

Winsted's costly ^{2/19/92} community anarchist

Editor of The Register Citizen:

Winsted "community lawyer" Charlene LaVoie claims to speak for the people. One must admit Ms. LaVoie often speaks. At town meetings she speaks and yells whether she has the floor or not. She talks about open government as if she invented it. Government in this part of the country has always been open. Artist Norman Rockwell was so impressed with local government in New England that one of his famous Four Freedoms paintings was modeled on a local town meeting he attended. Ms. LaVoie insinuates that our elected officials are less than sincere.

All of our selectmen, even those whose political views I don't share, have a vested interest in the future of this community. They grew up in town or chose to raise their children here. In other words they have roots in Winchester that go beyond finances.

Our selectmen have known each other and the members of our community for years. They are not twenty-month wonders who live here because their employers' personal future and feelings were bruised when a firetrap was torn down and a new school building built.

To date our board of selectmen has not been able to address a number of pressing issues confronting our town. Their efforts and energy are being spent putting out fires whose flames are being fanned by the community lawyer's office.

What benefits has our community gained since Ms. LaVoie took over the position of community lawyer? The most visible product of her office since November 1991 is \$8,000 in legal fees that have been paid for by the community (Let us not forget the other lawsuit she filed against our selectmen prior to the November election; we the people will also be paying to defend it).

Political activism and promotion of government for and by the people is desirable. Anarchy is not. Our selectmen are not foes to be defeated.

All our citizens, including our selectmen, must be careful not to become unwitting pawns of the community anarchists — oops! — community lawyer's office.

Tim Moran
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