

December 18, 2020

Supervisor Bargy  
PO Box 309  
Kewadin, MI 49648

Supervisor Bargy and the Milton Township Board,

I apologize for not being able to speak at the December 14 Meeting. I would like to clarify some of the misinformation expressed at your meetings and in the ER News.

The information you receive from Liz Atkinson are her opinions and one side of the issues. I have been on the ERDL Board since 2015 and President for 3 years. The Board worked very hard to get the Village to approve the Library Expansion Project. It took 2 years before it happened. The Village owns the Island House Property which includes the house. As a Board we cannot make changes to the property without permission from the Village Council. There is an agreement/lease with the Village. The Lease was signed on July 20, 1998 and is in effect until July 20, 2038. There will need to be some changes made when the expansion begins, but Village has control over the property. As a Board Member, I do need to establish a relationship with the Village.

My responsibility and the Boards are to work with the Village to complete this project as presented and support the Expansion Project through to completion. I must do all I can to address any person that is undermining this project. This has been an issue as of late.

There have been many statements about situations that have come up about the Director. These are not without merit or "contrived" as stated by your Board Member (Liz). I will not go into detail here, but if you have questions, I would be glad to discuss this with you.

Ever since my time on the Board we have had a very good relationship with the law firm that supports us. The lawyers are attorneys for the Board, not the Director. As of late, the lawyers have been very dissatisfied with comments made

by a Milton Township Board Member and an Elk Rapids Township Board Member. Negative statements must not be made in public about the Lawyers and confidentiality should not be broken as it has. When something comes up where Board Members disagree, it is my responsibility to get a legal opinion to settle the question. Also, I have been advised by the Attorneys to send emails to board members Bcc to avoid members responding, "Reply All", as this can be a violation of the OMA.

I thank you for your time and am always available to answer your questions. Please contact me with anything you may have questions about.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year.

Regards,  
Barb Johnson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb Johnson".

Barbara Johnson, President  
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