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From: **Carmen Rue** <crue07@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 6, 2016 at 1:50 PM

Subject: reply to Comptroller's auditor questions. Village of Monticello NY 2016

To: "muni-Binghamton@osc.state.ny.us" <muni-Binghamton@osc.state.ny.us>

To Whom It May Concern,

The day I met with the auditors from the Comptroller's Office, I was asked about voucher signatures. I was specifically told there were supposed to be five (5) signatures. In tonight's meeting, however, the Village Manager told us that the Comptroller's Office recommends only two signatures on each voucher. Based on his representation of this change in advice, board members compromised on a requirement for a minimum of three (3) signatures on each voucher. The manager was clearly displeased with this result. My own preference as expressed in tonight's meeting was to remain with the requirement of five (5) signatures on each voucher which has been our policy and practice since the last Comptroller's audit included this recommendation. Kindly clarify what the current recommendation is concerning the number of signatures that should be on a voucher prior to payment.

Also, the Comptroller's auditors questioned why critical employees have been leaving the Village's employ over the last year or two. At the time, I was caught off guard by the question. However, after giving the matter some thought, I need to explain. The former Treasurer, Lilu Li, resigned because of verbal abuse and harassment by the Village Manager. The former Deputy Treasurer, left because she was making a lot of discrepancies in the payroll. When the manager advised her the Comptroller's office was coming for an audit, she submitted her resignation. Account Clerk, left because money could not be accounted for and she did not want to be held responsible.

After I spoke with Comptroller's staff, I asked Lilu why she did not complete reconciliations on statements shortly prior to her departure. She said the reason was that there were discrepancies in the deposits for which she could not account. (I believe she provided evidence of this to the NYS Comptroller's Office.

I remain concerned that some board members are treated unequally by the Village Manager, who manipulates processes to get his way with respect to expenditures and other matters that lawfully require board approval. Department heads report that he intimidates, abuses, and demands his way (notably, for example, at a meeting last week when he threatened to fire any department heads who provided information to a member of the Board of Trustees). It is safe to predict that in the near future the flow of retirements and resignations of longtime valued employees will continue.

Sincerely,

Carmen Rue

Village Trustee, 2008-2020--

Please direct replies to crue07@gmail.com