

December 10, 2012

Mayor Mike Myser, City of Prior Lake
Mayor Elect Ken Hedberg, City of Prior Lake
Prior Lake City Attorney, Richard Rosow

Minnesota State statute 471.701 mandates that a City with population of more than 15,000 must annually notify residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest paid employees. The City's website claimed earlier this year to have met this notification requirement by posting the City Manager's salary for 2012 as \$120,598, and posting salaries for two other individuals. (Ref. 1)

According to a survey in which Prior Lake was a participant, the average salary for City Managers of Cities with population of 20,000 to 24,000 is \$120,165. This would seem to indicate that City Manager Boyle's salary is about average. The problem is that City Manager Boyles is being paid \$148,498 for 2012, not \$120,598 as reported on the City's website. The \$148,498 "wages with tenure" figure that includes \$5400 car allowance comes directly from the City Manager's 2012 contract and an associated Staff report. The Staff report that was submitted to the Council to obtain approval for the \$148,498 figure, acknowledges that "Mr. Boyle's salary is significantly higher" than the average for other city managers of cities our size, but justifies the difference based upon Boyles "years of service". (Ref.2)

Most certainly the City Manager and key Staff members understand that the intent of State Statute 471.701 is to create transparency in City Government, by specifically informing residents of how much their City Manager and other key employees are being paid. When City Hall cites the Statute and then posts false and misleading data, it would appear to represent intentional deception. To excuse the failure to report the City Manager's total salary on the basis that a part of it is based on his years of service and therefore doesn't count, is disingenuous.

Mr. Boyle's 2012 contract and salary were approved at a City Council meeting on May 7, 2012. As City Manager, Mr. Boyles is responsible for preparing the Council agenda. The salary item was included in the Consent Agenda which is supposed to be used only for "routine and non-controversial" issues, and which therefore receive no public discussion or debate. According to the minutes from that meeting, there was no mention of any specifics regarding Mr. Boyles' salary or contract benefits. (Ref. 3)

While overpaying a City Manager is fiscally irresponsible, it is probably not illegal. But falsifying information is, and that needs to be dealt with. As a group of Prior Lake residents dedicated to the principle of transparency and accountability in local government, we are asking for an investigation of this matter. We are also asking for a written public report of the findings, including identification of the person(s) responsible, and disciplinary action to be taken for those involved. Intentional malfeasance, if found, should result in a report to an appropriate enforcement agency for further investigation and action. This is a serious breach of the public faith and trust in City Government. We ask that you treat it as such, and take the necessary steps to restore the confidence that residents expect and deserve.

Steering Committee
Citizens for Accountable Government
Dick Felch, Chair

cc: Lori Carlson, Editor, Prior Lake American