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Subject: Council Meeting - Feb 24th, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I reviewed the video-stream of the February 24th, 2025 Council Meeting and felt it was important to relay my thoughts/concerns.

I was very disappointed by some of the comments made by Councillor Thompson.

He started by mentioning that he had sympathy for Mrs. Krouskie and Mr. Rees "in what seems to be a persistent and firm desire to be of assistance to this Council."

I was taken aback that he felt the need to mention the names of two citizens of Goderich more than once in a negative connotation.

His comments "that I'm not in the market for assistance from Mr. Rees or Mrs. Krouskie - fortunately, I'm surrounded by help from my colleagues, staff of the town and people with training." From those comments, I assume that he feels concerned citizens are people with no training? I found this comment deeply disturbing especially since he used their names in the same sentence.

Another comment I found inappropriate was whereby he indicated that he wasn't open to receiving or following their advice.

I find the words "not being open" completely unprofessional. Whether you agree or disagree with their suggestions or concerns, not being open to hearing it is problematic.

His closing statement reiterated the fact that he was surrounded by people with good ideas, lots of knowledge and feels the system is working well, etc. In my opinion, it was a direct comment to Mrs. Krouskie and Mr. Rees and that their input was not needed.

Councillor Thompson was given close to 5 minutes (which is a significant amount of time) to speak about Mrs. Krouskie and Mr. Rees, while citizens are now given 2 minutes to speak. I understand that meetings need to run in an efficient manner, but it is unfair for a Councillor to give a speech and not allow the people he was making direct comments about to be given the same time he was allotted.

Listening to this particular Councillor's comments did not sit well with me at all.

I would think the Town of Goderich should be encouraging public engagement and if this means citizens coming forward with complaints, suggestions, or ideas, they should be respected whether you agree with them or not.

I felt Councillor Thompson completely disrespected Mrs. Krouskie and Mr. Rees and he should acknowledge that. Quite frankly, an apology is in order.

I would like to add some positive comments and that is directed toward Councillor Segeren, who acknowledged these individuals for their letters and expressing their concerns and being engaged in the process. I found her to be refreshing and admired her professionalism.

I felt it was important to relay my opinion.

I look forward to your feedback.

Kind regards,
Susan LaForme