

Hello everyone,

As many of you will already have heard, the council majority voted to take me to court on charges that I have allegedly violated provisions in the MGA that disqualify me as a councillor. At the January 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting, the majority decided that, by not removing myself from my neighbour's land use public hearing (over a year ago), I had violated the pecuniary interest provisions of the MGA. Then, in a special meeting called by the Reeve on Monday, the majority voted to take me to court because my family's property taxes were in arrears.

Regarding the first charge, I have always maintained that I acted in good faith and that my involvement in the decision was not pecuniary.

On the second charge, I did have outstanding property taxes. However, the first I learned of these tax arrears was in the special meeting on Monday. I asked to have council's decision deferred until January 28<sup>th</sup>, council's next meeting, so that I could consult with my lawyer. The majority refused my request and voted to take me to court regardless.

In our family, as I'm sure is the case with many of your families, paying the bills is allocated to one spouse. For us, it is my husband. I was totally unaware we were in arrears. As soon as the issue was brought to my attention, I had the taxes paid in full that morning.

In response to both of these allegations, with help from my lawyers, I will vigorously defend my seat on Council. I find it difficult to view the latest attacks against me as anything other than a concerted effort to discredit me.

Yesterday, Councillors Kissel, Hanson and I attended the Court of Queen's Bench with our lawyers seeking injunctive relief of the conditions placed on us by CAO, Al Hoggan and the sanctions imposed on us by Council, last May and June respectively. It is difficult to get a read on these types of court decisions. However, the judge committed to releasing his decision by late February or early March. The court room was packed. I would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who were able to come out and support us. I would also like to thank those who took the time to email/text me with your support. It is truly appreciated.

The last eight months have been stressful, not only for Councillor Kissel, Hanson and me, but for our families, too. Some of the things that have been stated in the paper

are somewhat misleading. In a world that is becoming increasingly filled with fake news, it is important that we don't believe everything we read.

That said, I will continue to hold my head high and to act in the best interests of all Bearspaw and Rocky View residents. I will keep asking the tough questions and representing the community to the best of my ability. I thank you for your continued support.

Attached is my Council update from January 14<sup>th</sup>. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please drop me a line or give me a call – 403-478-1041.

Best, Samanntha