

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** ronnbuschmann@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 9:42 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Parks and Rec. Director

Dear Borough Assembly members.

In light of the Borough's economic situation with oil prices in a freefall, fish prices down and most voluntary tourism travel depressed, most of us agree that it may be a hard year. I noted in the yesterday's paper that sales tax is up. Might be that the local economy is improving but years ago it was said that town merchants always do better after a bad fishing year because people tend to stay home rather than take winter vacations. This is a year when the community is going to avoid unnecessary expenses. If I may, I would suggest that a Parks and Recreation Director is one of those unnecessary expenses. I'm not suggesting that the Borough Manager should continue to manage Parks and Rec. He has plenty on his plate already. What I have observed is that we haven't had effective leadership of Parks and Rec the last three and a half years. Prior to that two of the previous Parks and Rec. directors have had what for most of us would be full time jobs outside of their Parks and Rec. duties. One had a sport fishing charter business and another had several businesses including web design and computer equipment sales and maintenance.

My daughter, Elizabeth, worked for Parks and Rec at the pool recently. She also had a very enjoyable two years working there in high school. She shared with me the present mismanagement at the pool, including unnecessary overstaffing, nepotism, cronyism, improper use and failure to follow protocols for the use of pool chemicals.

I also understand that the school and Viking Swim Clup swim teachers are leaving at the end of this school year. This is an opportune time to combine some of those duties at the pool/recreation facility and hire a competent pool/recreation facility manager who is also a swim coach-swim teacher. The other Parks and Rec. duties would be split up amongst other departments. For example, the landscape/groundskeeper, who has been doing an excellent job for so many years, could be transferred back to Public Works. I believe he worked under Public Works for the first 17 years of his Borough/city employment. The ball field has been managed by volunteers for the most part anyway, with an occasional hand from Public Works. The tasks associated with Christmas, May 17, and July 4 are already directed by the Chamber of Commerce with support from Power and Light and, again, Public Works. Permits for the use of Sandy Beach and other parks could easily be handled by the Borough Administration office as they are in most other small communities.

Thank You

Ronn Buschmann