

# **Town of Gibsons Council Meeting,**

**February 4, 2014,**

## **1st inquiries:**

Mayor Rowe:

OK, any inquiries at this point?  
Aah, one there...

Dr. Dorothy Riddle:

Just give me a moment please.

I'm Dorothy Riddle, of the Town of Gibsons, Dr. Dorothy Riddle. By way of background to my inquire; in March, 2013, I discussed with the Director of Planning, the importance of evaluating the data from the proponent of The George, in the economic sustainability section of the submitted smart development checklist.

I advised him, and subsequently, the CAO, that I would be preparing a pro bono economic impact analysis, for council, since the town did not have the in house capability to conduct such an analysis, did not have the budget to hire an consultant, and I had years of experience in conducting such analyses.

During the period of April, 2013, to January, 2014, both the Director of Planning, and the CAO, were aware that I was undertaking an economic impact analysis.

After repeated requests from the Director of Planning, prompted by myself, the town did receive some financial data in November, 2013, from the proponent. Referencing those data, I finalized an economic impact analysis of The George, as proposed, which I reviewed with the CAO on January 17, presented formally to the mayor on January 22nd, and then circulated to councillors on January 28, 2014.

In your email to me yesterday, Mr. Mayor, you referred to this report as a submission from a resident. When I presented it to you initially, and when I sent it to council, I stated clearly that the pro bono report, submitted on my corporate letterhead, was from myself as a certified management consultant, not from myself as a resident of Gibsons.

There are three parts to my inquiry.

Part One:

My expert report was prepared to help council make an informed decision about the benefits and costs of The George, as proposed, as part of its fiduciary responsibility. It was not an expression of sentiment on the part of a resident. Given that the findings in my report clearly show that The George in the scale proposed could be a liability to taxpayers, when will the report be received as part of the official record and posted on the town's website, in the section containing other independent third party expert reports related to The George?

The Second Part of my inquiry:

The statement has been made that if council wishes further economic analysis of the proposal, it will develop the terms of reference, request proposals, and provide the report as part of its public process.

Since I have twenty seven years of experience conducting such analyses, and have already provided an expert report to council, is there some reason why this report is apparently being viewed as unprofessional?

Part Three:

I have learned from several sources that my report is being referred to by some as being biased. In case staff and council are not aware of it, the uniform code of professional conduct for certified management consultants is the most rigorous standard nationally and internationally for professional consulting work. As a certified management consultant, I am always mindful of acting to uphold it.

Its relevant sections are: *certified members shall always provide objective and independent advice. Certified members must not allow their objectivity and independence to be influenced by any individual or group, either within or external to the client organization. Certified members who breach this code are liable for suspension or expulsion.*

I consider any charge of bias, a serious one, and one that underscores the importance of having the context in which we can discuss the specifics of the report and address any areas of concern, or questions about potential bias.

When will I be invited to make a formal presentation to council in order to have such a discussion?

Mayor Rowe,

Ok, thank you, so since, you've made that inquiry, I'll simply read the response I gave you yesterday, in which I said I believe our CAO has explained to you the process we are following with respect to all submissions directed to the town on this matter. Your submission has been circulated to all of council in accordance with that process.

As I indicated to you in our meeting, I intend to strictly adhere to proper process. To give preferential treatment to the submission of any one resident would not be consistent with that process.

A council meeting of January 21, that we just had the minutes of tonight is the first time that council's had the opportunity to address the staff report on this proposal, and the first steps undertaken by council are set out in the minutes of that meeting, as now amended as a result of Councilor Bouman's motion earlier this evening.

The next steps will be determined by council following subsequent staff reports. If council decides to request further economic analysis of the proposal, I expect it will follow the usual process of developing terms of reference, requesting proposals, and providing the report as part of its public process.

Thank you.

Dr. Dorothy Riddle:

Mr. Mayor, I point out again that..

Mr. Rowe:

No, listen..

Dr. Dorothy Riddle:

... this is not a comment..

Mayor Rowe,

This is not a debate, this is not a debate. You've made an inquiry, you had a response, so, thank you.

Dr. Dorothy Riddle:

Thank you.

Mayor Rowe:

Yes, make it brief.

Councilor Bouman,

Well, Dr. Riddle, I'd, I'd like to say, thank so much for your work on this, this paper.

And I appreciate it very much. I realize you didn't make a cent on this, and yet, I think in the realm of municipal publications, this is going to be a bestseller. And I hope you take some satisfaction on this occasion, knowing that your work is going to be very widely read throughout the community, and so again I'd just like to say, thank you, and thank you for coming here tonight, I appreciate it.