

Monterey Administrative Assistant

From: Monterey Administrative Assistant
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 2:14 PM
To: Emily Johnson (clerk@montereyma.gov); 'Emily'
Cc: Wayne Burkhart (wdburkharts@gmail.com)
Subject: Town Hall/Our Offices

Emily,

First let me start off by saying that having this discussion via email is not my preferred method as things always have the possibility of being misinterpreted in email and I would much prefer speaking with you in person but after speaking with Wayne this afternoon it was decided that the best way to open up a dialogue would be for me to email you.

I feel very frustrated by the recent deterioration of our working relationship as well as the rumors floating around town that I have in some manner contributed to your decision to not run again when your term is up. While I know neither of us can control what people say or think I feel it is important to at least try to maintain a professional working atmosphere and do as much as we can together to keep the town and our offices functioning at their highest for the sake of everyone.

It's my understanding from speaking with Wayne this afternoon that you have some concerns which I would like to address. Now in all fairness to Wayne he was unable to convey your exact sentiments as this way of communication is like playing the telephone game where something always gets lost in the passing of information from one person to another. He did mention that you were upset that I was no longer picking up your mail. My response to Wayne regarding this was that I was picking up your mail as a favor to you not because it was required of me and that in all honesty I stopped doing this when you stopping speaking with me. I feared (whether there is any merit to this or not) that any function that allowed me access to something that was specific to the Town Clerk's office could become problematic should things get very tense in the town hall between our town offices and I did not want to be unfairly blamed for anything so I decided to stop picking up the mail knowing that you had your own key and were making trips to the post office yourself. As I said there may not be any merit to my fears however I have had some past experiences similar to this that have left a bad taste in my mouth and the instinct to protect myself becomes very strong.

Wayne also mentioned something to the effect that you were upset that I am not passing along information to you when people come in and you are not here. I can only say that I am handling these people the same as I always have, if you aren't here and they want to leave something in your box, I take it for them. If they have voting or other Clerk office related questions that I am unable to answer I explain to them that this is something that the Town Clerk handles and give them your hours and phone number so that they may contact you directly.

He also mentioned something to do with meeting postings but couldn't remember the details so all I can say here without know what the actual issue is is that nothing has changed with the procedure for meeting postings that you and I created some time ago. When someone posts a meeting/agenda online a copy of their request is emailed to you and I at the same time, I then copy it and post it on the website at which time you are again cc'd on that email.

There may have been other items but Wayne could not completely recall them.

I would like to say that I have no issues with your office and would like nothing more than for this animosity to be put to rest. If there are things I am doing that involve you or your department that you would like done differently please come talk to me to see if there is a way to do it differently, if there are things you need my help with my offer still stands that I have stated from day 1...just ask, I am more than willing and find it very helpful actually when our offices work together seeing as some things that we are both responsible for do overlap at times. I would love it if we were able to

report to the Select Board before Monday's meeting that the concerns that have been brought to the Board's attention with regards to our offices were merely a matter of miscommunication and that we are working on creating an atmosphere that is welcoming and productive.

If you are ready to talk, you know where to find me, if you are still feeling uncomfortable and would like Wayne to be present he has agreed to do that and we both agreed that hashing this out in a Select Board meeting may not be the most ideal. We are also in agreeance that this matter does however need to be resolved.

Melissa