

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED
PRIOR TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SESSION
ON
THURSDAY, March 31,
2022
AT
10:00 A.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us

Megan Marasco

From: Mary Starrett
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Beth Rankin
Cc: BOC Info
Subject: RE: Responding to your invitation to write you

Dear Beth,

Thank you for your recent email.

Regarding your comments on postings on the Mary Starrett, Commissioner fb page made by others; please address your concerns to those individuals as I do not control the content of their postings.

I've cc'd the Board of Commissioner public comment email.

Thank you, again for sharing your concerns,

All the best,

Mary Starrett
Yamhill County Commissioner

From: Beth Rankin <bethrankinor@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 11:54 AM
To: Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us>
Subject: Re: Responding to your invitation to write you

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Thank you for responding, but I noticed you did not reply fully to the issues I raised.

Without any need for censorship, Facebook page managers can certainly shape their page to encourage discussion, not attacks.

I wrote "Responding to constituents who normally are ignored by you is a good start to show you are potentially caring about what we might have to say."

Were my words an attack? I don't think so. A suggestion for alternative behavior is not an attack.

And yet, here is what your supporters responded with: [Yamhill Legion](#)

[Beth Rankin](#) throwing mud and hoping it sticks by the left is not ignoring

What mud? And do you need Yamhill Legion to run that kind of block on communication to you? Do you want to encourage that concept?

[Loretta Johnson](#)

[Beth Rankin](#) did you even take a moment to digest what she said or are you doing what you accuse her of doing, ignoring?

Actually, a good question. She is unaware of how much anyone observes and follows you. But my time is not going to be spent trying to talk to any of your supporters at this point.

[Diane Waters](#)

Beth Rankin you came at me negatively when I suggested we might all be allowed to be treated for Covid when they took the medicines away from us. I thought we should all share information about that. Well guess what. Now 17,000 doctors are doing that.

This was a pretty important subject to find out the truth about. .

What negative attack on this woman? And why insert this into a comment stream, not about Covid? Perhaps you appreciate misdirection more than I do?

Mary, this is nitpicky stuff, but since you chose not to address the question I posed in the prior email, it is back to you. Do you think Facebook page owners, especially public servants, should set a tone for the kind of speech they encourage or discourage?

Are you hoping to bring the County together through helpful actions or continue massaging the differences with your choice of words not exactly meaning what you do?

Beth Rankin

On Sat, Mar 26, 2022 at 10:32 PM Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us> wrote:

Dear Beth,

Thank you for following up on the face book posts; I think far more can be accomplished in more direct communications.

Recalls are a legal option which can be used to remedy egregious breaches of ethics or illegal behavior by elected officials. Instead, the 4 recall efforts we've seen in Yamhill County have been used punitively since none of the targets of the recalls broke any laws.

The facts remain- we have an overburdened staff in the Clerk's office and now have a budget concern because of those recalls.

The 3 elected officials who were the subjects of the recalls were castigated for costing the County (taxpayers') money as part of the rationale for those recalls. It's ironic, since we now have to address the shortfall created by those recalls.

Thank you for your email, I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts.

All the best,

Mary Starrett

Yamhill County Commissioner

From: Beth Rankin <bethrankinor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us>
Subject: Responding to your invitation to write you

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

859 SW Sitka Drive

McMinnville OR 97128

March 26, 2022

Dear Mary,

Re: I suggested you respond to all your constituents and your ardent supporters decided my statement was an attack on you. Interesting response from all.

You wrote a post: Gratitude to our Yamhill County Clerk, Deputy Clerk, those who've come out of retirement to help out, dedicated staff and volunteers for the commitment they've shown throughout the grueling recall efforts.

Most folks don't know the toll it's taken on staff and our County budget. Instead of preparing for 1 election- the May 2022 Primary, they've worked well into the night for months processing ballots from THREE recalls. It's unsustainable. Staff is worn thin and it has cost taxpayers \$100k.

We've seen a new weapon against duly elected officials in Yamhill County- politically motivated and divisive recalls.

Please consider the collateral damage; it's been substantial.

At first read, this seems like a gentle appeal for pleasant behavior dealing with the county clerk. But it also contains a dog whistle, Mary., You wrote about how a highly respected and constitutional act of our democracy was costing the taxpayers some money. You did not indicate this is a trusted and allowed part of our government actions. You just wrote about how we spent funds and you use the words to say that they were weaponized attacks. You did not care to inform anyone that this is an acceptable constitutional process when people feel a public official is abusing the position. So, what message were you really sending?

To your ardent supporters, that is all they need to read to stay angry. You had them focus on the funds spent, not instilling pride in them for going through a difficult process. For the rest of us, this is Mary saying something that is loaded with other implications. If you don't intend to do that, work on your writing style.

You chided me that Facebook is not a good way to communicate, and while I agree there are better ways, we know that many people no longer read more than 60 seconds and so the "sound bite" writing style on Facebook is the way many people get most of the information that they consider for life decisions.

It is the responsibility of anyone who has a Facebook page to set the tone. To permit or not permit certain behaviors.

So, for this, our first emailed communication attempt, I am asking you to put your words and actions together better. It will show clearly in all your Facebook comments if you can manage that. You SAY you want us working together in a better way. That means you, also, need to change a bit to solicit calm and helpful interaction from all.

Sincerely,

Beth Rankin

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Beth Rankin
Can-Do Real Food
www.CanDoRealFood.com
304-654-5634
McMinnville, Oregon