



---

## Our BLA on tonight's consent agenda

---

Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>  
To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>  
Cc: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Thu, Apr 16, 2020 at 12:56 PM

Dear Stevenson Council Member,

We see that our BLA dispute with Ben Shumaker is on your consent agenda tonight. As you read the stipulated agreement please ask yourself these questions:

### "What new information is in the agreement that was not obvious prior to the dispute?"

Or put another way, ask yourself this question:

*"What bit of new information was gleaned by Ben in denying our BLA application?"* We had asked Ben at least three different times what additional information did he need to approve the application. He told us he had all the information he needed.

To point out how crazy and silly Ben's denial was on such a basic and easy BLA application, look at just two of the reasons used to deny our BLA:

1. We didn't clarify what type of sewage system we'd use. Why clarify this? We weren't building anything. And the code already was/is clear if we ever did. Point is, this was immaterial to the question at hand and if it had been material and relevant you would see it mentioned in the stipulated agreement.
2. We overpaid the BLA application fee. Yes, that's right. One of the points Ben used for denying our application was our over payment of the application fee. And one of the points Ben instructed your \$580.50 per hour lawyer to address was this small over payment. Evidently, according to Ben (and even your own city attorney), we now need "stipulated agreements" to handle over payments. Ben could have just yelled over to the accounts payable desk, "Hey, send Rick May a check for \$75.00" or whatever the small amount was.

Now this whole BLA issue should rightfully be pointing out an additional issue beside's Ben Shumaker's lack of "common sense"\* and his inability to provide basic "customer service"\*; this being the fact that **your our own city attorney, Ken Woodrich, couldn't handle something as simple as this minor BLA dispute**. Instead of having a firm grasp of city code (as the four non-attorney property owners had in this instance), Mr. Woodrich suggested you spend tax dollars to hire someone else, to the tune of \$580.50 per hour. And what did this high priced expert do? They agreed with us in total - on every single point, down to taking out the unnecessary verbiage Ben tried to insert at the end.

The stipulated agreement does do one thing for the taxpayers. We agree that we will not come after the City of Stevenson for our attorney costs. But who will reimburse the taxpayers for Ben's pettiness, his lack of "common sense", and his inability to provide "customer service"?

Pat Rice and Karen Rutledge

\*See attached counseling letter