

The Brantford Expositor

Conduct complaint subject of in-camera council meeting;

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City council will go behind closed doors in a special meeting this afternoon to examine an integrity commissioner's report on his investigation of a code of conduct complaint by a municipal employee against Coun. John Bradford.

Lawyer **George Rust-D'Eye**, a partner in the Toronto-based firm WeirFoulds LLP, was retained as an outside commissioner to look into the complaint filed by Laurie Schunk, an administrative assistant in the city clerk's office, about her alleged treatment by Bradford.

In a statement filed with her complaint, obtained by The Expositor, Schunk alleges that Bradford conducted himself in a hostile manner toward her and her employment over a personal matter involving a family dispute.

"Coun. Bradford's treatment and behaviour towards me has been appalling," Schunk says in her statement.

"He has poisoned an otherwise healthy working environment by bringing a domestic situation involving his daughter into my workplace and using his position as a member of council to harass me."

None of the allegations has been proved.

Both Schunk and Bradford have declined to comment on the case.

In his investigation, **Rust-D'Eye** interviewed city hall employees and some councillors.

Documents obtained by The Expositor show that city solicitor Larry Tansley earlier advised councillors in an in-camera session not to discuss the case among themselves or with others while it was being investigated by an outside commissioner.

According to past practice concerning conduct complaints against councillors, reports are received first behind closed doors where a commissioner can be asked questions, then released in open session.

Council will also discuss behind closed doors today three other legal matters in which the city has become embroiled.

* The city solicitor will go over the aspects of an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board filed by developer David Gans, of First Home Construction Inc.

Gans is contesting council's decisions regarding his attempt to get proper zoning for seven houses he wants to build on a small parcel of land at Usher Avenue and Rushton Street, near an estate property commonly known as Yates Castle.

Councillors thwarted his bid earlier this year, then he withdrew his application in frustration, and later appealed.

* Councillors will hear the latest in an ongoing \$10-million lawsuit filed against the city by Kingspan Insulated Products.

A year ago this month, Kingspan, which makes insulated walls and roof panels for the construction industry, filed suit in Superior Court after abandoning an 18.3-acre site at Fen Ridge Court and Oak Park Road in a municipal industrial park on the south side of Highway 403, where it planned to build a headquarters and manufacturing plan.

The company cited the problem of repeated occupations by Six Nations Haudenosaunee protesters who said the property is subject to a land claim. The suit claims the city knew that fact at the time it was selling the land.

In a statement of defence, the city maintained it "had clear title to the land and conveyed it with good title, free from any encumbrances" to Kingspan.

* Council will hear advice in its bid to learn how the Holmedale water treatment plant failed temporarily while a contractor was undertaking a \$45-million upgrade last summer, how much it will cost for the repairs and who should pay for them.

Golders and Associates was hired behind closed doors to recommend an engineering firm to assist in an investigation of how a main section of the plant began to sink back in March, causing cracks and other damage, while construction on the upgrades was going on.

The city is working with a rough estimate of between \$6 million and \$15 million to repair the damage.

The legal and real estate department has been directed to prepare for the possibility of a legal case.

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