

**Gezinus Vos**

Email:

June 3, 2024

**Mayor Hal Parker**

Rural Municipality of Miltonvale Park

**Re: Formal Complaint against Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)**

Mayor Hal Parker,

I am writing to formally lodge a complaint against the municipality's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Ms. Shari MacDonald ("Shari"). Her recent actions have caused me significant distress and potential damage to my reputation in the community. In her capacity as CAO, Shari has used offensive, distressing, and aggressive comments/ conduct that are known or ought reasonably to be known to be offensive or unwelcome. The CAO's actions appear to be an attempt to use her position of authority to silence and discredit me. I have lived in this municipality for over thirty years. Intimidation and defamation have no place in our municipal operations. Maintaining the integrity and professionalism of our municipality's administration is crucial.

Unfortunately, your CAO has taken the liberty of moving the matter in a personal and defamatory direction. The details of these actions are attached.

I respectfully request the following resolutions to address these grievances:

1. The CAO's written records of disparaging comments should be immediately retracted from the official minutes (except where the name or details of public consultation sessions are respectfully stated). I have kept copies of all records, etc. As a matter of procedure, the Council should have also corrected the defamatory comments before motioning for approval of the final version.
2. The resolution to this matter should be in accordance with your internal policies and the Municipal Government Act. I am not interested in mediation or presenting these concerns in person to the Council or otherwise. This is an internal matter, and the facts are clearly presented. Please inform me promptly of the action you have taken on this matter. I also ask for a written or verbal apology.
3. I also request that any future engagement with or involving me (or a member of my family acting on my behalf) be respectful.

I trust you will handle this matter with the urgency and seriousness it warrants. I am aware that members of the Rural Miltonvale Municipality Park Council may have potentially colluded or have been involved in the discussion(s) on these matters. However, due to the CAO's egregious actions and her important role in ensuring that decorum and safety are adhered to in municipal affairs, I am currently only putting forward this complaint.

Thank you for your attention to this serious complaint. I look forward to your prompt response and resolution.

Sincerely,  
Gezinus Vos

**(Please contact me only via regular mail as outlined above or by email at [REDACTED])**

[Attachments: relevant documents/evidence]

## Details

<b>May 19- 30, 2023</b>	<p>Shari MacDonald (“Shari”) alleges that in May 2023, I said something that she deemed to be “threatening” toward a Developer (Mr. Andrew Frizzell), yet she did not inform anyone of such at that time, including the person she believed the comment was directed at. She also did not indicate to me that our conversation was problematic, in fact, she had laughed. About one week later, there was a public consultation at Miltonvale Hall with no security measures in place. There was one camera facing the front podium. All attendees sat behind the camera and there was no mention of creating a safe and respectful environment for open dialogue.</p> <p><b>The alleged matter sat dormant for one year.</b></p>
<b>March 15, 2024</b>	<p>Package of 100+ complaints were filed against the Developer’s property with the Rural Municipality of Miltonvale, <b>by 7 nearby residents (including myself)</b>. The complaints pertain to the Developer’s ongoing non-compliance with municipal bylaws, legally binding development agreement / permits, and 120+ vehicles being accumulated on his properties.</p>
<b>March 17, 2024</b>	<p>Two days later (March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024), in her capacity as CAO, Shari filed a formal complaint with the RCMP about the May 2023 (one year prior) alleged comment. She subsequently indicated she was acting on Councillor Frizzell’s behalf.</p> <p>This was <u>2 days</u> after the complaints against the Developer’s property were submitted to the Municipality. Council is, or should be, aware of the contents of her complaint to the RCMP. This would include her written statement to the RCMP and subsequent correspondence. It is unclear what direction, if any, she was provided by Council to pursue the matter as minutes show there were in-camera discussions subsequently held on March 20, 2024, after her complaint was filed. The contents of her written submission to the RCMP will not be disclosed here, however, <b>she made statements about my relationship with my wife that are utterly cold, repulsive, and a mischaracterizing. Shari does not have personal knowledge of my relationship with my wife or how I would subsequently cope with her passing. My wife of 58 years had passed only one month prior.</b> Shari repeated similar and defamatory comments on other occasions.</p> <p>She also made wide-ranging misrepresentations and defamatory comments about my daughter to the RCMP and the actions my daughter took on my behalf (in relation to the Developer’s application to rezone). These comments were irrelevant to the filing but were also an attempt to create a narrative of us as being problematic. The Developer was not informed of the alleged 2023 comments until mid-March (coincidentally the same timeframe as the complaints were filed against him).</p> <p>Shari has interfered with what has historically been a relatively amicable relationship between two neighbours. At no time did the Developer provide a formal statement of his wishes to file charges against me, in fact, he stated many times that he had no issues with me, he did not fear his safety, and did not want the law enforcement to contact me.</p> <p>Shari would have full access to the official disclosure documents, and I provide her with permission to share those with you. These are the actions of your employee in her capacity as your Chief Administrative Officer and as she has subsequently used the language not as a “Developer” but rather as “Councilman” in her communications she has formally made this a Council matter as well.</p>

<b>March 19, 2024</b>	No additional security measures were implemented at the public consultation meeting held on March 19, 2024, yet Shari believed there was an imminent threat. There was no security present to ensure the safety of residents or the “Developer,” only one camera recorded the meeting and the camera was forward-facing (with all residents sitting to the rear of the camera), and there was no verbal request to maintain decorum in the meeting, etc.
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<b>March 20, 2024</b>	<p><u>Minutes (March 20, 2024) – page 3</u></p> <p><i>“Numerous emails were received from a non-resident requesting considerable information regarding the Frizzell property. Seven concern forms were received from residents of Milton Station, delivered by Ms. Detry Carragher on Friday afternoon March 15, although one does not contain a written signature. They were also sent by Detry Carragher to the Premier. The concern forms, which assure confidentiality, ask what the complainants have done to solve the issue. None reported doing anything prior to submitting the forms. The forms have been circulated to Council. Staff will review the concerns before the next meeting. “</i></p> <p><u>Comments/Facts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As I have stated several times, my daughter is acting on my behalf. The use of the language “considerable information” is inappropriate. The questions being asked pertain to the my neighbour’s application to rezone and are reasonable inquiries, particularly when the Planning Board and Council is not forthcoming with information or responses to questions. It’s also incredibly important to note that other residents have made written submissions and/or phone calls, yet Shari is explicitly and intentionally targeting myself and my daughter.</li> <li>• It is inappropriate for Shari to use “Frizzell property” and should respectfully be using the property identification number as she has for all other such matters.</li> <li>• Shari failed to protect confidentiality by disclosing details of “who” delivered the concern forms. Throughout the minutes, it is clear that Detry Carragher is my daughter (acting on my request), and so Shari has inherently breached my right to privacy.</li> <li>• Shari breached confidentiality by disclosing who dropped off the forms and what actions residents may have taken to address the concerns. Stating such, without conducting an initial investigation of the files or review by Council, is highly inappropriate. Reporting that residents had not taken any action before they filed the complaint is highly inappropriate, particularly before there was any due diligence and review by staff. Furthermore, the resolution to the complaints submitted rests with Council. They are not matters to be resolved by residents.</li> <li>• All forms had a signature. One was a digital signature as Shari is aware that the resident was out of the country (and had stated such by email).</li> <li>• Shari is aware, and was copied by email, when the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the area was emailed (March 20 and April 4) of an evolving matter in his municipal riding. It was not in Honourable Dennis King’s capacity as Premier.</li> </ul>
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	<p><u>Minutes (March 20, 2024) – page 4</u>  <i>“It was noted that a threat had been made at the Council office by a resident towards Councillor Frizzell before the public meeting on the rezoning in May, 2023. In light of changing circumstances regarding the individual who made the threat, it was recently reported to the RCMP for investigation.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shari chooses to use in her notes “Councillor Frizzell” which is problematic and preferential in the alleged circumstances.</li> <li>• *** Her choice of using “<b>changing circumstances</b>” further demonstrates that her actions are retaliatory and intimidating. <b>The only circumstances that had “changed” were 1) the passing of my wife on February 8, 2024 and; 2) the submission of the public complaints filed by 7 residents on March 15, 2024.</b></li> <li>• Such language is used to influence the public for empathy toward Councillor Frizzell, particularly in the fact that it precedes the videos of the public consultation pertaining to Mr. Frizzell’s rezoning application.</li> </ul> <p><u>Minutes (March 20, 2024) – page 4 (CAO update)</u>  <i>“A relative of a resident has been contacting the office frequently regarding the Frizzell properties and has requested a variety of information dating back to the 1980s.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first sentence is an excessive misrepresentative of the facts and serves no place in the minutes. Other residents have also made multiple requests. This sentence also clearly suggests that there is a direct correlation between the requests for information and a pending appeal with IRAC.</li> <li>• It is an attempt to silence our right to have answers that pertain to the rezoning application.</li> <li>• There has never been a request to retrieve files dating back to the 1980s but there have been requests to review relevant files related to the property (e.g. 1999 and 2008 development agreements/permits).</li> </ul>
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<p><b>March 28, 2024</b></p>	<p>I asked my daughter if she could call the municipal office about the videos from the public meeting. Shari answered the call late that afternoon. My daughter asked when the video of the meeting would be uploaded, as promised to people who had called, and the CAO said, "I'm busy and I have a number of deadlines." Meanwhile Shari had posted over twenty other updates on Facebook since the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. My daughter said, "I understand that; however, we also have a deadline to submit a response by Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm, and my father would like to view the video so that a solid response can be submitted by the deadline." Shari said the minutes were online and my daughter said, "yes but they are incomplete and in draft form. The video from the May 2023 public meeting had been previously uploaded, so for consistency the same should apply." Shari then became confrontational and said, "It's after hours I'm going to end this call," to which my daughter said, "but Shari, you answered the phone, and we are waiting for information so we can submit a response, are you planning to hang up on me, to which she said, 'maybe.'"</p> <p>The office was then closed the next day (Good Friday) and Easter Monday. The videos were uploaded two hours before the 12:00pm deadline on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> for public submissions in response to information from the meeting on March 19, 2024.</p>
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<p><b>April 2, 2024</b></p>	<p>Shari posted the following statement in relation to the videos she uploaded for the March 19, 2024, public consultation meeting:</p> <p>View the Public Meeting Video from March 19, 2024. These videos were taken to assist with note taking, and as a security measure due to criminal threats made against a Councillor. Council encourages civil discussion and condemns personal attacks such as the threat against Councillor Frizzell.</p> <p>Posting this statement was entirely baseless and constituted a clear act of intimidation against residents who spoke up at the meeting. Furthermore, the following facts are important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no “criminal” threats against a “Councillor.”</li> <li>• The “videos”(as mentioned) pertain to a development matter (“Developer”) and not a “Councillor” who happens to be the Developer. This demonstrates that the CAO gives preferential treatment to a member of Council rather than balancing the interests of both residents and Council.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>April 17, 2024</b></p>	<p>Minutes should not include detailed discussions or individual opinions such as who said what about a particular matter under discussion. (See: <i>PEI Federation of Municipalities Tips for Minute-Taking</i> <a href="https://fpeim.ca/resources/administration/quick-notes-tips-for-minute-taking/">https://fpeim.ca/resources/administration/quick-notes-tips-for-minute-taking/</a>)</p> <p>As CAO, and minute-taker for Council meetings, Shari has an obligation to use professional discretion in the words chosen. Using first names should be avoided (Gezinus Vos / Detry Carragher), words such as “interrupted” are a misrepresentation of what actually occurred and is an attempt to characterize my family as disruptive, rather than as upholding the process.</p> <p>The comments on page 8 section xxiv (April 17, 2024 Minutes) are again, an attempt to discredit me and my daughter (acting on my behalf). Other residents have made similar requests and yet we are being targeted for seeking information related to an application to rezone. Residents have the right to request information on procedural matters, particularly when this information is not available on the Municipal website. The comments “Mr. Gezinus Vos stood and addressed Council ... in a <b>threatening</b> manner...”, are again disparaging, a misrepresentation of the facts, and serve no purpose in public records. To use the language “threatening” is unacceptable and defamatory. This information serves no purpose in the minutes and is an attempt to create a negative narrative.</p> <p>Shari was respectfully copied on the email to Municipal Affairs and PEI Federation of Municipalities as the information/responses to our questions were not forthcoming from the Municipality. The questions pertain to matters of procedure. Shari was also respectfully copied on the email to the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the area, Honourable Dennis King. Shari is fully aware that Mr. King was not contacted in his capacity as Premier, yet she is creating a narrative that the matter is being elevated unnecessarily to the provincial leader.</p>
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