



PRESS RELEASE

July 3, 2014

For Immediate Release

YEU demands resignation of Cynthia Kearns; Watson Lake Councillor defames senior workers in live broadcast.

Watson Lake Town Council held its monthly meeting June 18th. At the end of the regularly scheduled live broadcast of meeting business, an in-camera session was held to discuss confidential staffing compensation matters. Unfortunately, the live broadcast feed was forgotten and was not shut off before the more sensitive portion of the meeting began.

It has been reported to YEU that during the “private” part of the meeting, Watson Lake Councillor Cynthia Kearns made disparaging remarks about two senior Town employees, calling them unworthy of a proposed raise in pay. She named names, publicly defaming these two long-time workers. YEU was contacted the following day by a concerned community member, and we have had several conversations with individuals in Watson Lake. YEU President Steve Geick says “naming individual workers in such a derogatory manner, whether behind closed doors or during a live broadcast shows poor judgement and a fundamental disrespect of the town’s staff. Clearly Ms. Kearns is not able to fulfill the duties of her role as Councillor in an impartial and effective manner. She needs to step down immediately.” To date, neither the meeting’s minutes nor webcast have been posted to the town’s website.

The two affected employees attended a meeting with the town’s CAO Stephen Conway on June 30th. At that impromptu meeting they were advised to disregard Ms. Kearns’ comments, and that the issue was to end there, with no further follow up needed. The employees and their union disagree.

Yukon Employees’ Union requests the members receive a full and formal apology from the Town of Watson Lake’s Mayor and Council and the immediate resignation of the offending Councillor, Cynthia Kearns.

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