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Stacy & Denise Lacy

JUL 02 2013

Commission Office

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Valley Center, KS 67147

T 316 755-3881

June 30, 2013

Commissioner Richard Ranzau
Sedgwick County
525 N. Main #320
Wichita, KS 67203

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Sedgwick Co. Clerk

Dear Commissioner,

I very much appreciate your attention and detailed questions in regard to our petition for de-annexation from Valley Center. It has truly been a frustrating 7.5 years as we were forced to be annexed against our will with no person representing us that we had voted for. At one of the initial hearings before annexation, a Valley Center council person flat out told us they could not afford to maintain our roads and that we might have to have the home-owner's association pay for it. Well, they were right. Our roads are a mess. After the 5 year hearing, in an attempt to appease us, they chip sealed my street. We didn't ask for this nor did tell us until a crew showed up in our front yard. The shoddy job they did is already starting to show only 2 years later. Oil seeps through the street in hot weather because they don't adequately cover it with chip. The edges are starting to crumble, and water stands beside the edges because they didn't build a proper base and crown before applying the chip/seal.

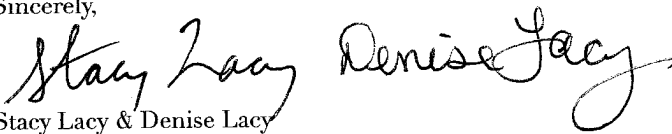
Additionally, with some heavy snows this summer, we saw days delay in snow plowing, leaving it nearly impossible to get in/out of the neighborhood unless you had a big four-wheel drive. When they finally did plow, they only made one pass, blocking in the driveways and leaving it difficult for two way traffic.

The City has the nerve to charge us monthly "storm water" fees. I guess these fees are for the privilege to use our own ditches that pre-existed and they have completely neglected to maintain. Due to poor maintenance of the roads, the ditches are filling in and don't drain properly. I finally rented a skid loader and re-opened my own ditch because water was backing up into my yard. They don't mow the ditches like the county used to. They don't maintain them for proper drainage, but they charge us for them anyway.

Additionally there are the street lights. We challenged the fact that they had no plan in the 5 year hearing as required by their own annexation document. So to "punish" us for "complaining" about it, they installed street lights where we don't want them. According to city ordinance, street lights have to be requested. We have not requested them in their current locations. I called when they were installing them and was told that we "complained about them so we were getting them whether we wanted them or not" by the city administrator. We would like to have a street light at the intersection of Main and West street which is a busy intersection, but they refuse on that one because they are trying to keep from taking over maintenance of that intersection from the county.

All in all, we are very dissatisfied with Valley Center City Administration. We like being rural. We had better services from the county prior to annexation. However, we would never lie in legal proceedings and hearings as the City Administrator infers. There will be no harm to our community if you de-annex, we would be thrilled and thankful. Please vote to de-annex.

Sincerely,


Stacy Lacy & Denise Lacy