Clerk, Town of South Bruce Peninsula

From: "Doug & Joan Wilson" <doug_joan.wilson@sympatico.ca>
To: "General Mailbox TSBP" <sbpen@bmts.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 10:44 PM
Attach: Town re Hutchinson.doc
Subject: Fw: Resubmission of letter

----- Original Message -----
From: Doug & Joan Wilson
To: General Mailbox TSBP
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 10:43 PM
Subject: Resubmission of letter

Hello Rhonda,
I was in a hurry when I sent my letter to the Mayor and Councillors last evening because I wanted them to have it for Council today.

I would, however, like this letter to be on public record so have changed the addressee to Town of South Bruce Peninsula Council. No other changes have been made to the letter.

I appreciate your assistance.

Joan Wilson
(519) 422-3639

"Be kinder than necessary; for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle"
The Town of South Bruce Peninsula Council,
Box 310, 315 George Street,
Wiarton, ON. NOH 2TO
Via e mail: admin@southbrucepeninsula.com

Dear Council,

You've done it again! The infamous "in camera" Council has completed another dastardly deed and managed again to protect themselves by hiding behind a clock of anonymity. I refer of course to the recent termination, without cause, of Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Terry Hutchinson. This Council chooses to conduct much of its business "in closed session" - presumably to protect the dignity and privacy of staff involved. Dignity indeed! In fact Chief Hutchinson was "escorted" from the premises and left standing on the street like a common criminal.

For me, three issues are at stake. The first and foremost issue is the former Chief. Terry Hutchinson is a man of integrity and loyalty and this seemed to stand in the way of being a good employee. Chief Hutchinson knew he had a great team of firefighters; they had a mutually respectful working relationship - something our Town Council knows little about. I saw the camaraderie between these men at the recent dinner sponsored by the firefighters. The firefighters respected Chief Hutchinson and it was mutual. Chief Hutchinson took the time to build a rapport with the volunteer firefighters and was willing to fight for their rights when necessary. Morale amongst the firefighters was good; they knew "Hutch" would stand behind them.

"Long in the tooth" Terry?? I think not. How about mature enough to stand your ground when it came to protecting "your team".

The second issue would have to be that Chief Hutchinson is the 3rd Fire Chief in 7 years. His predecessors met the same fate. What is the common denominator here? In fact, Terry Hutchinson has over 30 years of municipal experience. He spent 5 years as a Police Officer, 24 years as Water Superintendent and 26 years as with Fire Departments. Now he carries the stigma of termination at the end of a distinguished career - disgusting!

continued...
Senior town employees (Bill Johnston and Bill Jones) appear to be vacating the premises - one way or another. Maybe they see the writing on the wall. Keep an eye on your back Malcolm!

The third issue is for the taxpayers. Yet another settlement to come out of our pockets! Not much wonder we can't proceed to protect Lake Huron with sewers and/or water in downtown Sauble - we're too busy buying out our Fire Chiefs.

As this termination was dealt with behind closed doors, gossip and innuendo will be rampant and we'll be faced with lots more of "no comments" during our next election campaign. I wonder if our elected officials - in our case Councillors Vukovic and Wunderlich, have the courage to share how they voted on this termination? It matters to us Councillors, and it will to you too a couple of years down the road.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Doug and Joan Wilson
(519) 422-3639

c: Wiarton Echo
The Sun Times