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Council

Town accused of 'double standards'

TRACY KIBBLE
 Staff Reporter

There's a dangerous "double standard" operating within the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, charged Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice this week.

And he's out to prove it. Certain policies are being "applied selectively to suit the fancy of those requesting the opinion," Prentice said.

The councillor appeared at *The Tribune* office Monday afternoon loaded with recent town documents he claims are incomplete, inaccurate and procedurally incorrect.

"I'm sensing a double standard. Procedures are being violated depending, perhaps, on who's asking for what," Prentice charged.

The councillor was alluding largely to a March 29 budget committee meeting - one of three since last November - which council held to debate, discuss and form the town's 1993 budget.

But Prentice said staff was asked to leave nearing the end of the March meeting - except for finance director Ed Blackburn - although there was no motion

for adjournment.

He said personnel issues were then discussed, but couldn't elaborate on the topics or their outcome.

"Fundamental organizational changes were proposed, but there are no minutes for this portion of the meeting," Prentice said.

He added he was under the impression minutes were being taken and legal opinions were obtained, however there was no motion to obtain them. That's where the double standard starts, since Prentice said he has been denied permission to obtain legal advice without a resolution of council. "Where was the authority for this?"

Prentice, who voted against the March 29 minutes at last week's council meeting, said he refused to support the documents because they made no mention of the discussions undertaken after staff left the room.

"I just want things done correctly and above-board. I think I have that right as an elected official."

As well, during a bylaw rating meeting April 6, Prentice asked for a legal opinion on the rollback of staff wages, but his motion was denied.

He then said that on April 20 he received documents dated just before the March 2 meeting with the Save

Our Stouffville ratepayers' group showing a legal opinion regarding wage rollbacks had already been obtained by the finance director on behalf of the mayor.

This information was withheld from councillors, he said. Prentice is questioning the validity of this legal opinion since there was no resolution passed by council - a resolution he was told he must obtain for the same public-paid service.

"I would like to know if there are weaknesses in our request for staff salary roll backs. I'm not certain if the opinion is not from a legal firm that is employee-biased," Prentice added.

"I was misled when in fact no minutes have been taken. I haven't seen any yet."

"Every avenue has been shut down to me. I'm batting zero in getting answers," Prentice concluded.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said that Prentice "wants to be an administrator, not a policy advisor which is the role of the councillor."

"If he wants to change things, he'll have to change the Municipal Act. He just likes to get his own way."

Sainsbury denied there was a double standard in seeking legal opinions. "That is simply not true."

Man dies of injuries suffered in accident

One man has died from an accident on Stouffville Sideroad last Tuesday.

Robert Brown died on Saturday morning from injuries incurred in the head-on collision Tuesday afternoon between a Pontiac Acadian and a mobility van.

It has yet to be determined what exactly caused his death but an autopsy is being performed.

The other two occupants of the van were also injured. Karen

Slark, the other passenger has whiplash and is recovering at home.

The driver, James Pedwell, of Barrie, also sustained injuries for which he will be off work and receiving treatment for over a month. Along with other injuries he received cracked ribs. Joy Rose, who was driving the Acadian, is still in critical condition and has moved from the Surgical Intensive Care Unit to the Surgical Progressive Care Unit at Sunnybrook.

Chamber urges new direction

Members of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce are urged to attend the business group's general meeting next month to give the new executive "some direction."

President Helene Johnson said the chamber executive "needs all its members" to attend the May 19 meeting to be held in the Amaretto Restaurant, downstairs in the banquet hall.

"We need to re-define where the Chamber is going," Johnson. (Please see Page 3)



Hey you, in the future

Steve Fronke, Fleck, Hinton, Jim, Haza and... (The photo was taken at the...)

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