

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Trustees for the City of Jet  
Jet, Oklahoma

Dear all

I am requesting for the May regular meeting to add to the agenda.

I need to hear from each trustee the reason for the refusal to release public digital records according to the Open Records Act ~24A.3 item 1. The current policy<sub>1</sub> provides records only by hard copy, however records transferred by e-mail or other electronic means would be more efficient. Therefore I should be able to subscribe to receive certain regular records such as meeting agenda and minutes. The annual audit should be available in this form as well.

Attached is the result of my attempt last October to resolve this with a letter to the mayor with the request to buck it around to all the trustees. Instead of getting a visit from a trustee, I very quickly within a few hours received this rejection letter from an attorney.

I need to find trustees with a sincere interest in serving their constituents. I don't live very far away and would be interested in your thoughts and rational before you make the final decision on issues.

<sub>1</sub> See the reverse side for the attached letter.

Sincerely, Paul Blackledge

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WRITER'S EMAIL: EWS@MDPLLC.COM

May 12, 2010

Paul Blackledge  
PO Box 102  
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RE: Public Records

Mr. Blackledge,

You contend in your letter dated May 5, 2010 that you are being denied copies of public records under the Open Records Act, specifically section 24A.3. That section is strictly the definitions of terms used in the act. The last sentence of section 24A.2, which stated the purpose of the act states:

**Except as may be required by other statutes, public bodies do not need to follow any procedures for providing access to public records except those specifically required by the Oklahoma Open Records Act.**

The Town Board has adopted a procedure for securing copies of public records. It is in compliance with the requirements of the Act. Just because you would prefer that public records be provided in electronic form does not mean the Town is in violation of the Act.

The Board and I have tried to explain to you on several occasions why the Board believes the current policy is the most appropriate procedure and that electronic transmission of the records you desire is not an option at this time.

All issues brought before the Board are openly discussed and each Board member's vote on the issue is publicly stated and recorded. There is no requirement for each Board member to explain to you personally the reason for his/her vote. The vote of a Board member is a public statement that he or she believes that the issue upon which the vote is taken is or is not in the best interest of the Town. No further statement by a Board member is required.

The final paragraph in your letter could be taken as a personal attack on each Board member. You are stating that the current Board members do not have a sincere interest in serving their constituents. Just because a Board member will not approve something **you think is best** does

not mean that he or she does not have a sincere interest in serving their constituents and doing what is best for the Town. No individual citizen has the authority to declare what is in the best interest of the Town.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Shaw', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E.W. "Bill" Shaw