



Heather Erickson
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Mon, 14 Mar, 18:48 (9 days ago)

to Colleen

I have one further question, how much has been raised for the SHHI and of that amount, how much of it is attributable to the efforts of Shandy Walls? This is a valid question as the taxpayers are paying through their interest in SHHI for her services.

On Fri, 11 Mar 2022 at 16:38, Heather Erickson <heatheranderickson@gmail.com> wrote:

I have additional questions as noted in blue below.

1) CONSULTING FIRMS:

Cheque No. 154189 Shandy Walls Consulting \$2,625.00 and Cheque No. 154297 \$2,625.00 - I understand Ms. Walls is being paid to fundraise for the Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. which is a construct of the current Council. I don't believe Council should be engaged in fundraising for a private entity or is this facility going to belong to the RM of Springfield and its ratepayers? In any case, the Corporation should be remunerating (SHHI) Ms. Walls for her fundraising efforts, not the ratepayers of the RM of Springfield. **The facility will be under the ownership of SHHI, with the RM of Springfield being the sole member. While the RM is the entity processing the invoices, we are recovering these costs from SHHI. These costs are not being paid by the ratepayers of the municipality. This reply is confusing. The facility will be owned by the Springfield Heritage Housing Inc., a company of which the RM of Springfield, or in other words, the residents of the municipality, are the sole owner. If the costs are being recovered from the Springfield Heritage Housing Inc., in other words they are being recovered from the taxpayers of the RM of Springfield who, you say, is the sole member of that particular incorporated company. Further why is the Municipality itself involved in a company that is going to be providing senior housing. The RM of Springfield should not own housing or be in the business of providing housing. That is not the job of a municipality because such facilities are privately owned, not owned by governments as a general rule. The job of the RM is to provide services to all ratepayers of the municipality i.e. roads and their maintenance.**

2) SPRINGFIELD HERITAGE HOUSING INC. **Cheque No. 154126** Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. \$2,115.00 **154207** Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. \$1,000. **Cheque No. 154283** Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. \$20,000. - This is a corporation set up to collect funds for the construction of a senior's complex in Dugald including a pool. Any funds collected should go directly into an account set up for this corporation. Why is the RM of Springfield cutting cheques payable to the corporation? Where did these contributions originate? **Why is the Municipality involved in a private housing corporation? Is the donor being given a tax receipt from the RM implying they are contributing in some way to a political entity, municipal facility, or charity?** I think the Auditor General should be contacted in this regard to investigate the legality of this setup. I will be looking into that. These are rather substantial amounts. Who are the donors? **Donors are confidential information that does not have to be provided. We have confirmed with our auditors before we began the process that tax receipts could be provided for donations to SHHI as the RM is the sole member. I understand the concept but the Auditors are not concerned insofar as the RM being involved in a housing project. They merely audit the books. I will be contacting the Auditor General's office and seeking political advice as to the legality of the RM of Springfield being the sole member of a incorporated housing company. The Municipality continues to be a qualified donee, registered with the CRA to issue official donation receipts. Again the Canadian Revenue Agency does not concern itself with the legality of this setup. I will be looking into this further.**

3) Cheque No. 154171 Winnipeg Police Service \$1,050.00 - As with other rural municipalities in Manitoba, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are the force responsible for maintaining law and order. Why is the RM of Springfield issuing a cheque to the Winnipeg Police Service who have no jurisdiction in the municipality? **Training course attended by SPS What type of specialized training was provided to members of the Springfield Police Service that would benefit them in their duties in a rural municipality? Those employed by the SPS should already have basic police training.**

4) LAW FIRMS - **154148** Fast Trippier Clunie Wittman LLP \$18,868.20 **154237** DD West LLP \$13,948.83 **154242** Thompson Dorfman Sweatman \$8,653.93 **154293** Taylor McCaffrey LLP \$206.95 **Total** \$41,677.91 in legal fees in one month. **WHY?** Why is the RM of Springfield engaging 4 different law firms? What type of litigation/services are each of these providing and why are they required? How many billable hours do these amounts represent? Why is all this legal advice/work necessary? Are the rates the same for all firms and is there a contractual agreement setting out the rate and terms and conditions? When I was a Councillor the RM did business with one lawyer, Orville Currie accompanied by Jennifer Hanson. **As I explained previously, we use various lawyers with expertise in different areas, litigation, HR matters, development matters, in which portions are recoverable. We are not under contract with any one lawyer. Total \$41,677.91 in legal fees in one month. I am sure ratepayers would be interested in knowing why the legal costs of the RM are so high.**

When I was a Councillor, as I recall, all our legal affairs were handled, as I said, by one lawyer. Now you are using 4 different firms. Something must have changed between 2018 and 2022 to require employing several different law firms. Could it be a questions of Conflict of Interest or some such other factor? Ratepayers would appreciate an honest explanation.