

Debra Thompson

From: Don Sperl <highlinerhomes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: Public informed

Public informed

Karl And council members:

I have been pondering...

Regarding the responses heard from Karl and the hospital after my commentary was read Thursday on Kfsk, I was a bit concerned and bewildered at the attempt to "downplay" and "belittle " comments about the public process not being followed. I realize now that if you and others did not have the backstory then of course you would have been caught by surprise.

My letter was a combination of personal frustration with what I am seeing AND the dozens and dozens of conversations around town the previous week. It voiced the exact concerns of others that have randomly approached me . Note, these are folks that are not my close friends or relatives, or in my circle of business. These are longtime citizens, prominent businessman, and average work folks in this community. They all started conversations by saying "what is going on here in Petersburg?" "isn't this over-the-top?"....

Then we add in those first few "council meetings " where mandates were being decided and voted on, and the public got almost zero presence. Then widespread complaints around the community about connection issues on the Internet to listen- in. There were numerous emails sent in to be read that never got read ...(mine included). Then Later, folks complaining that only "part" of their submittals getting read (understood these are discretions of news agencies). This was going on as time elapsed and more mandates were literally changing overnight. Scores and scores of community were found not hearing or knowing ANY details of meetings, except hearing about the vocal group pushing hard to shut everything down before this "pandemic " hits us...
Hopefully this helps a bit to explain why so many people (now) are acting surprised...

That all being said, we have always had a good working relationship with the borough and hope to continue into the future. I do encourage maybe some extra effort to inform and involve MORE of the community in these ever changing times however that may be possible . I realize you, as well as others in these top authority positions are getting pressure from all sides, for different reasons. I plead that you would take a "step back and look" approach to any and all mandates, suggestions, and even critical medical information that is coming down the pike. For every bit of data that justifies stronger measures there are others that show flatter curves and down- scaled predictions (yes even from the CDC).

As the borough governing body, Please look at the "overall" health and well-being of our small town, not just the projected covid-19 concerns.

Thank you again for your time. And I do realize you personally did not choose these circumstances that are evolving. 🙏
—sincerely Donald Sperl

Sent from my iPhone