

Municipal Code of Conduct Complaint: [REDACTED] vs Rose [REDACTED]

Scope of investigation defined by [REDACTED] - to determine whether mayor acted in conflict of interest in relation to his involvement with council decisions regarding expense claim.

I would like to provide some background:

Council approved two budget items, namely [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as a display of local arts in town when the people of [REDACTED] came to visit.

For the [REDACTED], I traveled twice to [REDACTED]. Each time costs were incurred personally for meetings and dinners. These costs were claimed in an expense claim and reimbursed. But later, when I claimed the costs as they came to town, this process was altered.

When we travelled to [REDACTED], they covered the accommodations booking and expenses. In the same token, when the delegation came to Stephenville, the Town Staff booked for their accommodations. However, when they went to plan for check out for a 3 am departure they were told the accommodations had not been covered by the town. This was an error made by the town. In the absence of availability of any town manager, our partner [REDACTED] stepped in and covered the costs. Subsequently, I discussed with [REDACTED] that the closing reception I would cover and claim as I had for the other related expenditures for [REDACTED]. I would like to note that the policy noting any expenditure over \$500 required prior approval, had not entered into any town discussion.

I also note that: When administrative errors were made in attributing the costs to [REDACTED] and not [REDACTED]; When in fact that the prior expenses were claimed without question; when the town staff arranged the [REDACTED] accommodations but not the payment; and when the subsequent reallocations of expenditures came to the council table; I spoke.

At that time, I felt that with no other council member nor administrative personnel involved, no one else at the table would have had the information to be able to answer questions that arose.

Having said that, it is with great dismay I see the entire situation when viewed by an outside litigator, demonstrates that I inadvertently made an error in judgement when it came to my speaking to these expenditures. Even when I removed myself from chairing the meeting but spoke to the expense history, I was treating the questions as town expenses and not in the light that they were personal expenditures. As this report indicates, once I covered town expenses with my personal credit card it became a personal expense. At the time, I clearly did not comprehend this.

This was also a genuine error in judgement, for which I sincerely apologize.