

2008-05-29

Skykomish Town Council

Subject: Town Council Performance

Dear Council member,

The environmental remediation necessary to address BNSF Railway contamination affecting public and private properties is perhaps the most important and far reaching event in our Town's history.

Council must be fully engaged in order guide our Town to this future while protecting citizens, families, voters, tax payers, businesses and commerce.

Council earlier chose to terminate the Town's environmental legal counsel believing Washington State and the Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE) were providing environmental legal services to the Town. We and our legal counsel have the Town's position regarding this matter in writing directly from the Town's general legal counsel. As you may now be aware, the State of Washington and WSDOE deny having any role whatsoever in providing environmental legal services to the Town.

Unless resolved, such apparent negligence by Town Council and the Town's general legal counsel has placed all environmental actions, agreements, contracts, memorandums of understanding, etc. in jeopardy and could result in extensive future litigation and legal costs to the Town of Skykomish.

In spite of the immediate importance of these issues, Town Council refuses to place environmental remediation on its agendas. Council must become engaged and begin performing its duties and responsibilities in a manner consistent with the interests of constituents and not those of the BNSF Railway or WSDOE.

In addition, not all Council members appear to be arriving at Council meetings in a condition to serve. This is an affront to the American flag which stands just a few feet from the Council table. Council must take definitive action to discipline members who appear to be intoxicated or otherwise impaired. Continued failure to act, especially by those with law enforcement responsibilities, is unconscionable. What will the Town's liability be should one of its own injure or kill a child while driving home from a Council meeting impaired?

Serving in positions of leadership and responsibility always requires strength and courage. Living in a small town makes this especially challenging as offenders may be neighbours. Those not able to muster the necessary strength and courage should decline to serve.

We and other concerned constituents look forward to engaging you in a meaningful discussion of these important issues. As Council has deliberately taken action preventing such discussion at its meetings, you are personally and individually being invited to The Skykomish Hotel for such discussion. Please let me know which evening and what time is convenient for you to attend. We anticipate the discussion to last approximately two hours. Refreshments will be served.

Your constituent,

Dieter Benz

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