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Carver Buddy System

Town Administrator Rick LaFond confirmed what Fixcarver has suspected for weeks former Building and Grounds Superintendent Gerry Farquharson has been hired as a facilities consultant. Farquharson retired on a disability from the town on July 29th 2008 after an extended absence. Officials at the Plymouth County Retirement Board told Fixcarver that the retirement is worth \$44,259.96 per year plus an undisclosed annuity. Assistant to the Town Administrator Jean Bouchard stated in the Jan 9 issue of the Carver Reporter “that she helped cover the department for 22 months”. According to LaFond Farquharson will be working “12 hours per week” “in an advisory/Administrative capacity as a facilities consultant.” Town Accountant John Adams told Fixcarver that the hourly rate is \$29.85 per hour. If this is projected over 52 weeks it’s equivalent to an additional \$18,626.40 per year add the two together and you would end up with an annual salary of \$62886.36. Not bad, in fact, it just might be higher than the amount he made in his last full time year! We do not have that figure. Perhaps the wizards of Carver finance could enlighten us with the facts.

The town weathered the past 22 months without Mr. Farquharson in any capacity. If his advice and consultation are critical why have these services not been needed for the past two years? What expertise are we purchasing if we can live without it for two years without consequences? Why can’t we endure the next two years without this wasteful expenditure? Perhaps this position was really never a full time position. The fact that Mr. Farquharson's duties have been absorbed by others without the need for consultant services or extra hours from the replacements speaks volumes about the time and expertise requirements of the position.

Questions posed by a commenter on Fixcarver.com have not been answered any Selectmen. Those who refuse to answer questions deserve no presumptions of innocence from the public. Frank Casey, Jack Angley and Dick Ward condone back room deals by their silence. We have been down this road before with Mr. LaFond. The Buddy system is alive and thriving at town hall during his tenure. There has been no posting or formal procurement process for this job because the deal was sealed with a wink and a nod from Rick LaFond and The Board of Three cannot muster the courage to intervene on behalf of the citizens they are sworn to serve. In the words of Mike Dukakis a fish rots from the head down. When the budget cuts come let Mr. LaFond is the first.

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