

OUR UNION OUR VOICE - YOU BE THE JUDGE

FACT SHEET

Last week, the Town of Watson Lake issued a special edition of the Town Crier, with what we believe are incorrect statements. We would like to provide you with some of the facts the Town neglected to share.

Fact:

The **Town Council minutes of Meeting No. 18, dated October 7, 2014**, (available for download on the Town's website) states:

*“Administration updated Council on the overall financial position. There are many variables that may occur as a result of the winter months when the costs increase that will have a direct impact on the budget. Mayor Durocher commended the Management Team and staff for keeping the budget on track. **Mayor Durocher discussed the departmental reviews and requested a comprehensive report be provided to Council prior to the passing of the O/M Budget.**”*

Fact:

The **November 2014 Edition of the Town Crier**, (available for download on the Town's website) states:

*“On the CAO front Stephen Conway is on extended leave due to health issues. Council has appointed Rick Rotondi as acting CAO for the interim. Rick has agreed to fulfill the duties of the position as well as most of his current duties. Council welcomes him and will work closely with him on all issues concerning you. **He has been instructed to give departmental reviews his utmost attention, and as I stated at the town hall meeting we welcome any input you may have on that subject.**”*

It would appear that the term “Department(al) reviews” was certainly the term used by Council and although the intent of what these reviews would entail is not completely clear from the minutes. We believe it was based on a commitment made by the Town to address long standing problems.

The Union's position remains that the Town committed to a systematic departmental review to address outstanding classification, job description and pay grid issues.

The Town Council minutes of Meeting No. 4, dated March 3, 2015, (available for download on the Town's website) states: *“Council reviewed the following information from the CAO:*

- *Kaska Forest Resources – Tax lien*
- *Water meters for Institutional & Commercial customers*
- ***Department reviews***
- *District heat Expansion*
- *South Yukon Forest Products land*
- *WL Motors lien*
- *Solid Waste permit”*

In March of 2015 some sort of a report regarding “Department Reviews” was in fact completed and presented to Council. So what happened to that report? We have been unable to find the report on the Town’s website, and despite repeated requests it was not presented at the Bargaining Table. We believe the tax payers in this town have a right to know where their tax dollars are being spent and should, at the very least, have access to a summary of the findings.

THE TOWN CRIER SPECIAL EDITION



February, 2017

Recently, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (Yukon Employees' Union Local Y029) placed a notice in the Watson Lake Post Office concerning the ongoing negotiations with the Town of Watson Lake. This Newsletter will provide further information to our citizens on the state of those negotiations.

Union Statement:

In November 2014, the Employer promised to do a comprehensive review of jobs descriptions, with an eye to compensate employees fairly for the actual work they perform on a day-to-day basis.

Reality:

The Newsletter which went out to the community at that time outlines a review of corporate structure and processes, and says nothing whatsoever about reviewing pay grids, nor does it express any concern that employees are unfairly paid.

So, the question remains:

“Did Town Council make a promise to Employees and not deliver?”

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**Stay Tuned for the next edition of
OUR UNION OUR VOICE
SPECIAL SERIES – YOU BE THE JUDGE**