

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Vice gave the invocation. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Connie Vice
Council members Chase Moore, Donna Hanby, Sid Nelson, Ramzi Malek
Absent:

Town Attorney Alex Smith was also in attendance.

January 8, 2019 Work Session Minutes – Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, as read by the Town Clerk. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes – Hanby made a motion to approve the minutes, as read by the Town Clerk. Moore seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Council member Donna Hanby gave the monthly financial report. Moore made a motion to approve, as presented. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. Council member Hanby reported a CD at Hometown was renewed for one year at 2.75% APY. Hanby stated the legal expenses YTD are over \$7,000, and \$4000 was budgeted for the fiscal year. \$2550 was spent in one week on legal expenses on the police issue.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Roads – Chairman Moore reported Commissioner Calvert discussed moving to the unit system during the earlier work session, which will be a change in process for road work at Highland Lake. Moore stated we may have to bid out all road projects. Moore will work with Commissioner Calvert on a plan to address these issues. Mayor Vice added the resolution approved in 2005 will be dissolved where the county maintains the town roads. With the new process, work orders will be required for the county to get the work done. Moore announced that a road committee will be formed and asked for those interested in serving on the committee to let him know after the meeting. Moore added grants may be available to help with funding road projects.

Meeting opened to the public for questions/comments regarding roads.

Dredging – Chairman Malek reported C & C Contracting has agreed to work when the lake is lowered in September 2019. A second contractor may be obtained to do work at the same time. Malek also reported Brasher Creek berm has silt buildup.

Lake – Chairman Nelson reported the committee met and reviewed the bait fish proposal that will be voted on later in the agenda.

Ordinances – Chairman Hanby suggested the following: (1) a section needs to be added to Ordinance HL-97-05 (Parking Zones/Restrictions) relating to an issue where boat trailers are being parked on right-of-ways. The suggested text to be added is “unauthorized vehicles parked on right-of-ways for more than 24

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hours will be cited and/or towed at owner's expense". (2) Hanby also mentioned a letter needs to be sent to address an unsightly property right around the corner from the Anchor, and (3) Ordinance HL-00-11 (Council Meeting Procedures), Section 6 – add number 13 - persons not on agenda with the time permitting to be addressed by the council. Mayor Vice stated the Ordinance Committee needs to meet/discuss and submit recommendations to the council.

OFFICER REPORT

Mayor Vice reported for the month of January at Highland Lake:

Dispatch for Highland Lake Police Department:

26 Contacts

- 12 – Traffic Related
- 2 – Theft / Burglary in Progress
- Others – Alarm, Breathing, Public Service, Flood/Water in Road, Relay, Meet Complainant

Dispatch for Blount County Sheriff's Office:

10 Contacts/Dispatches

- Suspicious Vehicle, Fraud, Alarms, Health/Stroke, Subpoena, Warrant

Hours worked for January: Total 119.5 / 29.8 hours per week

Citations / Arrest / Court: 3 citations, 2 warnings, 1 court appearance

Transfer of LESO Equipment: Transfer of six generators and one Chevrolet Impala to Blountsville Police Department was completed on January 9, 2019. This transfer was requested during the September 6, 2019 Compliance review.

Suspension of Officer Buck Buchanan: Violation of Highland Lake Police Procedure Manual Rules of Conduct (101, 102, 150) and Highland Lake Police Department Basic Employment Standards Rule 4. A Due Process Hearing was conducted on Wednesday, January 30th. Final decision is pending.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Declare Council Vacancy – Mayor Vice declared a council vacancy. The Mayor read the resignation letter from Councilmember Denise Adams.

Ordinance HL-19-01 – Flood Damage Prevention (replaces HL-17-02) – the updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps will be effective March 21, 2019. FEMA asked municipalities to update their ordinance to match the state model. Nelson made a motion to approve the ordinance. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Etowah County Rescue Squad Training – Moore made a motion to allow the Etowah County Rescue Training Squad to use the lake for training purposes. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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Bridge Inspections Report – The Mayor reported the Town has two bridges that require annual inspection. In the past the county engineer has performed the inspections at no cost. The county engineer no longer performs this function. Estimates were obtained and a contractor was hired to perform the inspections in January. The Mayor read the report on deficiencies of 2019 bridge inspections by Contractor Tommy Jones. The findings require general maintenance, pressure wash and paint the ends of the beams to extend the life of the bridges. This work can be done when the lake is lowered in September 2019. Mr. Jones provided the name of a contractor and type of paint to use. Carl Randall questioned the load limit for the bridges. The Mayor agreed to find out.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution HL-19-01 – Dispose of Unneeded Personal Property – A laptop computer and canon printer are no longer needed by the Police Department because they are damaged/don't work. Moore made a motion to surplus. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Appalachian School Music Concert – Saturday, May 11, 2019 – Moore made a motion to approve this event and use of the park. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Blount County Animal Adoption Center Donation – The Blount County Commission asked the town to consider an additional donation of \$324.00 to the animal shelter. To date, the town has donated \$500.00. The voluntary donation of \$824.00 is based on \$2.00 per resident of Highland Lake. Hanby made a motion to approve the additional donation. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Lake Management – Quote for Stocking Feeder Fish – Councilmember Nelson reviewed the quote from Southern Pond Professionals for \$8649.00. Fish would be placed at five different locations around the lake, total 25,000 – 5,000 large golden shiners per section. Discussion took place. Nelson made a motion to approve up to \$8649.00, and between now and the next meeting obtain a second quote to see if there is a better price. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Buck Buchanan – Town Government – Mr. Buchanan thanked the town, Mayor and Council for the opportunity to work for the town.

Gail Bailey – Police Department – Gail Bailey made statements regarding clarification of the letter written and read by Mayor Vice at the January council meeting (statement attached). Mayor Vice responded to some of Mrs. Bailey's statements as follows:

- The LESO application is a federal application and states you must have at least one full time officer to participate in the program. Officers must be active and compensated. Application states signature under perjury and was signed.
- The application submitted in January 2018 stated one full time officer. The town has never had a full time officer. Shane Bailey, LESO State Coordinator, advised the Mayor he did not tell Chief Kon he could use the full time equivalent (FTE) methodology on the application.
- Exception letter to participate was provided to LESO by Chief Kon to explain the full time equivalent methodology. In the exception letter, Chief Kon did not reference conversation with LESO representative regarding using FTE.
- The exception letter and corrected application indicating three part time officers was submitted July 2018. The request was rejected by DLA in July 2018.

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- No pre-approval or pre-notification was provided to the Mayor or Council for equipment obtained by Chief Kon – notification occurred after the fact, after equipment was requisitioned in the LESO system. Mayor Vice told Chief Kon she was fine with him obtaining equipment that would protect the police officers, but capital items that cost the town money needs to be pre-approved. The reporting in the minutes was after the fact - the equipment had already been requisitioned, or equipment had arrived/arriving.
- Mayor Vice stated she has never said the town could not participate in the LESO program. Per letter from LESO dated January 30, 2019 from Shane Bailey, all future requisitions must be approved by the Mayor.
- Mayor stated we thought we were fine until July 2018 when we learned the application to participate was not accurate and equipment already obtained was done so under false information.
- Attempted to clear these issues quietly with Chief Kon since July 2018. Yes, there are problems, but this did not have to be a public display.
- Chief Kon can request to be on meeting agenda to tell his side of the story at any time.
- Mayor Vice stated she would be happy to discuss the LESO issues point by point with the council. She wanted to do this at the December special meeting but the council did not vote to go into Executive Session.

Discussion took place.

Carl Randall – Ordinance HL-00-11 – Rules of Procedure for Council Meetings – Mr. Randall requests the council meetings be opened to the public at the end. Mayor Vice responded she does plan to open this meeting to the public, as long as structure can be maintained.

Donna Hanby – LESO & Police – Mrs. Hanby made statements regarding LESO and the latest letter from Shane Bailey (LESO State Coordinator) stating the police department corrected the issue presented during the September 2018 compliance visit and can participate in the program with approval of all future requisitions from the Mayor. Mrs. Hanby also discussed the limited police coverage the town has right now with Chief Kon having personal issues with a grandson in critical condition.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Jim Black stated the Mayor has become a distraction to the citizens of this community and personally asked her to resign as Mayor.

Bill Rush questioned the qualifications for the vacant council position and about the establishment of the public safety committee. Councilmember Nelson responded the Lake Committee can revisit establishing a public safety committee if Bill would like.

James Bryson asked the Mayor and Chief of Police to get together and settle these issues.

Smiley Veal questioned the proposed ordinance regarding towing boat trailers parked on right-of-ways. Mrs. Veal questioned location of trailers once towed.

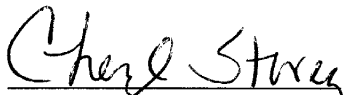
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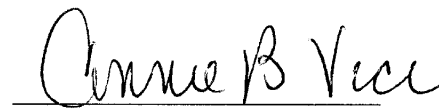
Moore made a motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to address the remaining LESO items. Hanby seconded. Roll call. Nelson, Malek, Moore and Hanby voted yes. Vice voted no. Motion carried.

Moore made a motion to keep the remaining items obtained through LESO. The items are: 3 commercial tire spikes, 2 rib craft boats, 2 EOD robots, 4 Holographic sights, and any other remaining equipment not stated other than the Chevrolet car and six generators. Hanby seconded. Discussion took place. Mayor Vice commented these items were acquired under false information. Nelson commented items could be retained until LESO asks for them back. Malek asked the town attorney if it would hurt the town to keep the items. Town Attorney Alex Smith commented LESO has not asked for the items back and the town is still eligible to participate. Smith also expressed the Mayor's concern. Roll call. Nelson, Malek, Moore and Hanby voted yes. Vice voted no. Motion carried.

Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Malek seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Connie B. Vice, Mayor

**Clarification of letter written and read by Mayor Vice
at the January Council meeting.**

***Officer Scott Kon submitted an application dated 1/23/2018 and attended class on 1/24/2018**

Chief Kon actually turned in the application on 1-24-2018, after consulting with LESO personnel regarding our eligibility. After determining eligibility, he paid the 2018 fee. Chief Kon listed 4 personnel: 1 full time (Kon), 3 part time. (Buck Buchanan, Wes Buchanan, Joe Franklin (who was on medical leave, and had not been cleared to come back to work)

***February – June of 2018, Officer Kon made several requisitions of both Class A and Class D equipment**

Chief Kon did make several requisitions of both Class A and Class D items

***No pre-notification or request for approval was made to the Mayor and/or Council**

Chief Kon made the following notifications to the Mayor/Council (per the council minutes)

February, 2018 - "Chief Kon discussed the 1033 program and surplus property being available".

March, 2018 -- "Chief Kon reported boat (V-Hull) was serviced and that he is looking for used 4 stroke boat." (motor)

April, 2018 – "Chief Kon reported police department had obtained equipment from the 1033 program, approximate value of \$4500. Kon is looking for additional equipment through this program".

"Police boat has been serviced and is ready to go for spring/summer. Chief Kon reported a 4 stroke motor for the boat would be approximately \$6500.00 Kon will work on a proposal to fund this item"

May, 2018 (work session) – "Chief Kon reported generators to service town buildings have been acquired through the 1033 government surplus program".

May, 2018 (regular meeting) "Chief Kon reported a Chevrolet Impala and 2 boats were accepted through the 1033 government surplus program. Kon is working on obtaining power for the boats. Generators were also obtained through the 1033 program to service the buildings. The generators will be picked up next week. Council member Posey has volunteered to install the generators."

June, 2018 – (work session) "Chief Kon provided an estimate for trading in the V-Hull and purchasing a Suzuki motor with a 5 year warranty for 1 of the boats obtained in 1033 program."

"V Hull boat, motor and trailer - \$5,000.00 trade in"

"Suzuki , 4 stroke motor, 140 hp – 10,939.20 less trade in"

"estimate of an additional \$2,000. to get boat fully in service."

June, 2018 (regular session) - "Chief Kon reported an estimate was turned in and discussed during work session".

July, 2018 (work session)

"Discussion took place on estimate."

"Council approved spending approximately \$6,000. for new Suzuki 4 stroke 140 hp motor and trading in V hull motor, boat and trailer for \$5,000.00".

August, 2018 – Mayor Vice asked that expenditure of boat motor be put on hold.

***During preparation for July Council meeting, I discovered the application submitted by officer Kon misrepresented the HLPD. Officer Kon falsified the application by stating HLPD had 4 officers.**

***A corrected application and letter of explanation was submitted and our application was rejected at the federal level.**

Per: [redacted] dated 12-11-2018

"We were contacted by the mayor on 6-29-18 who inquired about the nature and purpose of the LESO 1033 program, as she seemed to be unaware. After her questions were answered, she asked for a copy of Highland Lake PD's LESO inventory and application to be sent to her, which we provided. This information would be provided to any mayor of their city upon request.

In order to qualify to participate in the LESO 1033 program DLA requires an agency to have at least 1 full time compensated officer. The mayor informed us that there may be an issue as to whether their chief would fulfill the requirements of a full time compensated officer and she also believe that their agency did not actually have 3 compensated part time officers.

After subsequently speaking with the chief by telephone regarding his work hours and the other part time officers the AL LESO office sent an email to the chief on 7-10-18 asking him to provide an updated application, no longer counting himself as a full time officer, and an "Exception to Policy Letter" addendum clarifying the officer work hours in the department. The AL LESO office believed that to be the appropriate action.

The chief responded promptly with the requested information. After a couple of corrections, on 7-16-2018, the new application listed 0 full time officers and 3 part time officers, of which the chief was counted as 1 of those 3.

The AL LESO office subsequently asked for the clarification from the chief of the names of other part time officers. The chief provided this information on 7-23-18. He said that Herbert Wesley Buchanan and Wesley Michael Buchanan were the part time officers and that William Joseph Franklin was no longer being counted on the application since he was out on medical leave.

This application and the Exception to policy letter addendum was forwarded to DLA on 7-24-18.

On 7-31-18, DLA informed the AL LESO office that they were rejecting the application due to the fact that it's a DLA requirement that an agency have at least 1 full time compensated officer listed on the application in order to qualify to participate in the LESO program. At this point a discussion took place between the AL LESO office and DLA, whereby DLA informed the AL LESO office that the determination as to what was, or was not, a full time officer was left up to each state LESO office, and not determined by DLA. DLA stated their research indicated that different states around the country had made various, contrasting decisions regarding this matter.

After this discussion on 7-31-2018, a phone call was placed to the chief explaining the denial by DLA, and our discussion with them. At that time, we asked the chief to provide us more detailed, relevant information regarding his employment to help our office make a determination as to Highland Lake PD'S eligibility. An email was sent to the chief on 8-1-18 by the AL LESO office clarifying what information we needed. The chief forwarded the requested information to our office on 9-6-18."

Note: AL LESO accepted the information, and confirmed our continued participation in the 1033 program on October 31, 2018.

***It was also discovered a former councilman paid \$2,000. For the shipping of the rib craft boats. This was not reported to Mayor or Council.**

Councilman Greg Posey was kind enough to pay shipping on the rib craft boats. His company had a large generator delivered in the Charleston, SC area that week. When Chief Kon told him we were able to obtain the boats, but we had to pick them up, he volunteered to have the tractor trailer driver that delivered his generator, pick up the boats, and bring them back. He did this as a favor to the town, and did not ask for or expect any type of reimbursement, nor did he receive any.

***The 6 generators were picked up using a former councilman's truck and trailer and delivered to the councilman's place of business.**

Again Councilman Greg Posey stepped up and loaned the town his truck and trailer to pick up the generators. Chief Kon and John Storey drove to pick the generators up at Eglin Air Force base in Florida. The generators weigh around 1500 lbs. each, and require special equipment to load and unload, as well as a truck and trailer large enough to handle them. Councilman Posey is the owner of Power System Services, and handles generators as large as tractor trailers. He had volunteered to check out the generators, to see if they worked, and to repair them, if possible, if they did not. Since the generators weigh so much, and the work would have to be done at Power System Services, the generators were delivered there, to be evaluated and determine if they worked, or could be repaired. Mr. Posey had also volunteered to install them in the town offices (at no cost) when it was determined they could be used.

***While working to resolve open LESO issues, it was also discovered HLPD LESO equipment was incorrectly assigned to non HLPD individuals. This was reported to LESO and a compliance review was schedule. Officer Kon was given a 24 hour notice of upcoming Compliance Review instead of the customary 30 minutes notice. During the 24 hour period, officer Kon had all improperly assigned**

equipment returned to town property. The assignment violation as well as out of date/missing records was discussed during the Compliance Review.

Per AL LESO letter of December 11, 2018

"After reviewing this information, and after all of the previous discussions with the chief and the mayor, the AL LESO Office determined that a compliance visit was in order. This is common practice in instances where cooperation and understanding is needed by all parties. The AL LESO Office is also required to conduct a certain number of compliance visits each calendar year. The AL LESO office wanted to make sure that all LESO 1033 regulations were being followed, and clearly understood, by all parties involved.

Burt Brownell conducted the compliance review on 9-18-2018. During the compliance review, all of the inventory was present and accounted for, but one issue was found. While it was available for viewing during the the compliance visit, one of the aimpoints had been improperly signed out to an office of ALEA (Highway Patrolman John Vincent). It was explained to the chief that property assigned to his agency can only be signed out to his agency's officers. In order for an officer with another agency to use property, a "transfer" would be required to take place at the FEPMIS website. The chief assured Burt that he understood this requirement."

Note: the reason this equipment was not transferred to another agency, was that Chief Kon did not want to get rid of it. It was logged in to his inventory, as well as when it was assigned, and to whom. This was the only issue that Mr. Brownell found to be a problem, and asked Chief Kon if he wanted to transfer this equipment to the Highway Patrol. Chief Kon declined, and the equipment is here, and accounted for.

After a thorough review, this was the only issue, and there were no out of date or missing records found. All records were accounted for and up to date.

There was no issue with the generators being where they were to be repaired, nor was there an issue with using the parts of some generators to repair others, as long as the non usable parts were put back into a non usable generator. In other words, you could not just take out working parts from one unit, and leave that equipment cannibalized. You would need to put the non working part into the non working generator. If we wanted to "cannibalize" the units before one year, a letter would need to be written to request permission, after one year, no one would care.

The council was informed, by the Mayor, that we had been suspended from the program. Chief Kon thought this was true, as he could not gain access to the LESO site. When asked about this during the compliance review, Burt Brownell assured the Chief that we were not. When the Chief told him he could not access the site, Mr. Brownell told him that periodically passwords were required to be reset. When this was done, access was gained.

Additionally, during the compliance review, when asked if the boats were in jeopardy of being returned, Mr. Brownell indicated that he saw no reason why they would. The Council had been told that they were, and therefore, the motor purchase was put on hold. Neither of these issues was clarified by the Mayor to the council.

*ADECA/LESSO has notified me we can participate (10/31) but no requisitions submitted by officer Kon will be accepted due to the 2018 issues.

Nowhere in the December 11, 2018 letter from Shane T. Bailey, does it mention Chief Kon not being able to submit requisitions. In fact, when Councilwoman Donna Hanby talked with Shane Bailey this past week, he told her he did not know of any reason why Chief Kon could not participate in the program, and submit requisitions. Since that time, the Mayor has once again contacted Mr. Bailey, and he has said they will send another letter, even though one had been sent in December.

*Our Municipal Auditor cited us for a deficiency regarding the former councilman paying for shipping boats and delivery/storage of generators on non-town property.

Per the November, 2018 audit from Lon Criswell & Associates, PC

“During the year ended September 30, 2018, the Town of Highland Lake received several items of equipment. However, some items were delivered to and stored at a councilmember’s place of business instead of town property. The items were relocated to Town property before the inspection by the State. A vehicle was obtained in February, 2018, but did not arrive on town property until April, 2018.”

Nowhere in this citation, is anything mentioned about a former councilman paying for shipping the boats. As explained before – these generators were to be worked on and then delivered, in working condition, to the town, and installed by Mr. Greg Posey, with no cost to the town. They were not being “stored”, they were being “evaluated and serviced”. Also, this is one of four citations to the town, three of which had nothing to do with the LESSO equipment, but are also, easily explained.

The Mayor has insinuated that there is something illegal about someone donating a service to the town.

State of Alabama Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion No. 99-31 states:

“The Alabama Ethics Law would not prohibit a public official from performing volunteer services to the town of which he serves as councilman, as there would be no personal gain or benefit to the public official. However, there must be no particular course of action required as a condition to the receipt of the volunteer service.”

This case was based on a councilman who was the owner and operator of a surveying and engineering firm who wanted to design plans and specifications for a new town hall, at no cost to the town, of which he serves as a councilman.

As regarding the vehicle in question, when Officer Buck Buchanan picked up the vehicle mentioned in the citation, he told Chief Kon that it might have some problems. The mechanic at the Sheriff’s department volunteered to look at the vehicle, to see if it was worth keeping, or maybe transferred out of our inventory. He explained that he would have to look at it when he had time, as the Sheriff Depts. vehicles were priority. When it was not checked out after a few weeks, Chief Kon brought it to the town and parked it.

*We would have been cited for Fraud if not for the intervention of our Municipal Attorney and Mayor to convince our Auditor corrective action was taken as soon as discovered.

Why would we be cited for fraud, when there was no fraud? AL LESO agreed to accept the updated application from the town, after reviewing information requested by them. However, if the Auditor believed there was fraud, would it not be a problem for the Municipal Attorney and the Mayor to convince her otherwise, in order to get a clean audit?

*It is my recommendation we transfer all remaining 2018 acquired equipment back to LESO inventory due to the false information used to obtain.

Again, AL LESO determined that the information they received, would entitle the Town of Highland Lake to remain in the program. The generators and the vehicle have been transferred to the City of Blountsville. There are no other towns in Blount county that can use the boats. It makes absolutely no sense to get rid of something that this town can use, based on facts that do not exist. There are many items in the inventory that this town, and this county can use. The Robots, for instance, can be used here, or anywhere in the county, if we were to have an active shooter, or a bomb threat, in a school or business. These robots can be sent into a situation without risking the lives of the police. If they are returned, not only will the town lose this asset, the entire county might as well, since we don't know where they might be sent.

This all began with the Auditor and the Chief of Police having a difference of opinion on whether the V Hull boat could be sold, and the process for doing so. The Mayor decided to go around the Chief, and to contact AL LESO. The V Hull which is Class A equipment can be sold or disposed of, after 12 months. We have had it for over 6 years.

In order to get rid of Class A equipment, two things must happen. #1 The Chief of Police has to write a letter on town stationery, requesting to get rid of said equipment, and wait for a reply from AL LESO acknowledging his request. #2 All monies, if any, gained from said equipment, must be kept in the Police Dept., it cannot be used for non police equipment.

The Mayor has stated she needed this information in order to be prepared for the July meeting, and that Chief Kon was on vacation. However, if this was indeed the desire on the Mayor's part, a simple call to ask for clarification on the process to sell the boat would have been sufficient. Instead, she felt it necessary to point out to LESO, that we did not qualify for the program because we did not have a full time policeman, and that the number of part time was incorrect. (I was told by the Mayor that she brought up the subject, by thanking Shane Bailey for allowing us to be in the program although we did not qualify. He then asked her, what she meant, and this mess began) Chief Kon should have been given the courtesy of having the opportunity to explain his actions in filling out the application, and then working to make changes, if the Mayor deemed it necessary. He returned before the July meeting, and was in attendance at the meeting and work session, so he would have been available before the vote took place.

It is sad that the town is being penalized for an issue that should never have been an issue. This small "mole hill" has become a very large mountain, with a lot of people being hurt, and reputations being ruined.

Ever since this AL LESO program became an issue, the Mayor has gone out of her way to undermine the police department. We now have one officer, who cannot possibly be here as much as we need him, work his full time job, and have any type of family life. This is leaving our town exposed to rising crime all around us.

The LESSO matter started in June, and was followed by one problem after another. In November, Chief Kon recovered a stolen vehicle, and was instrumental in a major drug and firearms arrest. While everyone else was praising the Chief's actions, the Mayor was taking away his vehicle privileges because he was out of town jurisdiction when the arrest was made, which is perfectly legal. She then decided Chief Kon would not "have a voice" during the work sessions, and would no longer participate in the meetings. Also during the November meeting, Chief Kon was no longer allowed to give the police report, which has always been given by the Chief. Mayor Vice decided it would be best if she presented the report. In December, Mayor Vice decided the town would no longer "have a voice" as well, closing the meeting without allowing the public to speak, and refusing to hear anyone unless they are on the agenda.

This council has been given a one sided account of events leading up to our current situation. I trust that you will take the above information, which is backed up by the enclosed documentation to understand a portion, of what has gone on the past 7 months.

I am again, asking that the council do something about this problem, so that we can have the type of police protection we have come to expect.