

## TO THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE BOARD AND ITS CHAIR

The article on Page 13 (said to be an unlucky number and perhaps is for certain on your Board) of the Clipper in the November 1, 2019 issue "Time to fish or cut bait" which features your chair, Anne Wowchuk, I am going to presume was done with the approval of the entire Board, implicating you all. If this is not the case, please e-mail me your explanation of your non-participation and thoughts on the continued position of the Chair being held by someone who does not include the entire Board in her decisions.

I recently read three quotes which I thought applied to this situation quite admirably. One is by John Burroughs which is "To treat your facts with imagination is one thing, but to imagine your facts is another." The second comes from Socrates: "When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the losers." Finally Edmund Burke said: "Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting." That last one is particularly relevant as nowhere in the 2013 Manitoba Police Boards: Policy and Procedure Manual does it give the power to the Police Board to make the decision regarding the future of the Springfield Police Service, i.e. to retain it as is, and eliminate the R.C.M.P., to abolish it entirely, or to demote it to By-law Enforcement only. In both instances where Ms. Wowchuk has provided commentary to the Clipper, her statements were her perceptions only and unsubstantiated.

My question to the Board and Ms. Wowchuk is: What exactly have you done this year to promote and improve both the Springfield Police Service and the Springfield Police Board? Thus far, Mr. Penner is the only one that has actually accomplished anything and that was to make very minor adjustments to the Communication Plan prepared by Renee Riglin when she gave of her services to the Board. I can hardly wait to read the Annual Report you will, this year, have to prepare on your own, without having the majority of it handed to you by myself because I do not "throw people under the bus".

I have formally conveyed my concerns to the Minister of Justice in an e-mail and requested an investigation of the suitability of Ms. Wowchuk to continue as Chair of a Board we taxpayers are funding. Ms. Wowchuk and the Board should be doing everything possible to ensure the SPS remains as is in Springfield, not publicly declaring having the benefit of it does not conform to the Police Services Act and "needs to have the capacity, facility, and means" to provide services for the entire rural municipality. In point of fact, if I am not mistaken, Ste. Anne, Manitoba has its own Police Service for the town while the R.C.M.P. provide policing in the surrounding municipalities. However, it does not have its own facilities such as cells, etc. and avails itself of the R.C.M.P. Detachment in Steinbach for what it lacks in terms of facilities and capacity. As to the means, that is a matter for Council and the residents and taxpayers of Springfield to decide, not the Police Board.