

I would like to submit my defence as part of the same agenda as well than.

I will also be asking about the flyers being distributed at the Chantry office on August 17th at the BBQ that was meant to be a team building event.

Unless of course Ron and Joan would like to clear that up right now?

Thanks

Paula

Thank you

All council members were made aware 6 days prior to the May 13th meeting that someone had came forward after the May 6th meeting claiming that these flyers were distributed during the team building BBQ. Councillor Paula Banks asked all council members on three different occasions if this person was being truthful. She explained that a person had reached out after watching the May 6th meeting and said they were at the BBQ and saw a councillor distributing boxes to other councillors at the Chantry office, August 17th 2023.

All of council were aware this was going to be discussed during the closed meeting. Staff reached out immediately to councillor Paula Banks assuring her they felt they were not copied in the building and mentioned this was the first they had heard of the flyers even being in Chantry.

If this was not true, every single member of council could have taken the same initiative staff did and let councillor Paula Banks know it was false. Councillor Paula and Jeff Banks never said this is true, they said they are looking into seeing if it is true. Councillor [REDACTED] Maxwell could have cleared this issue up just as staff had done by coming forward.

Instead like the last nine months they chose silence and tried to undermine the meeting and the truth coming out by supporting the delegation of RLGG. They have all been made aware through meetings and emails many times that this group was printing lies and conspiracy theories only attacking 5 members.

Councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] once again stayed silent and voted for this delegation to go forward. This was not transparent, truthful or appropriate.

This included the mayor, who has referred to this group as an opinion group knowing in fact that they have printed conspiracy theories and lies that have caused mistrust in the community, disharmony in staff and divided the current council like none in the past. His poor leadership and refusal to denounce these lies and speak to the deception of two seasoned councillors have brought us to this point.

Councillor P. Banks reiterates public accusations

The RLGG is a political attack group that have spread lies and false conspiracy theories about the majority of TRL council with the help of two council members secretly being part of their group. Both of these council members have vehemently denied their participation in helping RLGG for nine months until recently.

We attempted to remove or defer this political group due to the fact that two of our sitting councillors had just confessed to helping start the RLGG by distributing the original blue flyers attacking the majority of TRL council.

Councillor Maxwell after calling the tax payers that originally reported her for distributing flyers, liars, now claims she was just helping her friend, Wendy Alford. All council members, the CAO and Clerk were aware that the secret membership of our two council members in this group was scheduled to be discussed in a closed meeting later on the same agenda May 13th.

We felt it inappropriate to let a political group that spread lies and false conspiracy theories be allowed to speak before we were allowed to ask these two council members questions about why they misled staff, council and the public for nine months about their aid and membership to the RLGG.

These accusations have been discussed at length in closed meetings and emails within council, the CAO and clerk. At any point in the last nine months councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] could have addressed our concerns by telling the truth, they chose not only to hide it but to try to undermine us from getting to the truth by allowing this delegation to go forward while hiding that they have been helping the RLGG since its inception.

Specifically, I refer to the following sections of By-law 2019-17, Schedule B Code of Conduct:

Section 1.2.i and 1.2 iv, Section 3.1, Section 5.3 ii, Sections 6.8.1, 6.10.1, 6.11.1, and 6.11.2.

To provide some context to the purpose of the delegation, at the Regular Council meeting of May 6th, 2024, Councillor Paula Banks, while attempting to rationalize her violation of the Township's Code of Conduct

Prior to the May 6th meeting councillor Paula Banks was told if she did not attend the closed meeting where her IC complaint was discussed as is her right, she would be allowed to defend herself from councillor Maxwells complaint of disrupting a meeting in an open meeting. That did not happen.

Under Conduct at Council and Committee meetings 6.8

Section 6.8.1

During Council meetings members shall conduct themselves with decorum. Respect for deputations and for fellow members and staff requires that all members show courtesy and not distract from the business of Council during presentations and when other members have the floor.

For the breach here of this section I ask that you view the most recent council sessions covering the special budget meetings on January 29th and January 30th. Specifically the first 10 minutes of each of these meetings.

At the May 6th meeting the mayor did not let councillor Paula Banks speak and made several efforts to cut her off. She finally asked to submit a written defence, that cannot be found on any public record, why? How will this case be any different, if found guilty when can councillors Paula and Jeff Banks defend themselves so the public can have access to that defence.

Councillor Paula Banks defence was that she was going to ask council for help, yet again from the RLGG and councillor Maxwell. Due to being aggressively confronted in public while accompanying her four-year-old grandson by an angry RLGG member.

■ councillor ■ Maxwell took part in those closed and open discussions and voted to take 21 days pay from councillor Paula Banks without making their membership or their part in creation of the RLGG known to staff, council and the public. In fact, this motion had failed and councillor Pollard asked that it be brought back to the table without making his membership and support of the RLGG known.

, blamed her behaviour on others and, specifically, RLGG, calling them a hate group, falsely accusing them of physical and other forms of harassment without evidence or substantiation. RLGG requested the delegation to raise awareness about the group and to correct these statements for the public record.

The RLGG is the reason councillor Paula Banks was asking for help on January 29th during the budget meeting. As reported to council and staff on January 26th councillor Paula Banks was at the dollar store in Smiths Falls with her four-year-old grandson when she was confronted by a person claiming to be a RLGG member. This member verbally attacked the "Banks councillors "angry over the pickle ball and included an accusation that the money was being spent at the hall in Portland instead of in South Emsley. This person was aggressive and made councillor Banks feel for her personal safety and that of her young grandson.

(exhibit A Defence Final Draft).

The RLGG including councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] as members, have harassed the five members of the majority of council and they bullied us relentlessly since August 2023 because we refused to vote to support the mayor's 8.5 million HUB /Office project.

Their members have verbally and physically attacked us at council meetings and in public. When attempting to answer questions they deflect or answer nonquestions as will be seen when you read their answers that were asked of their delegation (exhibit B Answers to delegation questions).

Councillor Paula Banks was attempting to ask again for help due to feeling unsafe January 29th when Councillor Maxwell filed a complaint that she was disrupting the meeting. Councillor Maxwell at that time was not transparent about her membership in the RLGG when she filed the complaint with the IC investigator or when she and councillor Pollard voted to take 21 days pay from councillor Paula Banks.

The RLGG members have escalated from on line hate to in person verbal attacks with a young child present, to a physical assault in the Chantry Council office. Laura Redmond, who she herself claimed is a proud member of RLGG came to a meeting with spokesman Howard French. Their group were cat calling council members the whole meeting and at the end Ms. Redman moved chairs in front of her out of the way to advance to the council table and spat at councillor Jeff Banks. This was witnessed by several council members and reported to staff and the OPP.

Staff after reviewing the tape confirmed they felt something had happened and as the mayor also mentioned she was banned from the building.

When asked by the OPP if he wanted to charge Ms. Redman, councillor Jeff Banks said he did not want to make the situation worse or cause someone to lose their career. An assault charge we were may prohibit Ms. Redman from her current career as a realtor. In hind site she should have been charged.

The OPP officer said he would pay a visit to Ms. Redman home and speak to her about the possible ramifications to her actions and let her know she is lucky we were not pressing charges.

All of this can be confirmed through the OPP Rideau Lakes Detachment.

The RLGG and its members came to the meeting looking to cause turmoil and the mayor allowed it to escalate into an assault.

> On Nov 8, 2023, at 6:15 PM, Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com> wrote:

>
> When the council meeting was done and the public were leaving Laura came towards my spot and spit at me. Then Paula saw it and Debbie also saw it because she asked Marsha about it at the meeting just as it happened. I waited till now because I wanted to review the film. I want her banned from this council building because this is assault.

>
> Sent from my iPhone

On Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 6:56 PM Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com> wrote:

Jeff

If that has occurred then it is most unacceptable. I will ask staff to investigate and follow up.

Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor
Township of Rideau Lakes
1-800-928-2250 X241
Cell 613-323-0901

On Nov 8, 2023, at 7:12 PM, Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com> wrote:

The group that showed up at the council meeting were making rude comments and sounds disparaging us the whole meeting. As the meeting went on their poor behaviour grew more outrageous. At one point I asked the chair to address the gallery, but that did not happen. These continued attacks against some councillors are escalating and the silence of the others are supporting that, the OPP will be investigating. We have had enough what is next?
Paula

From: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 7:17:55 PM

To: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Cc: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Joan <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr <linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; Yvonne Robert <yrobert@rideaulakes.ca>

Subject: Re: Monday meeting

I certainly do not recall you asking me to address the gallery at least their behaviour was not mentioned to me until after the meeting.

Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor
Township of Rideau Lakes
1-800-928-2250 X241
Cell 613-323-0901

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 7:30:49 PM

To: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>

Cc: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Joan <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr <linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; Yvonne Robert <yrobert@rideaulakes.ca>

Subject: Re: Monday meeting

I asked at 1:28 about the comments from the gallery, it was ignored. A member of the gallery commented to me. Councilor Hutchings also mentioned them. I'm sorry but this is getting ridiculous and someone is going to go to far. This needs to stop.

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2023 2:21 PM

To: Yvonne Robert <yrobert@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>

Cc: Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; linda.carr.crosby@gamil.com <linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; debbie@lambtrax.ca <lambtrax@outlook.com>; susan.dunfield@gmail.com <736SueD@gmail.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; Jeff Banks <Jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>

Subject: Closed meeting discussions in confidence

All of council needs to publicly denounce these ongoing attacks on the majority of council from the Rideau Lakes Grass Roots, John Fenik and Laura Redmond.

Laura Redmond

We have contacted the OPP about Ms. Redmond's latest escalating behavior. They asked us if we wanted her charged but as we said we do not want to ruin anyone's life, but her behavior continues to get more outrageous and dangerous when she is our presence. The only difference in this case is we have witnesses to it. They have spoken to her and this will stay on file in case there is another issue with her.

However, the township of Rideau Lakes leadership had a duty to protect us, including our health and safety and they failed November 6th.

I find it upsetting that no one on council including the CAO and Mayor even tried to put a stop to this before it got out of hand. Even though I have had two closed meetings suggesting something like this being a real possibility, I have explained how her poor behavior was escalating and asked you to ban her from committees of council or representing Rideau Lakes in any manner. Her behavior should not have not been a surprise to anyone.

From the moment the Grass Roots came to the council meeting they were disruptive and disrespectful to the majority of council yet not a word was mentioned. Yelling out comments and making rude sounds.

Even after I asked the chair to interject to their comments and sounds, nothing was done. Both Council Hutchings and myself brought their behavior to the attention of the CAO and chair and again nothing was done.

They should have been ejected from the meeting earlier and Mr. Redmond had no business approaching the council table at the end of the meeting. This according to our own procedural bylaws the Grassroots claimed they were there to protect.

She literally had to wait for John Clarey to leave so she could move a heavy chair and come up to Councilor Hutchings to hiss then over to Councilor Banks to spit.

If she was in as much pain as she now claims, why would she not exit the back row just like everyone else did.

The other members of her group were also just as disrespectful and yet the mayor and CAO stayed silent and silenced councilor when we tried to stop it, this should have been avoided.

 Laura Redman

2d · 🌐

The real conversation is the continued attempt to silence voices in the Township of Rideau Lakes:

Wins:

1. Council of 5 backs away from proxy voting
2. Council of 5 backs away from banning questions from the media and members of the public at public meetings

Losses:

1. Council of 5 forces removal of Robert's Rules of Order in Procedural Bylaw that required 2/3 of members to vote for any previously rejected motion that was brought forward again - 6 council members were needed to approve - is now changed to the majority of the whole council - 5 council members - a change voted in by 5 council members. This decision will allow the Council of 5 to bring any historic decision back to the council table and vote for its acceptance.

2. Publishing libellous statements and gross falsehoods and then sharing falsehoods and false statements to the OPP about a known member of the public in an attempt to silence that person going forward (me).

3. There are rat traps placed inside council chambers - an embarrassing reality of our garage/municipal office.

I will not be silenced for being curious about notes shared during council meetings by councillors who have private side conversations during public meetings. Video evidence of every side conversation and note sharing - and constant phone message pinging - is readily available on the township website. The same video shows me glancing over and glancing down at a note pad on the table on my way out the door. As a local taxpayer and business owner I will not tolerate nuisance claims or defamatory statements made against or about me.

Suggestions/Questions:

Every other council I've covered as a journalist had microphones to ensure council members could be heard by the public in person and by those watching at home.

Speaking over others and side conversations were never tolerated.

Insisting every comment go through the chair/mayor was strictly enforced.

The Robert's 2/3 rule was never questioned since it helps protect democracy for all and ensures that council is not constantly revisiting previously made decisions. Why was it removed?

 Laura Redman

1d · 🌐

Because I limp...

Because I have a worn hip...

Because I carried too heavy weights as a child of a farm...

Because I carried five babies... Because I wince in pain after sitting.

Because that wince can become a hiss of pain.

Because I'm named and accused,

Because I speak truth...

Because they lie.

Because my livelihood is threatened by the lies,

Because none of this is anyone's damned business...

Because I don't belong to a group...

Because they weave webs of deceit.

Because on leaving I hear one ask 'what's her problem'?

Because my hip, my limp, my pain, is my problem,

Because my body is none of their damned business.

Because they have no shame, no empathy, no tolerance.

Because I'm made of finer stuff.

Because I read and write and learn.

Because I threaten their agenda, simply by showing up.

Because I will continue to witness.

Because I love this place.

Because I want to protect it.

Because the future, our children's lives, matter. ❤️

It is clear there is very little reality in her statements and zero remorse.

She needs to be banned from the Chantry office and Rideau lakes sponsored events.

From the Grass Roots we need to denounce their information, they never ask questions or fact check and publish slanderous and incorrect information on a consistent basis.

For one example but I can also provide many many others.

Our belief

There is an effort to assume control of the township decision making processes, by a "group of 5" councillors who form a majority when voting together on township matters. They very frequently align with each other and vote as a block to disregard the sound advice of senior township staff on material financial planning and governance matters.

They have conspired to stack the powerful Planning Advisory & Committee of Adjustment by expanding the committee to ensure all 5 are on it. Also, against the advice of the town clerk, they are actively undertaking to extend this power base by adding proxy voting entitlements to each other. This is not required and not in use anywhere else in Ontario.

From John Fenik

He never asks anyone questions but he continually attacks the majority of council with his opinions. Maybe he should try watching meetings or asking questions, if he is going to run his paper like a gossip rag, we should stop funding it. I'm willing to discuss this in open after the closed meeting and maybe we should? I will also be addressing our concerns with John Fenik through additional correspondence council will be copied on.

I'm hoping the attacks from fellow council members are now a thing of the past after Friday's interviews with the CAO applicants.

Thanks

Paula Banks
Rideau Lakes Township
Councilor Bastard & South Burgess
613-284-0238
face book: [Paula in Politics for Bastard & South Burgess](#)

The RLGG seems upset about our behaviour during public council meetings but Howard French brought a group to a meeting that were so disruptive and they got so out of hand a council member was assaulted and now Ms. Redman no longer seems to be on Facebook or a member of the RLGG? Up until that day she claimed publicly to be a proud member of RLGG but now her account is deleted.

Other than the meeting of January 29th councillors Paula and Jeff Banks have never been called out of order and they were called out of order that time for asking for help from councillor Maxwell and the RLGG.

Councillor Maxwell, Pollard nor the mayor found any issues with the behavior at the November 6th meeting, but called councillor Paula Banks out of order on

January 29th for asking for help from councillor Maxwell them and the RLGG and filed a complaint against her following that meeting. Yet none of the three found fault in the November 6th meeting?

Council and staff are well aware that councillor Paula Banks has asked them several times under the Ontario Health and Safety and Ontario Human Rights Act to support and protect her under her accommodations for her disability. This can be confirmed by the clerk.

These accommodations were agreed to by the previous CAO, prior to councillor Paula Banks running in the 2023 by-election as she suffers from severe disabilities. Councillor Paula Banks provided the CAO with a list of her diagnoses and accommodations which include [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] redacted by RLGG among other things. The CAO assured candidate Paula Banks that the township has an obligation under Ontario law to do what is in their power to support her, that did not happen as they and the leadership have refused to do anything.

From: Paula Banks
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Michael Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: Laura Redmond

I wanted to take a day to think about my response to Mrs. Redman's application to sit on a committee of council with me. To be honest my anxiety would not have allowed me to answer earlier. I find it very unfortunate that this has to become an issue but it has and I feel her personal attacks on myself, fellow councilors and the public on social media unacceptable and would fail to pass a test for appropriate behaviour as a representative of any council.

Her, her spouse's and supporters use of defamatory and derogatory remarks about myself, my husband, sitting councilors and the residents alone should disqualify her from a seat. Just because Miss Redman deleted her many rants and arguments does not mean that the harsh, defamatory and slanderous comments are gone.

Many in the public witnessed her personal attacks on myself even though I asked on numerous occasions to keep the discussions to our platforms. Many from the public also pleaded with her to stick to the topics at hand usually resulting in her deleting the threads.

Her actions on line also carried over into the public leaving a bad taste for some including the very volunteers she would now like to sit beside.

From her and Yann's yelling match at the Delta United Church to her using video of Diane Haskins in a political ad without her permission. Diane even had to explain to Mrs Redman why she felt she had been used and manipulated. Mrs Haskins said it took some convincing for Mrs Redman to finally remove the ad.

Even after the election ended she could not help herself and had let loose with a vile rant about how we had to many halls and libraries and once again turned in the residents of Portland and my fellow council members. Again delete but not forgotten.

I think you are well aware of my mental health struggles due to my [REDACTED] and if required I can provide more documentation but I will be requesting that I do not work in close relation with Mrs Redman.

If Mrs Redman was applying to work within the TRL her online behaviour alone would hopefully eliminate any chance of gaining employment.

I'm making a formal confidential request to have Mrs Redmond name removed from my committees as a volunteer. I feel I have a right under my human rights as well as Occupational Health and Safety Act to NOT be harassed.

I find her continued personal attacks on me a form of harassment and that this harassment continues to this day. I would also appreciate if my mental health does not become a discussion for the public and it seems other's has. So I'm hoping part of this can be kept from the public?

I'm not sure how or if this can be handled Mike but I'm looking for some advice. If this cannot be handled Monday I would ask this motion be bumped back to give me adequate time to reach out to these agencies to check my rights please.

Paula Banks

Some examples of Ms. Redmond's comments discussed in closed.
(Exhibit C Rideau Lakes Continues to misuse Closed Meetings)

A section from this email, please read full email.

"Your group includes Laura Redman who even though she sent me a cease and desist continues to slander my name. I warned that after Mr Butchers clear indication in his public letter to council that three people were blocked from the area CEC's (which happened in closed Laura R, [REDACTED] that I would get attacked again and it happens within days.



Robert Butcher - Volunteering

PDF - 98 KB



I am more than upset not to get put back on the Elgin CEC. The biggest insult was to find out that not only was I NOT put back on the CEC, but that my application has been removed from consideration, (i.e. garbaged), along with two other names. Why did the other 6 CEC's acclaim all the people who had their names in on time?? My EOI was in on time. To date, no "thank you for your service", not that I would appreciate such after this much time. (Too little too late). I have even seen municipalities give public recognition for someone giving 20 years of service. I strongly recommend that council looks into the way volunteers are treated. From this point forward I will no longer be doing ANYTHING for Rideau Lakes Township!! Not so sincerely, Robert Butcher.

I have had enough of this woman and her libelous comments that I feel are made worse by the continued leaks from closed meetings.

This council should be condemning public comments like this but instead they stay silent.

" If people die in Rideau Lakes because of the fire chiefs departure it will be Paula's fault." Maybe this council does not realize how offensive I find this since we had a house fire when our kids were home alone? I never even met this man, I had nothing to do with his departure.

"Our financial situation is only in dire straits because of the likes of Jeff Banks who consistently has refused to raise our relatively low taxes and who shamelessly spends our tax dollars on himself and frequent expensive holidays"

Again maybe council does not care that I have family and friends that see this woman following me around to places like Delta coffee?

They also don't seem to realize their attempts to pretend that all of a sudden they woke up to the fact we have assets that need to be maintained and replaced and just realized we cannot afford a 3 million dollar hall when months ago they claimed we could easily afford a 8.5 million dollar HUB with a modest 2% tax increase.

These are the things that hurt staff and councils credibility more than what I post. You make yourselves look incompetent."



Brian Taylor

Dan Berty you guys continually claim that Laura is no part of RLGG yet she has proudly claimed for some time she is a member, probably an issue that you guys should take up with her. If your group is as serious as you claim then distancing yourself from her is absolutely wise. On the other note, sadly no nowadays you don't need high tech equipment to edit audio and video, the mayor's voice drowns out most of the background noise, once it's isolated and muted down you can hear quite a bit, also Laura wasn't exactly being quiet about the things she was saying she was just drowned out by foreground noise. I also hope the OPP get this sorted out I would like to see this overall circus come to an end.



Heather Heins

I am very confused as I remember reading that Laura Redman said she was a grassroots group member ? , how does the grassroot membership work ? I also read ot had 70 plus members ? So Laura s not a member anymore or was she ever ? Howard French or Dan Berty as founding members please answer my question ?

Some of the many people that witnessed Laura Redman claiming she was a member of the RLGG before deleting her Facebook account. Laura Redman also attending the meeting with spokesman Howard French.

What follows is a summary of relevant aspects of the discussion and proceedings of the May 13th MSC (PW) meeting and where I believe the Code of Conduct has been contravened. Referring to the video of the May 13th meeting, I will specify the time in the video, identify the Councillor(s) speaking, the general content of their remarks, the relevant section(s) of the Code and how I believe it was contravened.

Councillors Jeff and Paula Banks

Time: minute 1:32 thru 1:44

Councillor Paula Banks moves to amend the agenda by removing the RLGG delegation.

Councillor Jeff Banks seconds the motion.

Councillor Paula Banks asked for the RLGG delegation to be removed. The Clerk confirmed that this was permitted so did the CAO in an email prior to this meeting offer that as an option.



Shellee Fournier



To: Paula Banks; Mary Ellen Truelove; Mayor; Linda Carr; Joan Delaney; +5 others

Thu 5/9/2024 3:32 PM

Hello Everyone,

Staff do not have the authority to deny a delegation.

The agenda package is ready to go out.

Any proposed additions/deletions/refusals will have to be addressed under the "Emergency Additions/Amendments to the Agenda" section of the agenda on Monday.

Thank you
Shellee

The RLGG is a divisive group attacking the majority of council with lies and false conspiracy theories that council members and staff are aware of. Councillor Banks asked to defer the delegation until council got more information about two council members that were part of creating the RLGG and confirmation that the that flyers were handed out of the Chantry office as recently reported.

Councillor Maxwell speaks to the right of the group to speak, but fails to be transparent about how she [REDACTED] membership in this group that attacked her fellow members.

Councillor Maxwell called three tax payers liars for claiming she was distributing flyers as part of the RLGG, but the mayor got upset councillor Paula Banks claimed that councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] were lying because they had confessed, they were.

Maybe if the mayor had of dealt with councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] when they confessed this would have been resolved instead, he did not say a word. This can be verified by watching the closed meetings. The mayor silence on the RLGG knowing they were printing lies and conspiracy theories against the majority of council should call for his resignation. Mayor Hoogenboom watched for the last nine months in silence pretending that the RLGG was not a political machine used by councillor Maxwell and claimed they are a simply opinion group as he often states.

The mayors comments to concerning the RLGG delegation even tough he has been asked several times to speak to the lies and conspiracy theories and refused each time.

Hoogenboom said there have always been critics of the mayor or members of council and this group is probably no different, "but it is the council that is the voice of the community. It's not one particular group or individual."

The mayor said the RLGG is an opinion group that is "free to challenge, or criticize me or members of council based on the decisions that we make."

Hoogenboom asked that they monitor their social media posts.

"Social media is a wonderful tool but it needs to be fair and it needs to be appropriate," he said. "How well we do our jobs will be decided by the public at the next election."

The difference is councillor Paula Banks had proof that [REDACTED] Maxwell had lied because they had confessed in front of other councillors and staff days earlier. When councillor Maxwell said three tax payers were lying, she did that in closed and we all now know they were telling the truth.

Violation: Sections 1.2.i, 1.2.iv, 3.1, 6.11.1, 6.11.2 (particularly TRL By-laws 2019-17 Schedule D and 2023-48 Section 14)

Rationale:

In attempting to remove a public opinion group from the agenda, Councillors J. and P. Banks were seeking to silence a public group representing local constituents with whose opinions they did not agree. This contravened the spirit of Federal and Provincial laws regarding public access and transparency, specifically the Municipal act, as well as the Township's own by-laws.

RLGG followed the Township procedures for seeking a delegation on the agenda which was granted;

The CAO offered councillor Paula Banks this route as an option in an email. If those options offered broke any municipal, provincial or Federal laws I would speak to her. The RLGG has always claimed that no council member was part of their group as we now know that is also a lie. I would suggest they were not being transparent

and may have broken several laws and bylaws by secretly working with two council members to pressure other council members to vote for a new office by harassing them for nine months.


In the past the RLGG and its member attempted to ask council to block councillor Paula Banks and others opinions being shared with council. I see no difference in us asking for a deferral to wait for more information and the RLGG member asking that council disregard the voices of many people that councillor Paula Banks polled on Facebook for the budget survey.

Exhibit D Lesley Ulliyett - Council Budget Survey

'Given all of Council approved the Official Township budget 2024 survey prior to launch; given the only survey accessible to all of Township taxpayers is the Official Township survey; given all the gaps and flaws in the personal Banks survey as discussed above, I respectfully request that Council provide assurance to the voting public, that the only survey results to be used as the basis for the analysis, report and recommendations on the Rideau Lakes Township 2024 budget, be that of the Official Rideau Lakes Township Budget 2024 survey. Furthermore, I request that no Township staff resources be dedicated to the analysis and interpretation of a personal survey. Sincerely, Lesley Ulliyett'

The RLGG would like council and the public to disregard others' opinions in TRL that do not agree with their vision for a new HUB/Office. With [REDACTED] Maxwell being secret members, they posted false information and even paid for an ad in the local newspaper to try to sway the budget survey for the purpose of supporting a new office. They tried to block councillor Paula Banks from sharing any public opinion she gathered on Facebook. Which is not only allowed as per AMO training, it is encouraged as it is the main means of communicating with your constituents now.

Below you will see different comments taken from social media that show RLGG was trying to silence the voices of tax payers using false information that did not agree with them. Yet they claim the same offence by the Banks's

 **Rideau Lakes Grassroots** is 🧡 feeling cool. ...
September 20, 2023 · 🌐

If you live in Rideau Lakes Township, please complete the township's budget survey! As you do, please don't forget to consider that the current municipal offices are beyond repair. So bad in fact, that drinking water for employees need to be trucked in!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLBudget2024> ✓

2024 Budget Survey

Township offices meet no standards, council chambers are a joke

To Rideau Lakes' Mayor and Council:

In 2015 "TRL's Strategic Plan-2015 and forward - visioning for 2025" set the parameters for what Rideau Lakes would look like in 10 years. Municipalities must be thinking at least 10-15-25-50 years into the future when it comes to their infrastructure, what the priorities will be and the priorities and course for the municipality. In that exercise, one of the things identified was the development of a municipal hub. For the next several years many actions were taken to prepare for a municipal hub including several public consultations and the purchasing and clearing land (Bresce and Gallagher properties) to set the foundation for that to become a reality. There is also documentation that since the Portland Hall was considered "beyond it's useful life" that the Hall property would also be utilized for a municipal hub which is in a geographically appropriate place for the entire township and in line with hubs in other wards. In January 2023, having all of the studies, assessments, estimates and architectural work completed, the CAO recommended the tender be let. That would then set the stage for applying for federal/provincial funding to assist with the building of the municipal hub. There are 440+ municipalities in Ontario and each municipality prepares their package for large capital projects. Mostly those that are shovel ready (meaning all of the pre-work has been completed) will make the short list for federal/provincial funding which was the case with the Municipal Hub project. The municipality's multiple Councils and staff had been working toward this since 2015 -- nearly 9 years. Current council stopped that process and embarked on an ill-advised

path toward a Portland standalone hall/library that serves only Portland and area and abandoned the needs of those residents in other wards along with the staff and others who conduct business with the Township.

If I simplify this into its essence you could say that a library/hall utilized so little should not take priority over the administrative offices for the entire Township. The office in Chantry was the only place to put the Township's offices when amalgamation was enacted and it was at the same time we were experiencing the 1998 ice storm and the recovery from that emergency so there were few better choices in that moment when turning five townships into one. That was only to be a short term solution but here we are 25 years later.

The Chantry office was started life as a Public Works garage and other than building internal offices it hasn't changed that much...it is deficient and substandard in every way for the efficient and effective operation of a 15 million dollar a year business which is what the Township is. It is not on a main thoroughfare, it is not technologically appropriate, it won't meet 2025 AODA (accessibility) requirements, it has no climate friendly features, it could not be a command and control structure in an emergency (and that is not an "if" there is an emergency...that is a "when"), there is not sufficient room to conduct business with residents or others doing business with the Township in the offices and the Council chambers is a joke. There are rodents and the sodium level in the water there has meant water will be brought in. All that said, there are no redeeming qualities in the current Chantry office. There are 43 employees of the Township (22+ in the Chantry office) and their abil-

ity to respond to all of the demands of the 11,000 souls in Rideau Lakes is made infinitely harder without the tools of their trade. If we needed a snowplow or a fire truck we would buy it but we have not been able to provide a decent working environment for the people that work for us. Resources are not endless and capital projects must be planned and budgeted for and sources of funding will have to be found. It is highly unlikely that federal/provincial funding could be found for the building of a hall/library at a cost of \$3+ million dollars means less resources available for something that is truly needed. That was made even more unlikely when current Council dismissed any climate friendly additions to the hall/library. The hope had been that a single construction project could solve the administrative offices problem and the perceived need for a hall/library but Portland rejected that. There are 3 other halls in Portland and 2 others close by and the library is currently housed so if only one project is going to move forward, it should be the administrative offices.

There is currently, according to the Township's auditor, only \$2 million dollars in reserve and \$700,000 of that will be used for the Fire Hall which everyone agrees is a priority. If the rest of the current reserve and any borrowed funding is used for the standalone hall/library that will use up the financial resources needed to build municipal offices and pushes it far into the future.

This current Council has the ability to reverse course again and restore the original plan for the Hub (perhaps with some modification in the spirit of collaboration) and I respectfully request you do so.

Wendy Alford
Wills Rd., Smiths Falls,
40-year resident of Rideau Lakes

Attention: Rideau Lakes Permanent and Seasonal Residents

Have
your
say



Rideau Lakes

If you pay property taxes in Rideau Lakes Township, you are urged to take 5-10 minutes and complete the township's survey BEFORE October 1st.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLBudget2024>

As you complete the survey consider;

- The new firehall. Replacing the destroyed one in Portland must be built!
- The township offices in Chantry are a disgrace. They are substandard and negatively impact the staff's service delivery to all the residents of Rideau Lakes. An architectural review said the building should not be renovated. New offices are required.
- Your roads should be a priority.

Difficult decisions are going to be made by council for 2024 and beyond that effect everyone in Rideau Lakes. So, please complete the survey before October 1st.

To learn more visit: Rideau Lakes Grassroots Group – www.rlgrassroots.com



Paula Banks

September 16, 2023 · 🌐

How do you want your tax money prioritized in the 2024 budget and beyond. TRL is currently doing a survey but I want to get FB feedback. Please feel free to rate what we have or add your own.

...



Wendy Alford

If the results of your FB poll aren't reflected in the results of Township's own budget survey, past behaviour would indicate you will bring your poll to the Council table. Governance by FB while dismissing staff's efforts seems to be a trend.

41w Like Reply Share

7 🙌 🤔 🤔



Dan Berty

So let me get this straight, you post your own survey with like questions to the one posted by Rideau Lakes Township? What is the purpose of this? Is it to create more chaos and animosity at council?

41w Like Reply Share

2 🙌 🤔



Lesley Ulyett

This "poll survey" is a pretty blatant attack trying to undermine the township survey. There is nothing transparent or democratic about this questionnaire. Who is responding? Is every single responder a Rideau Lakes taxpayer? Have even one of the responders already completed the township survey thus having multiple votes? Is every taxpayer in Rideau Lakes a member of this Facebook page? This "survey" is undermining my vote! I'm outraged! I find it completely unethical and with as much respect as I can muster in my currently outraged state, ask you to remove it from the site and apologize to the township public !

41w Like Reply Share

5 🙌 🤔



Paula Banks [Author](#) [Admin](#)

Lesley Ullyett these surveys are not used by the township staff. They are used by me to gage public interest. Staff worked with councillors to create this survey .

41w Like Reply Share

2



Tara De Long

Paula Banks I personally feel that a counsel member reaching out through social media and connecting with residents is refreshing and completely appropriate for 2023; thank you Paula.

41w Like Reply Share

12



Mary J Daniel [Top contributor](#)

Dan Berty Lesley Ullyett **Paula Banks** **Debbie Anne Hutchings** **Linda Carr** **Jeff Banks**, Joan Delaney, Marcia Maxwell, **Susan Dunfield**. Also, a heads up (as I've stated many times) within the context of an informal public consultation, ranked selection surveys are about narrowing down options, not about voting for things. You're looking for things no-one or almost no one (less than 5%-10%) - cares about, or things that everyone, or almost everyone (90%+) wants. The middle ground is 'inconclusive' - in part because there's no mechanism to check how many times one person votes. And no way to know if the people responding are a representative sample or not of the voting public. There doesn't have to be because - you're not voting. Just giving input. Its a test the waters - fling it out there see what sticks, what flops - kind of thing. Not a referendum.

41w Like Reply Share Edited



Paula Banks [Author](#)

I have posted the township survey three times . If we do surveys on Survey Monkey we are getting an average of about 100 responses. I'm trying to see if we have more public input by just posting straight to Facebook. I also have been told by the public that sometimes they do not understand what we are trying to ask, as was the case in hunting camps.

This survey was created by staff and council if we need to improve it or clarify questions we need to know. Councillors read these questions prior to publication and some were changed. I'm trying to find better ways to get quality feedback from the biggest number of tax payers as possible.

41w Like Reply Share Edited



Dan Berty [Top contributor](#)


Nonsense - and the council meeting where you explain the results of your own survey with the resulting chaos and achromony will be the proof.

41w Like Reply Share

- 41w Like Reply Share
- Wendy Alford**
Governance by Facebook poll while undercutting Township staff...everyone do the Township's budget survey...not this one!
- 41w Like Reply Share 5 🙌👍
- Jeff Banks** Top contributor
Wendy Alford well at least it gives people a chance to voice their opinion.Nothing like the author of blue flyer or that grass roots website . Neither of these had the courage to sign their name so people could ask them questions.
- 41w Like Reply Share 3 🙌
- Janet Coutanche**
Wendy Alford were is the TRL survey regarding financial spending I didn't see it in my taxes or by mail? I wouldn't know there was one except for your comments on Facebook.
- 41w Like Reply Share
- Elisabeth Hick** Top contributor
Janet Coutanche governance and undercutting staff initiatives by way of little blue flyer!
- 41w Like Reply Share

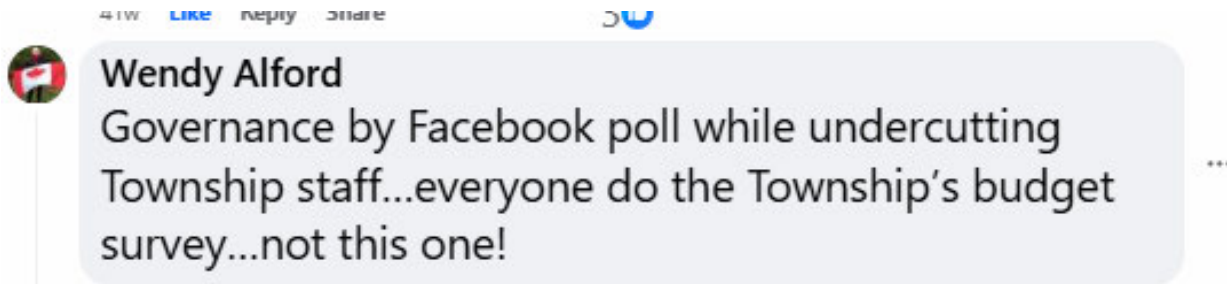
- Dan Berty** Top contributor
Because Jeff, as you well know, a second survey, as Paula herself says is not to compliment the township one, but to garner her own view of who is saying what. This will only serve to confuse and obfuscate the township survey. And this is exactly what you and your wife apparently want.
- 41w Like Reply Share 3 🙌
- Janet Coutanche**
Dan Berty I don't know "who" when no one in RLT received a notice of this survey. Staff knows no one is completing the survey. These attacks on Paula Banks because she is informing taxpayers on Facebook very suspicious & rude!
- 41w Like Reply Share 1 🙌
- Dan Berty** Top contributor
Janet Coutanche not an attack. Just reality. I guess you have been in touch with staff and know how many surveys have been completed? Are you able to share this information? It would be useful to know.
- 41w Like Reply Share 1 🙌

- Lesley Ulyett**
This "poll survey" is a pretty blatant attack trying to undermine the township survey. There is nothing transparent or democratic about this questionnaire. Who is responding? Is every single responder a Rideau Lakes taxpayer? Have even one of the responders already completed the township survey thus having multiple votes? Is every taxpayer in Rideau Lakes a member of this Facebook page? This "survey" is undermining my vote! I'm outraged! I find it completely unethical and with as much respect as I can muster in my currently outraged state, ask you to remove it from the site and apologize to the township public !
- 41w Like Reply Share 5 🙌👍
- Paula Banks** Author
Lesley Ulyett it is the same survey I posted from the township several times on Facebook. We also do not know the people filling out the one on our website are from Rideau Lakes.
- 41w Like Reply Share
- Jeff Banks** Top contributor
Lesley Ulyett why are people so angry that there is a survey the same as the township one. People are on Facebook like it or not. This will get more responses that the township website will produce .So if I understand you want less input from the public

- Dan Berty** Top contributor
Not sure what you are trying to accomplish with this other than more chaos and animosity at council? The township as directed by council (which you are a part of) as a very similar survey and this is the one that Rideau Lakes Township (including Portland) should be completing.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLBudget2024> 🟢
-  **SURVEYMONKEY.COM**
2024 Budget Survey
- 41w Like Reply Share Edited 3 🙌👍
- Paula Banks** Author
Dan Berty I have posted it three times if you go back and look. Other members have posted it as well.
- 41w Like Reply Share 1 🙌
- Dan Berty** Top contributor
Paula Banks so post it again! This is an obvious deliberate attempt to manipulate the outcome.
- 41w Like Reply Share 1 🙌
- Janet Coutanche**
Dan Berty are you serious you attack someone's integrity on Facebook over a survey.
- 41w Like Reply Share

How is the above any different than trying to defer a delegation, especially one that has lied and attacked council members verbally and physically in the council chambers.

As councillor Paula Banks informed council, she took the RLGG and the mayors concerns about her posting on social media to her AMO training and they had no concerns, in fact they encouraged it.



From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:38:58 PM
To: Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>
Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Erin Johnson <ejohnson@rideaulakes.ca>; jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; 736sued@gmail.com <736sued@gmail.com>; Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; lambtrax@outlook.com <lambtrax@outlook.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney <Joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>
Subject: Re: Integrity Commissioner Complaint Confidential

I was not going to reply to this but then I got clarification today on one important issue in my training today.
I'm not only allowed, it is encouraged for councilors to get as much feedback as possible even via social media on upcoming notices of motions prior to them coming to the council table. If it is on the agenda or being discussed unless in closed I'm allowed and encouraged to share and gather public feedback, that is my job.
The trainers also said council should consider all information brought to council even from Facebook.
I'm allowed to post motions both before and after votes as well as doing polls. None of that would be considered advancing council business in the trainers' opinions today.
I just wanted to clarify that you were incorrect in case someone wants to file a complaint.
Thanks
Paula

Fair Decision-Making

Procedural fairness relates to the process by which a decision is made. At minimum, procedural fairness requires that:

1. Persons who will be affected by a decision are given advance notice that a decision will be made
2. Persons affected by a decision are given the information that will be considered when a decision is made
3. Persons affected by a decision are given a meaningful opportunity to state or present their case
4. Persons affected by a decision are given an opportunity to challenge or dispute any information that might be contrary to their position when a decision is being made
5. The decision maker be thorough and thoughtfully review all the information provided by persons affected by a decision
6. The decision maker be impartial (unbiased & without a personal interest in the outcome of the decision) & open to persuasion
7. The decision maker give meaningful reasons for the decision that are understandable to persons affected

The mayor and RLGG opposes councillor Paula Banks posting of Facebook and have accused her of advancing council business.

PB
Paula Banks
To:Lora Tigno

Thu 3/7/2024 6:23 PM

You forwarded this message on Thu 3/7/2024 6:23 PM

You forwarded this message on Thu 3/7/2024 6:23 PM

I took the above training and I have a question about what I was told during that training and would like clarification from the trainers.

The mayor in Rideau Lakes Township feels that by me posting public township business on social media prior to or after a vote it is advancing council business, we also have a tax payer accusing me of soliciting input from the public.

I asked about this during training and was told that all public township information can be shared with the public in any manner I see fit to keep my residents abreast of what is going on or what has been passed. The trainer actually told me it was my job to solicit public input and keep tax payers informed prior to a vote.

I told the mayor and council what I was told at training but they are still accusing me of those two things.

Can I get some clarification? This was the only reason I took this course to get clarification on this issue and now I'm being told what I repeated is incorrect. If it is there is not much use of me taking further courses.

Could I possibly get a response before Monday at noon they are taking this issue into a closed meeting to talk about the complaint from the resident that I'm soliciting public input and advancing council business.

Thanks
Paula Banks
Rideau Lakes Township
Councillor Bastard & South Burgess
613-284-0238
face book: [Paula in Politics for Bastard & South Burgess](#)

To: **Petra Wolfebeiss** <pwolfbeiss@amo.on.ca>; Lora Tigno <LTigno@amo.on.ca>

Cc: 'Jim Pine' <jimpineconsulting@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: AMO Councillor Training 1.0 - Pre-session materials

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi **Petra**,

Jim and I have discussed this issue; our apologies for the late response as we have both been away on vacation.

We feel that our response provided to the question at the training session is valid and should not be considered advancing the business of the municipality but preparing the Councillor to do so at the Council table.

The training response represents our perspective and experience as former long-standing CAOs. If the Councillor is still uncomfortable with her colleague's reaction, perhaps she should consult with their Integrity Commissioner.

We trust this provides an adequate response to this inquiry.

Regards,

Jim & Tony

The RLGG members including councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] were never transparent in their actions or membership and council members had a right to try to delay this delegation until after the closed meeting on the same date where the memberships of councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] in the RLGG was to be discussed. the Mayor observed removal of a delegation from the public would be unprecedented in the history of the Township.

Again, the CAO offered this as an option so all of council was aware this might be done. The RLGG delegation was a verbal opinion that they planned to share with the public, it is no different than an opinion letter being added to the agenda.

The mayor may have said that the removal would be unprecedented but that is not true. The mayor in fact blocked a letter that was sent to be added the council agenda himself, this correspondence showed his position on the 8.5 million HUB/Office in a negative light and he blocked it in early 2023. This can be confirmed by the clerk.

There is no difference whether the opinion is written or verbal. The only difference is the mayor has the power to make the decisions by himself, councillors Paula and Jeff Banks asked the rest of council for support.

Councillor Paula Banks

Time: minute 2:24 thru 3:44

Councillor Paula Banks attacks RLGG as divisive and claims the group “attacks” the majority of council decisions by voicing their opposition to those decisions thru various media and letters to council. She accuses the group of attacking staff.

Howard French and Dan Berty have accused staff of possible wrong doing, both times the CAO’s had to look into these issues and report back to council.

Attacks are when a group uses false information, innuendo and lies to try to pressure a member of council to change their votes or be harassed for nine months.

The RLGG often speaks to the mistreatment of staff by councillors yet they may not be aware councillor are not allowed to direct or corresponded staff without going through the CAO. Councillor Paula and Jeff Banks have never once been spoken to about their behaviour or mistreatment of staff by a CAO.

She accuses fellow councillors of supporting the group.

The RLGG spokespeople have declared many times no member of council was part of their group or have helped them, we now know that is NOT true. Councillors Maxwell after vehemently denying having any part to do with the RLGG for nine

months and calling tax payers liars that reported her. She now claims she was helping RLGG distribute boxes of flyers because she was helping her friend Wendy Alford. Councillor Pollard admitted getting a box to distribute and giving a box to ex councillor Bob Lavoie to distribute.

She falsely suggests that flyers produced by the group were printed at township Offices

Councillor Paula Banks as she reported to all council was told that these flyers were distributed from the Chantry office on August 17th during the staff building BBQ. Councillors and staff were made aware of this May 7th and refused to comment if it was true. Councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] also were told that this was going to be discussed in a closed meeting May 13th. Councillor Paula Banks was denied an opportunity to properly defend herself from councillor Maxwells complaint even though she was assured if she did not attend the closed meeting, she would be able to mount her defense during the public meeting, that did not happen. There is no public record of councillor Paula Banks defense because the mayor did not allow her to mount one.

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 7:46:34 AM

To: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>; Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>

Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Councillor Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Councillor Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; pollard.ron@kingston.net <pollard.ron@kingston.net>

Subject: Re: Tonight's meeting

I also heard Marcia push Joan to second the motion as well and I am confused why I barley got to speak to the issue twice considering I was suppose to be able to defend myself properly.

What did not surprise me was Marcia refusal to take any responsibility for the division she causes in council and as I said my defence is now public record.

If this attack on the 5 of us continues I will file a complaint.

I was surprised Ron brought it back up considering we found out his involvement in distributing the RLGR flyers and he and Marcia have been lying to us for months.

I will wait and see how the next couple of months go but I spent a lot of time collecting proof of what I said and some I still have to say and just because they delete comments does not mean it do not have them.

I will wait to see the responses from Marcia and her group on the next couple of months.

Paula

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 8:01:54 AM

To: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>; Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>

Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Councillor Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Councillor Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; pollard.ron@kingston.net <pollard.ron@kingston.net>

Subject: Re: Tonight's meeting

When reading my FB messages this morning I got a surprise message so I do have one more question to fact check. Joan and Ron were you given boxes of blue flyers to hand out at the staff BBQ last year? a person just told me they seemed to think that is when they were handed out?

What an odd place to pick to undermine the majority of council.

Could I please get an honest answer from either of you before we try to out this to bed.

Joan or Ron?

From: Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 8:21:52 AM
To: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>
Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Councillor Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>; arieathome@hotmail.com <arieathome@hotmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; pollard.ron@kingston.net <pollard.ron@kingston.net>
Subject: Re: Tonight's meeting

Hi all.

I would like to set the record straight on last night.

On April 8 we had a very early MSC meeting to suit Sue's schedule. One minute into the meeting Paula announced that she would like reconsideration of the IC's recommendation of the 21 day penalty. She was prepared to accept it. Both Arie and Mary Ellen told Paula that it would have to happen at the next regular council meeting on May 6. I remembered that and just watched the video twice to confirm it.

The public watch the meetings.

I expected an audience last evening. No one was blindsided. There have been other times when I was blindsided, like when the firefighters came as an unannounced delegation after a meeting with SOME of the councillors.

Marcia did not prod me last evening. I waited to see if anyone else would step up to second the motion. I don't want to be the kid in the class always wanting to be first.

The meeting last evening should reassure the public that we are being accountable. In a brief trip into Elgin yesterday on my way back from yoga, I was greeted by a former councillor and then a public servant who asked me what the H...was going on in council. Not the kind of conversations I want to be having!

Have a good day all.

Joan
Sent from my iPad

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 8:25:38 AM
To: Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>
Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Councillor Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; arieathome@hotmail.com <arieathome@hotmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; pollard.ron@kingston.net <pollard.ron@kingston.net>
Subject: Re: Tonight's meeting

Can I get an answer about the BBQ please?

She alters her motion from a "removal from the agenda" to a deferral.

Again, one of the options offered by staff. The motion was to defer the delegation until more information is available. If councillor Paula Banks did not ask Councillor Hutchings to reconsider and accept the agenda the delegation would not have been heard, but yet they still file a complaint as if it was denied.

The last time this group was at the meeting in numbers they were disruptive and one of them assaulted a council member when leaving by spitting on him. As councillor Paula Banks has said many times, she feels unsafe with some of these members even in council chambers.

The mayor has allowed the RLGG to attack council members without allowing them to defend themselves, such as the case of Dan Berty inferring he could sue councillor Paula Banks for blocking him on Facebook. The mayor would not allow councillor Paula Banks to comment on the threat. The mayor has also blocked people from voicing their views on the agenda by blocking residents' letters.

Time: minute 9:20 thru 10:34 Councillor P. Banks repeats unsubstantiated accusatory statements about 2 unnamed fellow Councillors, She repeats her false innuendo regarding the RLGG “blue flyers” coming from Township Offices.

How does RLGG know if councillor Maxwell handed out the boxes of flyers from the Chantry office [REDACTED], Delany or the mayor? This group has claimed on several occasions and even during their delegation that council members are not part of their group so how do they know what councillors are doing in Chantry or are they now calling a staff member a liar as well.

The mayor and councillors, Maxwell, [REDACTED] and Delany had several days before the May 13th to answer to this concern. Staff answered within days of getting asked the first time, that they knew nothing about this while council members to this day have refused to answer.

Violation: Sections 5.3.ii, 6.8.1, 6.10.1

Rationale:

Councillor P. Banks used inflammatory and abusive language in a verbal assault on a local public

opinion group, asserting that voicing opposition, through various communication forums constitutes “attacks”, without any recognition that RLGG has the right to freedom of speech, to express opinions contrary to elected officials and to criticize their elected officials.

She made unsubstantiated accusations against RLGG, in a formal, public meeting, attempting to
defame the group.

The RLGG also attacked council members in the delegation including councillor Susan Dunfield. This group is a political group acting as an arm for councillor [REDACTED] Maxwell. Attacks are false statements made in an attempt to create division in the council, with staff and in the public.

Others in the public have criticized council and the 5 members feel no need to contradict their opinions. The difference is they are not peddling lies in an attempt to create a false conspiracy with a single goal of building a new HUB/Office for the mayor.

Please see below another group that opposes the path of the current council. We have disagreed with some of the opinions shared but they are opinions and not false statements attacking individual councillors.

From: Bob Lavoie <bblavoie@rideau.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:04:43 AM

To: Arie Hoogenboom <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Jeff Banks <jeffrejbanks@gmail.com>; paulainpolitics@hotmail.com <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@rideau.net>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Sue Dunfield <736SueD@gmail.com>; Linda Carr <carr@rideaucondo.com>; Bees Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Pavement Politics on Rideau Lakes Radio on the Internet

Good morning all!

Rideau Lakes radio presents a new weekly show on Sundays at 6:30 pm.

You may find this edition interesting or maybe annoying! Next weeks topic will be housing.

Subject: Pavement Politics on Rideau Lakes Radio

Join us Sunday evening at 6:30 PM for our premiere episode of "Pavement Politics", with our special guest Bob Lavoie. This week we will take a closer look into BESS (Battery Electric Storage Systems) and their future in The Rideau Lakes.

The results on both proposed projects: Plus Power Project (McCann Road) and Baseload Power (Cedar Valley). The Motion for RLT to provide a letter of support in principle for both companies to accompany their proposals to the Ontario government seeking project approval, were both defeated by Council in December.

Tune in Sunday evenings, as we take a deeper dive into local topics that are evolving in The Rideau Lakes. Feel free to submit topic ideas that you would like us to talk about.

The show that kicks a little asphalt!!!

Sent from my iPad

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 10:27:26 AM

To: Bob Lavoie <bblavoie@rideau.net>; Arie Hoogenboom <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Jeff Banks <jeffrejbanks@gmail.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@rideau.net>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Sue Dunfield <736SueD@gmail.com>; Linda Carr <carr@rideaucondo.com>; Bees Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Pavement Politics on Rideau Lakes Radio on the Internet

I think it is great.

As long as it does not become an attack job on the majority of council using false information like some others have attempted. If it does I will simply call it out.

I support as many people taking about politics in Rideau Lakes as possible.

Just remember you don't like me rehashing your past votes lol

Maybe they should have Shellie on once she is aboard ?

Paula

She made inappropriate, unsubstantiated and false allegations against her colleagues at an open meeting.

That is not true, all information shared about council members were shared based on facts. [REDACTED] received a box of the blue flyers to hand out from councillor Maxwell and that he gave a box to ex councillor Bob Lavoie to hand out. Bob Lavoie also mentioned he was being pressured by another council member to hand out these flyers as well.

Councillor Maxwell when confronted [REDACTED] claimed after nine months of complete denials and calling the tax payers' lairs that had reported her now claims she was helping her friend Wendy Alford.

A person attending the team building BBQ when they heard about these boxes reached out and said they had remembered councillors getting boxes at the BBQ on August 17th. They felt for sure that these boxes were distributed at the office the day of the team building BBQ and did not think what was going on was ethical.

Councillors Maxwell, [REDACTED] Delany, staff and the mayor were asked three times prior to the May 13th meeting if this was true. Staff answered immediately but the members of council refused to answer to this day.

She perpetuated a lie that RLGG flyers were produced at township offices. RLGG has the printer's invoice for flyers on blue paper proving otherwise.

Councillor Paula Banks never said the flyers were printed in Chantry. As she reported to staff and council on May 7th 2024 a person reached out to her saying that council members were handing out boxes to other council members during the staff BBQ. Councillor Paula Banks asked council members in the three above emails if that was true and there was not a single response. Like [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Maxwells refusal to answer if they handed out the flyers and were members of RLGG they refused to answer if they were handing out boxes of flyers attacking fellow council members during a team building BBQ at the Chantry office.

She tried to avoid the "unprecedented" attempt to remove a delegation of the local public already granted time on the agenda, by changing her motion to *remove* the delegation, to *deferring* it.

Again, this was not unprecedented the mayor has removed items of public opinion from the agenda earlier that year and possibly other times as well. The clerk should verify this. As the clerk mentioned council has a right to defer a delegation if we are waiting for further information or not. This option was also offered to us via email from the CAO prior to the meeting. If it is so wrong, why would she offer it as an option?

RLGG has also tried to silence Paula Banks about the budget survey and other issues she posts on social media, saying she should not be allowed to post polls or questions in a public forum. The RLGG even asked council to block the opinions she shares from feedback of social media which the mayor has tried several times.

While RLGG voices opposition, opinions, asks questions and are often critical of decisions by "majority council", our public debate remains respectful.

100% false, the RLGG is a public arm of councillor [REDACTED] Maxwell political group. They continually share lies and false conspiracy theories that they have been made aware are false and have refused to correct them. Even councillors [REDACTED] Maxwell and the mayor were asked to speak with this group about their false conspiracy theories several times and all refused. Their debate is rarely respectful and they have lied about all 5 of the council members they oppose and personally about councillors Paula and Jeff Banks.



Paula Banks

Yet another baseless lie. I would think you would ask Councilor Maxwell to fact check your posts? Since she helped start this group she should make an effort to have the correct information.

22w Like Reply Edited



Rideau Lakes Grassroots

Paula Banks incorrect on all front but we appreciate all your attempts to deflect draw in others. Excellent and usually political strategies Councilor. Again you refuse refute and provide any evidence to the contrary. Because you can't.

22w Like Reply



Paula Banks

Rideau Lakes Grassroots I was told by a couple of residents she was handing out the blue flyers and she was a founding member. I will ask her at the next council meeting.

22w Like Reply

Councillor Maxwell was asked several times in open and closed meetings if she ever helped the RLGG or distributed flyers and every time she flatly denied taking and part calling those that reported her to two council members liars.



Dan Berty

Elisabeth Hick honestly - how many conspiracies can you dream up in one day? Have you done some kind of Zapruder analysis on the video?

Seems like something occurred as pointed out on the video to Councilor Banks by Councilor Hutchings, but who knows what? There is no video or audio evidence of anything. Maybe it's the rats moving around the room inside or our not so wonderful township office space - did you notice the exterminator traps?

Good lord. The mayor isn't even on social media, nor is he or any other member of council part of this group. So, what the heck are you talking about? What is your real game - to create paranoia or create even further mistrust?

Please be factual when posting here. Thank you.

22w Like Reply Edited

Rideau Lakes Grassroots
Thanks David. Always appreciate input. We disagree on the two councilors doing fine in South Elmsley. While Councilor Maxwell is. Councillor Jeff Banks (who is wife Councillor Paula Banks often publicly speaks for, suggesting they are one vote counting as 2)- not so much.

22w Like Reply

Dan Berty Top contributor
I have a question: Since you have stated and insinuated numerous times on FB that the mayor and several councilors are directly affiliated with or supporting the blue flyer / Rideau Lakes grassroots group, why don't you ask them directly if they are, in public, during a council meeting? You have stated and insinuated he is in many FB posts.

36w Like Reply Share Edited

Paula Banks Author
Dan Berty I was told by a previous councilor that he was given a flyer by a sitting council and was being pressured into handing them out. I was also told by two residents in SE that a different sitting councilor was handing the flyers out as well as an ex councilor from Smiths Falls. I have sent them messages asking that question and they have gone unanswered and I did ask at the council table the same question it also went unanswered. I suppose I could always ask again so it is on the public record.

36w Like Reply Share

20

Dave Warren
Dan Berty Dan it is Ms. Maxwell and Grassroots(Group of 3) that have sown disharmony with the clear Majority.

They claim no council members are part of their group and that councillor Maxwell is doing fine. To bad it is all a lie and councillor Maxwell secretly helped create and aided this group for nine months.

RLGG Facebook page and website are evidence to this, and they are open to the public. The flyer in question can be found on the RLGG website. Our letters to Council are accessible to the Integrity Commissioner.

We would also observe that Councillors supporting constituents, whether individuals or a group, is a duty, not an offence.

Councillors supporting constituents whether individuals or a group may not be an offence but I consider the following as one:

- Councillors handing out boxes of unsigned flyers attacking the majority of council because you lost the HUB vote.

- Councillors lying when asked if they were handing out flyers after three tax payers reported that they are involved and helped create the RLGG.
- Councillors calling tax payers liars for reporting that they are part of RLGG.
- Voting and taking part in closed meeting discussions concerning this group and its members. Not being transparent when councillor Paula Banks was asking for help under the Ontario Health and Safety and Ontario Human Rights Acts.
- Filing a complaint against councillor Paula Banks for attempting again to ask for help with the RLGG and councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] and not making their membership known to the IC investigator or to the public before voting to take 21 days pay from councillor Paula Banks.
- For voting for a delegation to go forward without being transparent with the public you are a founding member of the RLGG
- For causing a division in council, staff and the community because you lost the HUB vote.
- For not addressing information published by the RLGG knowing it was false and allowing the public to be misled to promote your personal position on an issue.

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 7:47 PM

To: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>

Cc: Mike Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; 736sued@gmail.com; linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com; lambtrax@outlook.com; jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com; Erin Johnson <erjohnson@rideaulakes.ca>

Subject: Re: The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

Mike is it possible to hold a special closed council meeting to talk about the mayor's behaviour and this flyer prior to the planning meeting? I think council needs to address this flyer sooner rather than later.

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 22, 2023, at 8:18 AM, Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com> wrote:

Marcia can I ask if you or any other councilor has been handing out flyers? Marcia someone claims to have seen you I told them I would find that hard to believe.

Thanks

Paula

From: Mike Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 11:09:10 PM
To: Arie Hoogenboom (Mayor) <arieathome@hotmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings (Council) <lambtrax@outlook.com>; jeffreybanks@gmail.com <jeffreybanks@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney (Council) <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr (Council) <Linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Paula Banks (Council) <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>; Ron Pollard (Council) <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; 736sued@gmail.com <736sued@gmail.com>
Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Erin Johnson <ejohnson@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: RE: The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

Morning,

As per the procedural by-law the Mayor or Clerk can call a special meeting; the Mayor of his/her own accord, or the Mayor/Clerk based on a majority of Council petitioning them to do so. However, the meeting must provide 48 hours' notice. The only exception to that is a meeting called by the Mayor on an emergency basis. Accordingly, in the absence of the Mayor calling it as an emergency meeting, no Council would not be able to have a social meeting before PACA, as that would not allow 48 hours' notice. The 48 hour period would commence once the majority position was provided (I would suggest in writing, by email is fine no need for a formal 'petition') and the Clerk can issue the notice.

In terms of the request for a closed meeting – while discussion about concerns of the conduct of a member could qualify for closed, the issue of the flyer circulating in the community does not look to be something that would qualify. That discussion would have to occur in open.

As I have noted before if there are concerns about a member's conduct in relation to the Code and you believe you have expressed this to the member and the members behaviour has not changed in a manner that you believe is complying (informal resolution technique), you may be best to refer the matter to the Integrity Commissioner (either as a member, group of members, or formally as Council if the majority direction occurs at a meeting of Council).

While I will leave it to the Mayor to respond, I do not believe he believes his conduct in discussing the development path in Portland and his opinion on the relative value of one option versus any other is a breach of the Code.

Getting an Integrity Commissioner to review and rule on the matter may be the best way forward for all to address this matter – as it allows for independent and impartial review and once determined, will allow the matter to rest. You could ask the IC for an expedited review noting the disruptive nature of the matter to the business of Council.

As I have noted to some on inquiry in the past, I would be concerned about unilaterally seeking to impose any sanctions or limitations on a member absent an IC review and finding of a breach of the Code due to either 1) the unclear legislative authority to do so or 2) the fairness/due process of doing so absent a finding by the IC that a breach has indeed occurred.

In terms of the flyer, if Council directs a certain action to be taken and provides the necessary details to do so (i.e. the noted idea of a media release, with desired language/primary points) staff will follow through. However, when it comes to specific issues that are highly partisan and/or political in nature, staff cannot act at the direction of one member (or even a majority outside of formal direction at a meeting). So indeed, if the majority position is that the Township should respond in some fashion to the flyer, that direction should come via a meeting, as you noted.

Best, Mike

Mike Dwyer, CAO

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 11:54 AM
To: Mike Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>; Arie Hoogenboom (Mayor) <arieathome@hotmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings (Council) <lambtrax@outlook.com>; jeffreybanks@gmail.com <jeffreybanks@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney (Council) <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr (Council) <Linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard (Council) <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; 736sued@gmail.com
Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Erin Johnson <ejohnson@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: Re: The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

I personally would like to have a special council meeting as soon as possible to discuss this flyer. I would also like a closed meeting to be put on the agenda to ask if the majority of council would like to file a complaint of harassment against the mayor.

If the rest of council does not want to have a special meeting I would like it added to the agenda of the next meeting please.

Paula Banks

From: Mike Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:59:03 PM
To: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>; Arie Hoogenboom (Mayor) <arieathome@hotmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings (Council) <lambtrax@outlook.com>; jeffreybanks@gmail.com <jeffreybanks@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney (Council) <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr (Council) <Linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard (Council) <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; 736sued@gmail.com <736sued@gmail.com>
Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Erin Johnson <ejohnson@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: RE: The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

Morning all,

Paula - since a majority seemingly have not petitioned for a special meeting in response to the option being advanced, then the items you noted would be added:

1. A Motion regarding the flyer – you should develop some wording and supply to Mary Ellen today or tomorrow AM at latest.
2. A Closed item to discuss a members conduct a possible IC referral.

Best, Mike

Mike Dwyer, CAO
Rideau Lakes
1 800 928 2250 x231
rideaulakes.ca

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 1:03:01 PM
To: Mike Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>; Arie Hoogenboom (Mayor) <arieathome@hotmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings (Council) <lambtrax@outlook.com>; jeffreybanks@gmail.com <jeffreybanks@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney (Council) <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr (Council) <Linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard (Council) <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; 736sued@gmail.com <736sued@gmail.com>
Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Erin Johnson <ejohnson@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: Re: The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

I would like to put a motion of the floor to discuss the unsigned flyer being handed out in TRL. It is full of misinformation such as saying the township is ignoring financial planning and budgeting fundamentals.

We as a council should speak out when people try to undermine our council with misinformation in an effort to derail projects that were democratically decided.

I would like to also go into a closed meeting to discuss the mayors further ignoring councils request to stop undermining our council.

Thanks

Paula

Let me know if I need any more information.

From: Paula Banks
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 6:53 PM
To: Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>
Subject: Flyers and confidential

I could get upset and yell and scream but honestly, I'm just disappointed you would get involved in this and handing out flyers. As I have started on FB many times you are one of the nicest people to me at council and I just do not understand how one day you would vote for the hall and then the next day hand out unsigned flyers. Arie wants this HUB more than anything and he is willing to jeopardize your seat and reputation to get this. Bob Lavoie is sitting back enjoying this show and I do not understand Arie's actions. Debbie and I both begged him to let this go and he leaves the meeting and goes right to Lake 88 to again sabotage us all. When I took this seat Mike asked me if Jeff and I were going to fire him. I was shocked and taken aback as I had no idea where that came from. I like Mike and thought he was a great CAO. Mike knew I wanted to make a lot of changes and asked me to just make the changes about the process and not the people which I have tried to do.

It was not until I reported to the CAO that a candidate told me the Gallagher property appraisal was leaked and not by a new councillor that he resigned. Not only did he resign he did not report that leak to the rest of council. I then followed up with an email to him and still it was not reported to council.

I'm starting to think that the divide in council has more to do with the Galligher property than the new council.

I would hope that you take a stand against these unsigned flyers. Even when I brought the deficit forward, I had the backbone to sign my name.

Paula

Councillor Jeff Banks

Time: minute 3:47 thru 4:48

Councillor Jeff Banks asserts the RLGG delegation is “insignificant, immaterial and inappropriate”.

He repeats his wife’s unsubstantiated accusations regarding attacks on staff.

Again, two letter came to council accusing staff of possible wrongdoing they were investigated and the CAOs at the time responded. They did not go to the CAO in confidence to ask questions and have their concerns answered instead they insisted that these letters be part of the public record.

He falsely accuses the group of a physical assault at an earlier council meeting.

Laura Redman a RLGG self proclaimed member attended a council meeting with their spokesman Howard French in the same vehicle. They were disruptive the whole meeting with councillors asking the mayor to get control of the meeting. At the end of that meeting Ms. Redman waited for the front row to exit she moved a heavy chair, approached the council table and spat on Councillor Jeff Banks.

He derides the Mayor in a formal public meeting for allowing the delegation on the agenda.

The mayor has been told several times in closed that he is losing the trust of the majority of council and that we are considering a nonconfidence vote due to his lack of leadership. If you look back at the closed meetings and review the tape he said, he would welcome that and planned to defend himself publicly.

Council's loss in confidence is not a surprise to mayor Hoogenboom and he said he is ready to publicly defend his position as councillor Paula and Jeff Banks informed him, they are as well.

The mayor has had nine months to take a leadership role in this division and has chosen to watch the council, staff and community relationship unravel from the sidelines in silence because it benefits his cause for a new office.

Council has been very clear with the mayor that he is losing the support of some of its members. His lack of leadership and his refusal to address councillor Maxwell's [REDACTED] undermining of the majority of council and been discussed in detail.

The mayor has been asked in closed, no begged in closed many times to take a position on the propaganda that the RLG and Councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] as members are putting out in the public that have divided council, staff and the public. He has refused every single time.

The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 9:46:17 PM
To: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>
Cc: Michael Dwyer <mdwyer@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard_ron@kingston.net>; Susan Dunfield <susan.dunfield@gmail.com>; Linda Carr Crosby <linda.carr.crosby@gamil.com>; Linda Carr Crosby <linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com>; Debbie Lambtrax <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreymbanks@gmail.com>; Erin Johnson <erjohnson@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: The HUB is undermining staff and council, and it needs to stop.

I cannot believe after all of us asking, no actually begging you to let this HUB go and move on with a new CAO in peace you would throw Mike and council under the bus, again. I was in tears asking you to leave the past in the past and yet you just cannot let it go. So, I guess this will mean you have no issues me reviewing your past votes often and in depth? Which you continually accuse me of but cannot show proof of.

You went to Lake 88 knowing full well what you were going to talk about and with a plan to sabotage the new council members. I begged you to let the past be in the past and I would do the same. I think we all thought you were on board but I guess not? Then I hear a group under Wendy Alford and working to support you are spreading bold face lies across the township by hand delivering flyers of propaganda. Please don't even pretend you did not know about it. Wendy is a seasoned politician and your supporter; she would never send these out without your knowledge. I have no idea why you want this HUB more than Mike, more than staff or even more than the respect of everyone around you. I for one knew you would never give up, your quest for power and control is more important to you than any staff member, councilors or even tax payers.

Once again, I beg you to stop undermining the at least six of us that have decided to support the Portland Hall. I want to go into a closed meeting again to see if we can get a legal opinion about Arie's unprofessional behavior only this time I think he should leave the room. We cannot function from now until we have a shovel in the ground waiting for one of our own to sabotage this project. I'm now starting to worry if he will go to these lengths what is he saying to staff about us? Maybe that is why they are so tense? Do we need to have a staff meeting? I would like council to consider having a closed staff meeting about the mayor's behavior if that is possible Maryellen?

As I said in the last meeting it is not staff, I do not trust it is the mayor and if we cannot trust him, I think we need a legal opinion on the actions we can take if this continues. Again, we have all begged for this to stop.

Please, for the sake of the staff and the people, the rest of council needs to see how this lone wolf behavior is exactly what Councilor Breese was accused of doing and reprimanded for. The mayor should not be representing council until we can all trust his word and I think the majority questioning that is growing.

Paula Banks

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:47 AM
To: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>
Cc: Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; susan.dunfield@gmail.com <736SueD@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Jeff Banks <Jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; debbie@lambtrax.ca <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>
Subject: Tax Bill Confidential

I was very disappointed to get our tax bill.

I understand that the majority of council cannot do much but file a complaint about Councilors Maxwell and Pollard handing out unsigned flyers attacking the majority of council with false information. Or that the Mayor can write a story with Mr. Fenek or go on Lake 88 to do the same thing.

What I would like to know is if there is anything council can do to stop the minority of council using tax payers dollars to send out propaganda against us. We have asked the mayor on so many occasions to stop undermining the majority using these letters and videos I have lost count.

Before the next letter or video goes out using tax dollars can we look into councils' options.
I'm open to any ideas.

Can we approve what is being sent to the public in the letters and videos.
Can they be from the all Council instead of just the Mayor.
Can we vote to discontinue this practice.

I know we have the budget coming up so I will not worry about this for now but if the Mayor and the councilors in the minority continue to proceed down this destructive path for the township, I feel I have no choice but to file a complaint with our new Integrity Commissioner.

As I mentioned yesterday that I will be filling a complaint if they continue to leak information from closed meetings, I will be filing a complaint if this continues, just as they did with Councilor Breese for continuing to undermine the majority of council after a vote.

I was hoping to deal with the flyers and the Mayor's behavior during the election but I feel it is time for this poor behavior to end.

I know that you received a letter requesting that the township pay my legal fees to fight Councilor Maxwells Grassroots Group and as I mentioned to you, they have offered to start a Go Fund Me.

I told you yesterday I would decline but this letter has changed that, the Mayor and Councilor Maxwells attacks through Grassroots continue.

I have enough going on in my personal life I should not have to tolerate these weekly attacks from sitting council members.

I would prefer we handle this at the council level if we can but I will use all avenues to bring this to an end.

If it cannot be handled through council, I would like you to look into my legal options through the township or I will ok the Go Fund Me.

I can provide proof of slander and libel as well as the flyer information and I would like you to look into the process of covering my costs through the township.

I know I told you yesterday I would decline but this letter has changed my mind.

Thanks

Paula Banks

Violation: Sections 5.3.ii, 6.8.1, 6.10.1, 6.11.1, 6.11.2

Rationale

Regardless of what Councillor Jeff Banks believes is the relevance of RLGG, we are a local public

opinion group with the rights and freedoms of speech and public debate.

People do have a right to free speech, opinions and debate but printing lies and propaganda for the purpose of stopping us from retro fitting an office in Chantry in favour of building a new office is not a right. For councillors to secretly be working with a group to undermine council, staff and the public is not an opinion group it is a political group.

The attempt to silence

opposition demonstrates a disregard for related laws and by-laws.

Like Councillor P. Banks, the language and unfounded accusations of Councillor Jeff Banks is

demeaning to a public opinion group of constituents and an attempt to defame RLGG.

The RLGG have attacked councillors Paula and Jeff Banks and the other three new councillors almost weekly since August 2023. They have made every effort to defame us as possible, even resorting to lies and conspiracy theories. Yet when we call out their lies, they don't answer our questions, they answer questions we did not ask or they just print more lies and then cry foul when they get caught.

Please see the responses to Wendy Alford answers.

(exhibit B Answers to delegation questions)

Deriding the Mayor in an open public meeting shows disrespect for the office and authority of the Mayor regarding Council Agendas.

We have been told we can ask for a vote of non-confidence in a public meeting and that will be my next step if the mayor does not take a leadership role.

Councillor Paula Banks asked at AMO training and we are allowed to publicly say when we feel the mayor is not acting in the best interest of the township.

The mayor allowed this delegation to go forward knowing that two council members were secretly apart of this group and did not make that transparent to the public. He allowed this delegation to go forward knowing one of the RLGG members had previously attacked a council member sitting at the table.

The mayor knows that this council has considered a nonconfidence vote and that we have asked him many times to step up and take a leadership role instead he stays silent and watched from the sidelines.

From: Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:18 AM
To: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Erin Johnson <ejohnson@rideaulakes.ca>; jeffreymbanks@gmail.com <jeffreymbanks@gmail.com>; 736sued@gmail.com <736sued@gmail.com>; Linda Carr <lmarr393@gmail.com>; Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; lambtrax@outlook.com <lambtrax@outlook.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney <Joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>
Subject: Re: Integrity Commissioner Complaint Confidential

Councillor Banks

Let me respond to your February 11th email. I would start by reminding you that the only correspondence, emails, Facebook posts etc that are subject to confidentiality are items shared only in closed council sessions.

I am pleased to read that you will be taking a more positive approach. That starts by not continually repeating past grievances with individuals and being critical of past council achievements and decisions. Social media is not how you should be airing ideas and advancing the business of council.

Your public apology was necessary and the olive branch to make changes is appreciated, but if you continue to repeat unfounded allegations against me I will aggressively defend my ethics and leadership. As all of council knows I have a broad mandate from the Rideau Lakes public. For my part I will no longer be responding to your many emails that are shared with council and staff.

Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor
Township of Rideau Lakes
1-800-928-2250 X241
Cell 613-323-0901

Councillors Jeff and Paula Banks

Time: minute 12.42

Vote called on Councillor P. Banks motion to defer delegation in a recorded vote: motion is defeated.

RLGG Delegation to remain on agenda

Time: minute 13:30 thru 14:26

Vote called to approve agenda as amended (an unrelated amendment had already been passed).

Recorded vote

In favour: Councillors J. Delaney, M. Maxwell, R. Pollard, Mayor Hoogenboom

Against: Councillors J. Banks, P. Banks, D. Hutchings, Deputy Mayor Carr

Tied Vote Motion lost: Mayor announces that the vote to adopt the agenda has failed. The meeting cannot proceed.

Discussion ensues on how to move forward. There must be a motion to reconsider.

Time: minute 15:00 thru 19:02

Councillor J. Banks accuses the Mayor of blind-siding council by putting the delegation on the agenda and should not allow controversial delegations at council meetings.

Yes, council was blindsided because all council members knew we were planning on discussing the membership of two of our own council members in the RLGG at the same meeting in the closed session.

Staff must have also felt uncomfortable because for the first time since I have been on council staff warned us that the RLGG was coming as a delegation before the agenda was made public. That is unprecedented and as you can see the CAO offered the options allowed by members, so I would not think refusal is that out of the ordinary?



Mary Ellen Truelove



To: Mayor; Linda Carr; Joan Delaney; Sue Dunfield; Debbie Hutchings; **+4 others**

Thu 5/9/2024 2:38 PM

Cc: Shellee Fournier

Good afternoon Council,

We are in the process of finalizing the agenda package for Monday.

There will be 2 delegations and we just wanted to give you a heads up that Wendy Alford will be attending as a delegation on behalf of the Rideau Lakes Grassroots Group.

Purpose of the Delegation: [Who we are](#), [How we started](#), [Response to May 6 Meeting Comments](#)

Regards,

Mary Ellen Truelove

Clerk

Township of Rideau Lakes

613-928-2251 ext 293

www.rideaulakes.ca



Paula Banks



To: Mary Ellen Truelove; Mayor; Linda Carr; Joan Delaney; Sue Dunfield; **+4 others**

Thu 5/9/2024 2:43 PM

Cc: Shellee Fournier

I would like to submit my defence as part of the same agenda as well than.

I will also be asking about the flyers being distributed at the Chantry office on August 17th at the BBQ that was meant to be a team building event.

Unless of course Ron and Joan would like to clear that up right now?

Thanks

Paula

Thank you



Shellee Fournier



To: Paula Banks; Mary Ellen Truelove; Mayor; Linda Carr; Joan Delaney; **+5 others**

Thu 5/9/2024 3:32 PM

Hello Everyone,

Staff do not have the authority to deny a delegation.

The agenda package is ready to go out.

Any proposed additions/deletions/refusals will have to be addressed under the "Emergency Additions/Amendments to the Agenda" section of the agenda on Monday.

Thank you

Shellee

Councillor P. Banks reiterates public accusations against 2 councillors, without substantiation, this time naming them publicly.

These two councillors were aware council would be discussing their part in the RLGG later the same meeting in closed. They should have been forthcoming with everyone that they had admitted to council they were part of the RLGG and should have recused themselves from that vote. Councillor Paula Banks has also asked councillor Maxwell in a public meeting if she ever helped RLGG and she denied it, so this is not the first time her name has been publicly linked to this group.

Violation: Section 1.2.i, 1.2.iv, 3.1, 6.8.1, 6.10.1, 6.11.1, 6.11.2

Rationale

Based on unsubstantiated and false statements made by Councillors J. and P. Banks, Council denied a delegation of the public, having met all pre-requisites, from making a presentation. The business of council has been deliberately disrupted.

Not true, we debated deferring the delegation until we had more information about two fellow members working secretly with the RLGG. But after the debate it was decided by councillor Paula Banks and councillor Debbie Hutchings to hear them. The business of council was being disrupted by councillor Maxwell [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for working with this group against the majority of council and hiding that from council, staff and the public for nine months while taking part in closed and open meeting without declaring their membership. The business of council is continually disrupted by the RLGG sharing false information and conspiracy theories and coming to council with concerns than telling council no members are part of their group. They have secretly worked with two sitting council members to disrupt the business of council for nine months.

Councillor J. Banks makes deceiving statements by saying “we were all blindsided”, when the agenda was published, as per procedure, the Thursday before the Monday meeting (Thursday May 9th, for Monday May 13th meeting) Councillor P. Banks was clearly attempting to discredit fellow councillors naming them in unfounded

We were all blindsided and that is why staff felt the need to for the first time ever in the term of council to tell all council the RLGG was going to be on the agenda before it was made public.

All council knew prior to the May 13th agenda that we would be going into closed to discuss councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] aid and membership in the RLGG so we were all blindsided to get an email from the CAO warning us they were coming to the same meeting as a delegation. In fact their ploy worked as that closed meeting

never happened, this was a planned disruption of council business if it was not than [REDACTED] Maxwell should have recused themselves from voting for this delegation to go forward.

aSummary and Conclusion:

Time: minute 24:40 thru 25.05

Motion to Reconsider Adoption of the Agenda is carried

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended carries.

As noted in Section 1.2 of the TRL By-law 2019-17, Schedule B, “Members of Council shall seek to serve the public interest by upholding both the letter and spirit of the laws of the Federal Parliament and Ontario Legislature, and the laws and policies adopted by this and other Municipal governments.”

The discussions and actions of Councillors Jeff and Paula Banks at the MSC (PW) meeting of May 13th, 2024, show a flagrant contravention and indeed disregard for those laws and by-laws by which they are expected to behave. In the case of Councillor Paula Banks, given she has previously been found in violation of the Code of Conduct for similar offences, showing the same disregard and disrespect for constituents as well as colleagues, this appears to be growing trend as opposed to learning from earlier behaviour.

Since August 2023 the RLGG along with two council members (secretively) have worked together to harass and undermine council because they believe they know better than the majority of council. Councillor Maxwell helped create this group because she feels her vote to build a new office is the right one and she shows zero respect for the rest of council. The RLGG and its members have printed lies and false information in an attempt to create a conspiracy theory that 5 people are taking control for the township. Since this started councillor Paula Banks has asked many times in closed for help and has claimed that councillor Maxwell as well as the RLGG have been harassing the 5.

The harassment and bullying have gotten so bad it turned into a physical assault and still the mayor and councillors Maxwell [REDACTED] refuse to denounce it saying the assault never happened. They attempt to victim shame councillor Jeff Banks saying they did not see the assault therefore it did not happen.

Debbie's Post

Debbie Anne Hutchings replied · 1 Reply

Wendy Talbot ...



43w Like Reply 🙄

Debbie Anne Hutchings
Not a nice.

43w Like Reply

Wendy Talbot
Debbie Anne Hutchings It should be published for all constituents to see. Everyone should know what's going on with this bullying

43w Like Reply

3 🗨️

Debbie's Post

43w Like Reply

2 🗨️

Debbie Anne Hutchings replied · 1 Reply

Sue Warren
Sorry to hear you are being bullied and sad it's happening in our township. When I was still an administrator of the Community Forum I got some bullying in my message box (often late at night) and it felt terrible when you were just trying to help your community. So I share now but don't administrate .. As Jacky says, hang in there.

43w Like Reply

5 🗨️

Debbie Anne Hutchings
Thanks Sue for the kind words.❤️

Debbie's Post

ROD JENKINS

Way easier said than done, but I would not give it a second thought

42w Like Reply

Debbie Anne Hutchings replied · 1 Reply



Linda Klitbo Hadley
What do the police have to say about all this bullying and harassment? Some bullying acts are illegal and offences under the Criminal Code.

Debbie's Post

43w Like Reply

2 🗨️

Debbie Anne Hutchings replied · 1 Reply

Sue Warren
Sorry to hear you are being bullied and sad it's happening in our township. When I was still an administrator of the Community Forum I got some bullying in my message box (often late at night) and it felt terrible when you were just trying to help your community. So I share now but don't administrate .. As Jacky says, hang in there.

43w Like Reply

5 🗨️

Debbie Anne Hutchings
Thanks Sue for the kind words.❤️



David Ballard

From your own page "They have conspired to stack the powerful Planning Advisory & Committee of Adjustment by expanding the committee to ensure all 5 are on it."

23w Like Reply



Wendy Alford

David Ballard Just curious David as you refer to yourself as an outsider...where are you from? I previously on the Rideau Lakes Community Forum page explained that Councilor Paula Banks' brought forward the motion to change the by-law and expand the number of members on the Planning and Committee of Adjustment that allowed both her and Councilor Hutchings to sit on that committee. The motion passed at Council and now there are only two councilors who don't sit on that committee...Councilors Carr and Maxwell...which gives the group of 5 a majority on the Planning Committee. I can see your point that on our website that isn't clear enough and we can clarify that there. Our focus isn't necessarily the Banks as you say but since they lead the charge on most issues at Council it is logical to push back on them...make no mistake though we hold their followers....Carr, Hutchings and Dunfield equally responsible for shortsighted decisions that affect the entire Township. Misinformation isn't what we do.....we leave that to others... like your comment about who and how RLGG started.



Lesley Ulyett

Sue Dunfield is as bad, maybe even worse than Paula because she doesn't expose herself on FB. She works to undermine the mayor and others with disingenuous arguments. Like let's see the usage of the pumptrack before spending \$\$ on a pickleball court. Can she please explain that comparison?!



Lesley Ulyett

TRL had a huge opportunity to finish a pickleball court in which \$\$ was already invested. So short sighted for this community. And who knows, could have brought in some revenue given the shortage and demand in Smiths Falls. Instead, majority council just continued with their hate on for any investment in South Elmsley even when it benefits the whole township. Anti sports, health and wellbeing for TRL seniors.

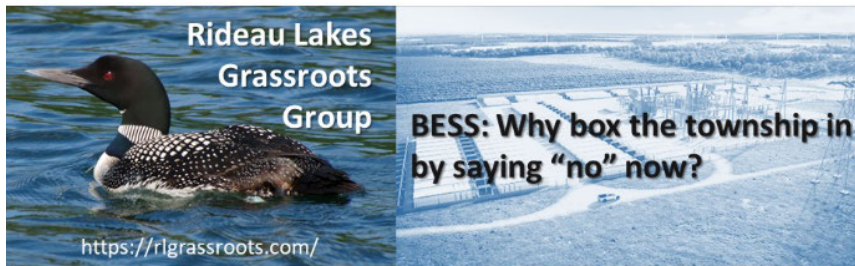


Rideau Lakes Grassroots

...

June 7 at 10:29 PM · 🌐

Worth the watch in the video that accompanies this the link in this post... Is Kelly correct in her post about paranoia and continued power grab by Paula and Jeff Banks in Rideau Lakes? We think she is , but what do you think? Thank you Councillor Carr for putting the township first with your deciding vote defeating this motion.



👍 Marsha Gifford and 4 others

53 comments 2 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

📧 Send

➦ Share

All comments ▼



Carolanne Hayduk

Statements made by this group have not been referenced to their sources, so no ability to assess quality or to distinguish opinions from facts. On the issue of the impact of signing BESS letters on Monday, the opinion stated by this group is reportedly inconsistent with information from township staff.

30w Like Reply Share

8 👍



Dan Berty Top contributor

Carolanne Hayduk okay but exactly what is incorrect? I'm not taking use "reportedly" - while Councilor P. Banks states in a FB post Malcolm Norwood said there is no way to say no later if a motion of support is passed now in a recent planning meeting, I don't it in the video and it is not reflected in the minutes. Maybe it was in a closed portion and if so, that violates Township policy on closed sessions. I have separately asked Mr. Norwood for comment.

It also feels to me perhaps make the motion of support for one or both proposals to be conditional on more information. This should alleviate long term risks of saying "no".

In addition, this information is very informative on Cedar Valley project. They are even willing to pay for an independent study...

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/.../urn:aaid:sc:US:fab18ef0...>



Rideau Lakes Grassroots [Author](#) Top contributor
Dwight Dunlop On the personal insults side - yes, that seems to be a defence from many to any tough questions, and when being challenged on misrepresentations, or half truths as several councilors use social media as a means to communicate them. It definately stirs up emotion and its difficult to see through the fog that gets created - a classic political statteg called obuscation. Or some say our group dabbles in lies and misscommunication but are unable to articulate exactly what wasn't true. Some councilors are very good at it. Some of their supporters are superb and at the insults. No doubt this post will generate some of that. Have a great evening and weekend.



Rideau Lakes Grassroots [Author](#) Top contributor
Thanks for the feedback, Ron. We agree with proof of claims for safe and effective technology. We also agree it was unfortunately rushed by provincial authorities. There were risks in supporting one or both proposals for sure, but as stated by several councilors there were also reasonable mitigations to those risks in terms of having further say on the planning cycle and approvals process later. Keeping the door open, by a motion of support or even conditional support, would have been a more prudent approach. Beyond the health and safety concerns, what revealed itself in the meeting Monday Dec 4 was that Councilor Dunfield, and it appears Councilor Hutchings, believe that likely ANY new build industrial (or even light industry development) proposal, of even modest magnitude, does not belong in Rideau Lakes due to its official plan. Some of the wording in the plan as quoted by Dunfield appears to support this. Bigger picture though, is that really what was intended? If so, many opportunities to increase tax revenues to offset growing demands from the township and much needed infrastructure investments are essentially lost because we are or will be tagged "not open for business" by these investors. This means tax increases or cuts to services when many seem to be advocating for more - can't spend more without funding. Food for thought....

29w Like Reply Share



more like reply share

Dan Berty Top contributor

Paula Banks According to the Canadian Human Rights Commission:

"Harassment is a form of discrimination. It includes any unwanted physical or verbal behaviour that offends or humiliates you. Generally, harassment is a behaviour that persists over time. Serious one-time incidents can also sometimes be considered harassment."

I watched all council videos, since to joined council. I'd encourage others to as well. I saw zero incidences were you were harrassed. Yes there was debate. Yes there gave been opposing views. But that is the process. If you have other substanciated claims, I suggest you file a complaint with the integrity commissioner. Otherwise this is what you signed up for as a council member.

You frequent emotional social media claims do nothing to advance you case. Quite frankly using untrue terms like " being harrassed" are far from the "transparent" approach you claim to follow in your comment above, because they paint an inaccurate and derogatory picture of others on council causing your supporters to believe things are happening to you that, as far as I can tell, are not.

40w Like Reply Share



Carolanne Hayduk

Rideau Lakes Grassroots specializes in innuendo and non-specific critique that usually has no basis in proper rules of order in relation to community business and political procedures. This is an unnecessary distraction.

23w Like Reply Share

2



Dan Berty Top contributor

Carolanne Hayduk Actually facts matter. It's okay if you choose to ignore them though. Your choice.

23w Like Reply Share



David Ballard

Dan Berty you do not use facts if you did you would have checked into Paula Banks' claim you had false information on your website . I checked and she is spot on.


23w Like Reply Share

3



Wendy Alford


David Ballard Aside from your comments on the bylaw change to allow two more members on the Planning Committee (see my answer on RLGG facebook page) what else is false information? Keep in mind there are opinions that you may not like there but what actual facts do you think there are?

 Paula Banks [Author](#)


Judy Rogers I was not on council at the time of this decision. I also am disturbed that we would pay for a consultant and then go against their advice. It is my understanding the land was not for sale but that the owner came forward through a connection of a relative that worked with a spouse of one of our employees and suggested the idea. It was no different than the purchase of the Gallagher property. If people think the township might want their property they can approach them. At one time a owner of a property beside Hanna Park asked TRL if they wanted to buy it. That was turned down.

36w Like Reply Share Edited




 **Dan Berty** [Top contributor](#)

Paula Banks you are implying impropriety by a staff member of RTL. You should be staying such at council not in forums such as this. Why don't you do exactly as I name the staff member in question? Since you want questions: "Why aren't you addressing this with specifics, including naming people, at council?"

 Paula Banks [Author](#)

Dan Berty no actually the opposite as I said anyone even an employee can ask the TRL if they want to buy their property that does not mean they will.

36w Like Reply Share

 **Dan Berty** [Top contributor](#)

Paula Banks so why not state exactly that? I'll tell you why because you prefer it looking ambiguous and possibly nefarious. Your comments in the first 2 sentences of lines of your post confirm this.

36w Like Reply Share Edited

 Paula Banks [Author](#)

Dan Berty good night

A photograph of a modern town hall building with large glass windows and a red fire truck parked in front. The words "TOWN HALL" are overlaid in large white letters on the left side of the image.

Building / Planning / Development

Name	Phone	eMail
------	-------	-------

~~Brittany Mulhern~~
Manager of Development
Services

Resigned

Ext. 244

bmulhern@rideaulakes.ca

- **Third senior staff member to resign in less than 4 months.**
 - *Sadly, the very capable Ms. Mulhern follows the Chief Administrative Officer and Fire Chief.*
- Co-incidence – we think not. **Ask your councillor why!**
- **More to come? Very likely!**

Dave Warren

The innuendo was that the Fire Chief , Brittany and Mike all resigned because of Jeff and Paula Banks. There is no way to know that. None have said why they left. It was their own personal decision. If they wanted or cared that the public knew why they would have said so. Otherwise The RLG are just speculating and encouraging the public to believe something that is unknowable.

36w Like Reply Share

4👍

 Virginia Bourget

Dave Warren what is not unknowable is the disrespect shown to staff at council meetings, and I don't recall anyone specifying that this was only from the Banks'. People need to attend or watch these meetings online and come to their own conclusions.

Dan Berty Top contributor

David Meyer what Paula didn't state is that any CAO candidate worth getting would do their homework and watch council videos from this year. The toxicity of council and disempowerment of senior staff is very evident and worsening week by week. So, they would quickly ask themselves "Is this a work environment that I want to be part of?". For most, the answer would be "no thanks".

36w Like Reply Share

 MJ BK Top contributor

Dan Berty, do you presume to speak for all those interested in this job opportunity? I think that there will be many who would jump at the chance to land this position! Your negativity is the toxic element here!



David Meyer Top contributor

Dan Berty it's really discouraging to see such toxic Environments. These kinds of things have been eliminated in the actual civilized for-profit world. ALL large publicly-traded companies like senior banks (RBC, BMO, etc), auto companies, National or Global Law firms, giant tech companies, would NEVER allow workplace toxicity anymore. It is ALWAYS the responsibility of leadership to create and support positive, effective, transparent work environments. Shareholders (like serious investment pools) demand it, or the CEO is simply replaced. It's the CEO's (or, in the public-sector equivalent, the Mayor's) Job (not the CAO (that's like the COO telling the CEO what to do)).



Dan Berty Top contributor

David Meyer fair comments. Problem is in the political realm, especially in smaller political settings (ex: small municipalities with less press coverage) elected representatives who have axe to grind or are fixated on their positions don't have to be a team player. Indeed they use their platform and "I've been elected status" (no matter how small the margin) as justification for their behaviors to force their positions forward.

36w Like Reply Share



Mary J Daniel Top contributor

Dan Berty From my perspective, a chair who refuses to respect the position of the majority of members present, flouts the age-old protocol of voting with the majority even if they hold a different position - as a sign of respect for the process - is toxic-making. I agree, I would hesitate to dive into a situation like that. The councilors who disagree with the mayor's position on some issues are not the problem here.

36w Like Reply Share



Dan Berty

You won't be playing on the originally planned new pickle ball courts off of 15 at Ron Holeman complex.... Council lead by Councillors Paula and Jeff Banks ensured that project got canned. So much interest and excitement but no... They feel residents should play in Smith's Falls.



Yannforcouncil Top contributor

Dan Berty

Votes are always registered and accessible by all residents. Nothing in the statement made by Counsellor Paula Banks is incorrect. We should be proud that Council is moving on and that approved projects are being prosecuted. We should not always look for negativity in positive events. It is not easy being a Counsellor in today's environment.

10w Like Reply Share

5👍



Dan Berty Top contributor

Yannforcouncil Yup but up be precise, they are only registered by councilor when it is a recorded vote - as this one was (good point!). I guess what you and Heather Heins are suggesting is that councilors should regularly publish on social media posts of who voted for what in recorded votes - especially if the not in line with their position. My feeling is, and my point, is that this will only contribute to greater division on Council. Apparently though, this is what Councillor Paula Banks wants. Not entirely sure this is what the residents of Rideau Township want though.

10w Like Reply Share Edited



From: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 8:24:33 PM

To: Jeff Banks <jeffrejbanks@gmail.com>

Cc: Councillor Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Councillor Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Councillor Linda Carr <lmaccarr393@gmail.com>; Councillor Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>; Councillor Ron Pollard <pollard.ron@kingston.net>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Letter to Council

Yesterday I wore my pink shirt to *SUPPORT* anti-bullying. Today I am at my wits end reading these accusatory emails and letters.

People can certainly have their own opinions, however this blatant attempt without actual specific evidence to undermine and discredit us is a slap across all of Councils faces as well as the Mayor's. It is unwarranted and has no concrete support.

Perhaps we should let Mr. French have his say to all of Council by inviting him to publicly make these comments.

And then....

NO reaction might be the **BEST** action.

I for one will not be bullied.

So much for running for Council to represent our community to the best of our abilities. We did this because we care, not to be attacked.

Respectfully,

Sue

On Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 9:09 PM Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com> wrote:

I would like to go into a closed meeting to talk about Grassroots before staff send any correspondence to Dan Berty their spokesman. Council needs to talk about how to handle this hate group and questions at council going forward.

I do not understand how a member of the public can stand up in an open meeting an attack a councilor on an issue that is not even on the agenda without the chair stopping it. That was totally inappropriate.

I would also like to talk about Councilor Maxwells undermining of council by helping create this group and handing out the flyers.

I had asked Councilor Maxwell in the past if she handed out flyers because two residents told me that they saw her. She denied it at the time but now that Councilor Pollard confirmed tonight, she was actually handing them out after the meeting tonight I would like to talk about this to see if the majority find this an act of undermining council.

Paula Banks

Rideau Lakes Township

Councilor Bastard & South Burgess

613-284-0238

face book: [Paula in Politics for Bastard & South Burgess](#)

From: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:03:27 PM
To: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Cc: Jeff Banks <Jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; debbie@lambtrax.ca <lambtrax@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Closed Meeting

I'm here to offer my support. The escalating threats are troubling, and the toxic atmosphere needs to be addressed. While some on the council might not see it, I believe we must protect each other from this divisive behavior. None of us signed up for the council to be bullied. It's time for strong leadership to take a stand and bring things under control. Let's each play our role and move forward together.

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 8:30:08 AM
To: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>
Cc: Jeff Banks <Jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Joan Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Marcia Maxwell <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; debbie@lambtrax.ca <lambtrax@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Closed Meeting

I would agree Sue.

I'm not changing my stand on the Portland Hall or renovating the office but other than that keeping Shellie and staff is more important than my feelings about RLGR or my feelings for what councilor Maxwell started that has torn this council apart.

If council would agree to stop allowing and supporting this harassment maybe we could all move forward in a professional manner.

If it does not stop I will have no choice but to contact other agencies for help when it comes to the ongoing unsafe conditions and how Council's lack of action have put me and my family in further danger.

Paula

From: Paula Banks
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 6:47:50 AM
To: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: Closed Meeting

Hi Maryellen

Can you please put my investigation before the Grassroots issue in closed. I have been stressing about this for a month and just feel putting it after GR would bring about more tension. The only thing I'm going to speak to about the investigation is removing [REDACTED] name.

Thanks

Paula

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From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>
Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: IC Report and Defence

Hi Shellee

I have decided I will be reconsidering defending myself against the IC Report on all issues other than swearing at a resident. The mayor bringing up Councilor Bresee and her undermining council was fitting, as that was my defense with the investigator even though he referred to it as "just politics". My defense will be that Councilor Maxwell and the Rideau Lakes Grassroots Group who she supported by distributing anonymous flyers have attacked me so much that my mental health has been negatively affected. I was so desperate for councils help which I feel I never got in closed that I brought it to the public's attention.

I will be asking Councilor Maxwell to apologize and stop undermining us, if she chooses not to, I will be mounting a defense. I had hoped after this report came out that this hate group would give up but their lies continue to grow and the public are giving them more validity because we are not calling them out.

This is just one of the recent posts from Dan Bertys partner.



Lesley Ulyett

Paula Banks unfortunately, the reason there are no grants is because you deliberately redirected them elsewhere. If grants and trillium funds had been applied as originally planned, the cost to the township would have been under \$10k. Again I am completely baffled by your war against recreation in South Elmsley even when it wastes \$\$ already invested. Where is the integrity in your decision making and official responsibility to support the whole township. It makes me disappointed and sad SE is such a target for no reason

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I will speak to the IC report and recommend that council accept it as they should have in the first place, but if councilor Maxwell is unwilling to meet me half way I would like to use my accommodations to file my defense.

Unlike Councilor Bresee I cannot afford a lawyer so I would like to file my defense in writing prior to the meeting or during the meeting if possible. Please let me know.

Paula

IC Report and Defence

From: Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 9:25 AM
To: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>
Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>
Subject: Re: IC Report and Defence

I have spoken to several agencies and my lawyer. I understand the report is final and I was found guilty but I'm told I have a right to defend myself at any point before council accepts the report.

I was going to leave it but hearing Marcia comments at the first meeting after what she admitted in closed that she personally thought it should be more made me change my mind. Add to that the renewed libelous attacks from RLGRG I want to address these false accusations. I have decided to defend myself from just Marcia complaint to the IC. She choose to submit it so we knew it was her and did not ask for it to be confidential so I can speak to it publicly according to who I spoke to.

It is my understanding that I can plead guilty to all or part of the report and that I still have a right to rigorously defend my actions on other parts. I was also told I can hire a lawyer or defend myself and put motions forward but Jeff nor I can vote.

I can also file a complaint against the IC investigator with the Ombudsman, and while they may not find wrong doing they will review both cases and comment if justified.

My plan is simple I will be explaining what happened and asking for an apology and a stop to the undermining from Councilor Maxwell. If I do not get one and a promise of getting support against the lies this group are spreading, I will file a defense in writing instead of reading it at council.

Once I file my defense in a written document, the same way I would say it at the meeting it becomes public information.

I'm asking for accommodations to do this in writing as it is lengthy and will be time-consuming and I feel I'm unable to effectively defend myself verbally as I'm often cut off and I have disabilities.

I understand that it may not be read prior to the vote due to the length but I will be allowed to put my defense on the public record about being targeted and the failure of the investigator to answer my questions about accommodations and the poor quality of the report.

Paula Banks

> On May 6, 2024, at 9:08 PM, Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> I was very disappointed tonight at how our council meeting was conducted. I am obviously naïve as I had no idea there was going to be a callback on the motion from the integrity commissioner but somehow most of the people sitting in the public area did know.

> It would have been kind of counsellor Pollard to let the rest of council know before tonight's meeting that he was going to bring this forward so we at least could have been better prepared. However, I am not that naïve that I did not see there were council members who knew this was going to happen.

> I am definitely flabbergasted that the word got out to the public that he was going to do this. Somehow I don't think Ron contacted these people, but I could be wrong.

> This continuation of trying to split council is very frustrating and very disappointing. Blindsiding has never been appropriate nor popular.

> I would like to know how the public who did attend tonight's meeting knew about this particular agenda item being brought forward again when the rest of council was not made aware. Marcia even had to prod Joan to second Ron's motion.

> And the next time you want to set up the public against the rest of council be fair and let us all know.

> Sue

From: Arie Hoogenboom <arieathome@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 10:19:01 PM

To: Sue Dunfield <736sued@gmail.com>

Cc: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Councillor Delaney <joan_delaney493@xplornet.com>; Councillor Linda Carr <lmacarr393@gmail.com>; Debbie Hutchings <lambtrax@outlook.com>; Jeff Banks <jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>; Paula Banks <paulainpolitics@hotmail.com>; marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com <marciamaxwell2018@gmail.com>; pollard.ron@kingston.net <pollard.ron@kingston.net>

Subject: Re: Tonight's meeting

Sue

Let me inform you of why I think Ms. Fletcher attended the meeting. She called me a while after the April 2nd meeting to express her disappointment at councils tie vote on the IC report. I told her that councillor. Pollard had spoken to me and was also disappointed with the outcome and his inability to attend due to broken ribs. He passed this on to me and I passed it on to Ms. Fletcher that the issue could be brought back for reconsideration at the next council meeting per our procedural bylaw. During the past week Ron indicated to me that he was prepared to place it back on the agenda for reconsideration. So after consulting with staff as to process I had them prepare potential motions.

I recall a lot of debate at council and committee meetings in the past about the importance of having all eligible members participate in important decisions so it was entirely appropriate for councillor pollard in my view to ask for reconsideration.

I also do not recall you or others advising me in advance that you were not prepared to support the IC recommendation despite the clear indication that Councillor Banks was willing to accept it. That could be seen as blindsiding on your part and the earlier outcome was a complete surprise to me. I feel the issue has now been properly dealt with and it is time to move on.

Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor
Township of Rideau Lakes
1-800-928-2250 X241
Cell 613-323-0901

From: Paula Banks <councillorbanks@rideaulakes.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 5:18 AM

To: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>

Cc: Sue Dunfield <councillordunfield@rideaulakes.ca>; Linda Carr <councillorcarr@rideaulakes.ca>; Debbie Hutchings <councillorhutchings@rideaulakes.ca>

Subject: Blue Flyers Undermining Council

You all received a copy of my defense and my current plan is to not publish it on FB unless GR or Marica continue with their lies.

After the meeting Monday night, a person reached out to me and said that they were sure these flyers were distributed at the Chantry office on August 17th at the Staff and Council BBQ.

As these attacked the majority of council, I want to find out more in closed. We cannot move on until the truth is told in my opinion.

We have asked Marica three times in closed if she distributed these flyers and it now looks like two of those times not only Ron was lying to council by staying silent possibly others were as well. Were these printed by a council member or staff? Can we check the printer? everyone should have a pin correct?

I think the 5 of us have right to know who all is working against us.

I would like to know if it possible to discuss this in closed when we talk about the IC report and I would to know if Marica can be asked to be excused as she obviously has a conflict now that she has admitted giving them to Ron and Ron giving them to Bob Lovie?

I don't think it is fair to any of us not to be able to ask more questions if this is in fact true these were handed out in Chantry at the office.

Paula

Closed Meeting

PB

Paula Banks

To: Mayor

Cc: Shellee Fournier; Mary Ellen Truelove



Reply

Reply all

Forward



Tue 5/14/2024 8:21 AM

After yesterday Arie this divide on council will not end until you hold Marcia and Ron accountable for lying to council and staff for months. Ron trying to lie now about his old lie is not going to happen. He forgets what he told me and sent me I guess ? Plus the two tax payers that Marcia had called liars are more open to come forward now. There were four council members and two staff when he spilled the beans at the council table . Is he going to ask staff to lie?

I do not say or print anything without proof.

All of your support for this hate group also need to stop when it is effectively undermining the majority. They clearly attacked me at the delegation and there was not a word said from you.

They are pathological liars making up false information and not just criticizing my votes and I want a legal opinion on council members continued support after yesterday.

I want to know who brought the flyers to Chantry or if they were printed there and who all saw them and never said anything. It seems they were handed out there without fear so council deserves to know?

It is coming to closed and council will be asking for your support as chair of the council to support us. I will be supplying a time line and proof prior to the May 21st MSC meeting .

I will be asking Ron to leave with Marcia if he is going to now change his story and I will be including him in the investigation along with anyone else that was involved with these flyers behind our backs when we are at a team building BBQ.

As was the case for Carolyn you may want to take charge of this but one way or another we are investigating the past and ongoing support of this group from fellow councilors and asking for the fee to be waved. You can decide how it goes after closed but this is coming to an end.

You ask why we keep bringing up the past? Because since everyone of the four of us took our seat you guys have treated us like crap and do everything in your power to give this group legitimacy and they are not.

Paula

SF

Shellee Fournier

To: Paula Banks; Mayor

Cc: Mary Ellen Truelove



Reply

Reply all

Forward



Tue 5/14/2024 10:00 AM

Hi All,

I'm going to chime in here.

This is a matter for the integrity commissioner to investigate, not staff. Also, the Mayor doesn't have the power to hold members of Council accountable, only the integrity commissioner can do that based on his ruling. Council, then as a group decides on imposing a penalty.

In the past, staff should have never been involved in performing investigations.

Staff will of course be required to respond to an IC's questionings if our names are brought in as witnesses.

I hope that helps explain the proper process.

Shellee

From: Paula Banks <councillorpbanks@rideaulakes.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 1:09 PM

To: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>

Cc: Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Linda Carr <councillorcarr@rideaulakes.ca>; Sue Dunfield <councillordunfield@rideaulakes.ca>; Debbie Hutchings <councillorhutchings@rideaulakes.ca>; Marcia Maxwell <councillormaxwell@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard <councillorpollard@rideaulakes.ca>; Jeff Banks <councillorjbanks@rideaulakes.ca>; Joan Delaney <councillordelaney@rideaulakes.ca>

Subject: Grassroots and divisiveness

Wendy Alford mentioned that their group is planning on taking part in the Strategic Plan.

Unless I am mistaken, I proved that they in fact have been lying about councillors both on Facebook and their webpage.

Just like we should follow our code of conduct so should those that we allow to participate in township committees and events. Lying would be a breach in my opinion.

These three spokesmen I have proven made false accusation against council members and are portraying to the public that we are falsely trying to take over the power of the township by all being on the planning committee.

It is causing mistrust in the community and division among councillors.

I will be asking in closed that these three people are not allowed to participate in council events until they apologize for the false claims they have made about council members.

I would like this added to the subjects I'm bring up in closed at the next meeting.

Paula

From: Shellee Fournier <sfournier@rideaulakes.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:44 PM

To: Paula Banks <councillorpbanks@rideaulakes.ca>; Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca>

Cc: Mayor <mayor@rideaulakes.ca>; Linda Carr <councillorcarr@rideaulakes.ca>; Sue Dunfield <councillordunfield@rideaulakes.ca>; Debbie Hutchings <councillorhutchings@rideaulakes.ca>; Marcia Maxwell <councillormaxwell@rideaulakes.ca>; Ron Pollard <councillorpollard@rideaulakes.ca>; Jeff Banks <councillorjbanks@rideaulakes.ca>; Joan Delaney <councillordelaney@rideaulakes.ca>

Subject: RE: Grassroots and divisiveness

Hello Paula,

Over my work history, the only way I know that a Council can bar a member/members of the public from Township meetings/events is to have a similar policy to this:

[Public Conduct Policy and Corporate Trespass to Property Procedures | City of Ottawa](#)
[Town of Gananoque to protect staff from residents | The Kingston Whig Standard \(thewhig.com\)](#)

And even then, it takes consistent documentation of clear breaches of the policy that would allow the Township to provide a notice of trespass to an individual.

I hope this helps.

Shellee