

Nancy Kramer

From: Stuart Richards <srichards@globalrescue.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 1:39 PM
To: Nancy Kramer
Cc: Nancy Kramer
Subject: FW: Taxpayer's Money Wasted

Nancy,

Please offer this letter to Selectboard members and let me know when they will be receiving it. Also if you could let me know your email address I would appreciate it.

Thanks,

Stuart

Dear Selectboard,

I hate to see money wasted and Norwich taxes go up for no reason and perhaps you do too. During Public comments at the May 11 Selectboard meeting I asked why Town Highway 88 (Old Bridge Road) aka "The Road to Nowhere" had been paved on the portion where there were no houses and the road dead ends. I also wanted to know what it cost and who was responsible for making the decision to pave a portion of a road that was not used by anyone, approximately +/- 500 feet. Phil Dechert, the Interim Town Manager was asked to get the answers.

At the May 25 Selectboard Meeting, I again asked the three questions: Whose decision was it to pave, how much did it cost and why was it paved given that no-one used this portion of the road? Since two weeks had elapsed since the questions were first asked I assumed that someone would be able to answer. I was wrong. Phil Dechert who said he didn't know where the road was said "he had heard that Town trucks used the +/- 500 feet to turn around." This answer makes no sense since the road makes a T at the point where it is discontinued and the left hand portion of the T which goes to a State boat launch affords an overabundance of room to turn trucks around. Dechert still didn't know nor did he take the trouble to find out how much the paving cost and who was responsible.

Out of curiosity I spoke to Stuart Close at Blaktop Paving and although he said I didn't have any standing as a Town official for him to respond specifically he could say the it would cost around \$10,000 to pave +/- 500 feet of road provided that additional base or sub base work was not needed. I guess Phil Dechert was "too busy" to pick up the phone to find out what should be in the Town's records.

I know that \$10,000, if that's what it is, is a very small part of Norwich's budget but I feel that answers as to why an unused road was paved should be forthcoming. I hate to think that I will need to file a freedom of information request to get the answers to my questions and that no one seems interested enough to answer these questions.

Stuart L. Richards