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Tatone defends town lawyers' fees

TRACY KIBBLE
 Staff Reporter

Invoices paid by the town to lawyers are too vague and don't clearly indicate what is being done to warrant the public expense, said one local politician this week.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice questioned a \$1,300 invoice from the lawyer's office, Borden & Elliot last week, after reviewing the town's accounts payable list for September.

Prentice said invoices paid to legal offices are getting out of hand after he performed a "rough tally" the last few months.

"I'd like to get a handle on this — it's certainly a substantial expenditure," he added.

Although the public doesn't receive a list of the accounts payable, Ward 3 councillor Nick Tatone suggested the invoices are to help the town fight a legal challenge in regards to council's 1992 decision to ban batching plants at

its 14 operating gravel pits.

In 1992, solicitor Stan Makuch urged politicians to ban ready mix plants to "prevent scattering of office and industrial development along the Oak Ridges Moraine."

In light of a consultant study which warned batching, mixing and/or screening would mean outdoor storage and threaten water aquifers, council approved the ban and amended its official plan to restrict ready mix plants.

In July 1992, Makuch

accused the industry of ignoring the "real needs of the people" in Whitchurch-Stouffville which is to protect sensitive lands from industry.

Aggregate operators, however, were furious at the decision, saying the ban would make them uncompetitive.

They called the ruling a "bad law" which they would legally challenge at high cost to taxpayers.

Tatone suggested this week that the questioned invoice relates to a legal challenge

regarding its nearly two-year-old decision to ban ready mix plants on rural lands.

"I'm just concerned because I am seeing the numbers racking up — I'm not sure what we're being charged for without a detailed invoice," Prentice said.

"No one is happy with the expenditures, but that's the way it's going," Tatone said.

Officials didn't approve the questioned \$1,300 legal invoice until more detail is provided, it was decided.

Hakonson pleased

Council grants Chariot's three noise extensions

TRACY KIBBLE
 Staff Reporter

Stouffville politicians this week approved three noise bylaw extensions for Chariot's Restaurant to enable the company to hold at least three outdoor functions next year.

But the town won't be helping to advertise the events, council decided Tuesday night.

Chariot's co-owner Ed Hakonson was successful in getting the 1 a.m. extension for three planned outdoor events, which are expected to run from May to September next year.

Although officials haven't yet approved its first draft 'Special Events on Private Property' policy, the town voted to pre-approve the requested extensions as long as Chariot's management complies with all requirements under the new policy.

Hakonson had accused officials last week of playing favorites with some businesses after the town refused to grant an extension for a planned Chariot's event last summer and at the same time approving an 11 p.m. exemption for his next door neighbor — the Stouffville Country Flea Market.

While Hakonson thanked officials for approving the events next year, he wanted to be sure the approval wouldn't limit him to holding only those events.

Officials said they would review additional requests as they came up, but admitted Hakonson made an early effort to go through the right channels for the first three events and deserved the granted extension.

Hakonson, however, slammed officials for turning down his request to help Chariot's advertise the events after spending \$450 to assist the Chamber in its Oktoberfest radio advertisements last month.

"The Chamber is a for-profit organization and you have set a precedent (in helping to advertise their event.) If you can't do for one, you shouldn't do for another," Hakonson said.

He also told officials their decision not to waive building permit fees was "small" since the town "cost us a lot of money."

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said while the Chamber of Commerce profits as a community-wide business group, no one individual member profits through events it puts on.

"The advertisement (paid for by the town) supported many local merchants," Sainsbury said.

Sainsbury also warned that part of the town's special events policy includes a section which states that if there are any problems at one event, it "could jeopardize others."



PHOTO: LORI EMMERSON

Hats off to volunteers

Ruth Burkholder an active local volunteer Wednesday. The ceremony took place in was one of many honored by the town the council chambers.

Uptown Kids offers Child Find

Don't forget to register your children today with Child Find Canada — an organization which helps parents gather vital information about their children to help protect them.

Main Street's Uptown Kids children's clothing, novelty and gift shop is joining forces with Child Find Canada this afternoon to present "Kids Check '93," for local parents.

In 1990, about 61,000 cases of

missing children were recorded by police departments across the country.

Don't let your child become a statistic.

Protect them now and teach them what they need to know so that they have a sense of control and security in their own lives.

Child Find Canada volunteers will be on hand at Uptown Kids from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. today only and will provide a fingerprinting service, a streetproofing guide and a profile to hold a picture and vital information regarding your child free of charge.

Not only is this information of assistance to the police and reassurance to parents, it serves as a learning guide for children.

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