

Washington County Supervisors Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter in response to the shameful politicking, grandstanding and inflammatory rhetoric being spewed by officials looking to get their names in the paper at Fort Edward's expense. I would like respectfully remind our county supervisors that Fort Edward town, village and school not only reside in Washington County, but serve as host to the county buildings and bear the burden of many of the undesirable byproducts of that service, such as housing many of the parolees and sex offenders the county pays to live here.

Recent comments from some County Supervisors: "I'm tired of the county being the patsy for the school." "We just went through all this with Fort Edward and we are getting set up to be shafted again." "We grabbed the snake by the tail. ... Fort Edward is not an honorable partner. ... We're all on the hook for this. I'm done. Let's collect the money. Four percent of this is Hartford's money. We've been fools once, let's not be fools again."

The patsy for the school? Getting shafted again? Fort Edward is not a honorable partner? When exactly did the county get shafted and what basis do you have for calling a town, school and village in Washington County not honorable? By law the county has to make entities whole for unpaid taxes. Not by favor, not because you're feeling generous, BY LAW. Patsy for the school! I would remind you that the school did not incorrectly assess any land, and by law had to receive the taxes on the land, and also as prescribed by law have stated their intent to pay the money back. As stated in the recent written communication by the county, the payment was requested to be paid back in the current school year, which ends June 30, 2020.

Is it the habit of county supervisors to lambast and bully schools into paying debt nine months before the debt is due, or is it just Fort Edward School?

Is it the practice of the county supervisors to waste taxpayer's money to sue entities that have already stated several times they intend to pay the debt, in the timeframe requested, or it is just Fort Edward?

On a positive note, I would like to remind or inform our county supervisors that Fort Edward School has partnered with several of our fellow county members, like Hartford and Argyle, to facilitate the merger of sports programs so that each school can afford students the ability to play the sports they love. That is how county partners should treat each other, with collaboration and respect.

Respectfully,

Tom Roche
Proud Fort Edward Resident