

Bailey, Jill K.

From: Parnacott, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 8:53 AM
To: Bailey, Jill K.
Subject: FW: Valley Center De-Annexation

This was received by Commissioner Ranzau. Please add it to the written submissions for the de-annexation matter.
Thanks

Robert W. Parnacott | Assistant County Counselor | Sedgwick County Office of the County Counselor
p: (316) 660-9340 | f: (316) 383-7007 | rparnaco@sedgwick.gov
525 N. Main, Suite 359 | Wichita, KS 67203 | www.sedgwickcounty.org

CONFIDENTIALITY - ATTORNEY - CLIENT STATEMENT

This message is from the Office of the County Counselor representing the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners and county departments. This email may contain information which is privileged and confidential solely for the use of the intended recipient. This email is not intended to be legal advice to any person not a client of this office and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any review, disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please destroy it immediately and notify me immediately by return electronic mail or by telephone at (316-660-9352).

From: Ranzau, Richard L.
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 8:51 AM
To: Parnacott, Robert
Subject: FW: Valley Center De-Annexation

FYI.

Richard Ranzau
Sedgwick County Commission - District 4

From: Donna Lowe [<mailto:djlowe@cox.net>]
Sent: Saturday, June 08, 2013 6:03 PM
To: Ranzau, Richard L.
Subject: Valley Center De-Annexation

Commissioner Richard Ranzau,

Dear sir,

Please note,
I live at 8005 Buena Vista Drive in Valley Center, Ks.
We moved into our new home in January 1979.

We wanted to live in the country and raise our children here.
We have seen many changes since then in Valley Center.
The Valley Center city limits was not close to us then.
It stopped by the railroad track on the west side of town.

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2013

Sedgwick Co. Clerk

I would like to let you know about the other side of things brought up by Mr. Pile who spoke before the County Commission. Since he opened up the discussion I would like to add that I do not agree that we "USE" Valley Center.

When we moved here, Valley Center was a quaint small city over the river and on down the road over a mile. We liked the schools, shops and the shop owners. Now we take the back road of 69th Street to head over to Park City Leekers store and Walmart on 53rd St. or, drive on 81st Street and go to Wichita via Ridge Road to shop west around Tyler or Maize Road. For the most part there is no need for us to drive through Valley Center at all.

The merchants in Valley are not what they used to be. Many of the store features that once existed are not available today. Only occasionally do I shop Leekers or other stores and restaurants in Valley. The city managers in Valley Center appear to not know how to acquire or keep businesses in town. Meanwhile Park City has blossomed. But the people in VC do not understand how to hook up to the highways and bring in people to town to shop and increase the tax base. The poor public relations skill Mr. I D Creech used to deal with our neighborhood concerned me then, as the newer manager concerns me now. I can see why Valley failed to grow under such direction. Mr Creech had an autocratic and dictatorial attitude toward us, and did not make any friends in our community that day. Even if we had been previously willing to consider the option his attitude was enough to cause major concern. He was confrontational and unnecessarily rude. That unprofessional attitude toward others has possibly caused the town to change. Why be in a city like that when there are other places who welcome new people or new business. Sadly, it has become a bland little city without color. Well basically two colors actually, a medium blue and a tanish cream. The original quaint and colorful charm of the small town is long gone. We do not use the library since downloading books is easy. We are for the most part an aging neighborhood now, as you may have noticed, so swimming in public pools is not what most of us out here are prone to do. We buy gasoline in Valley Center but we could as easily buy it elsewhere, if they do not appreciate our business. So our need for the town does not exist.

That same autocratic "warlord" attitude exists toward us now.

Forced annexation is so arcane that most states do not consider such action any longer.

The annexation forced upon us was planned only on paper, not to do work in our area, and they would not have held to the letter or the spirit of the law, unless and until, we took action to involve the County Commission. Then and only then did they do anything. When they finally took action it was ill thought out and done as cheaply as possible. Even then it was only partially done, and left undone until the time for them to come before the County Commission again. It is still not finished, but only a future promise - which may never be completed. The road project will not last because it was done so badly, as it was done for the sake of appearance. If it has been a garment they made, you'd barely be down the street before you were bare. Is it better than before? We have a little less dust, for now. In the end it will be ignored and allowed to fall apart and be a crumbly mess, especially when the rain and snow arrive. Give us the back the township road grader when it comes to getting snow removed. Good grief. And they say our storms will be stronger now.

We are older what would happen if we needed medical aid. Older people trying to shovel snow and med problems go together. They arrived out here to plow snow after they worked the streets of VC. So we could just have had that heart attack and died. May I also add here, that the sherriff used to patrol our streets more then the police from Valley Center have patrolled in our area. So who made us safe? The 911 call is faster and easier then the 7 digit number to call Valley Center for emergency help also.

The animal control situation; adding expense to horse (livestock) owners is absurd. They do not allow livestock in Valley Center to my knowledge, so it is only for our rural neighborhood, thereby not uniform treatment. But it does prove Valley Center also believes we are rural, and not city.

The streetlights should have been installed at the intersection corner stop sign if it was to be installed at all. Who would NOT realize that? Basically just a total waste of money to put up an appearance of duty toward us.

May I also bring to your attension the danger of the grass mowing down by 81st Street and by the river in the ditches. It is such a deep trench that professional tractors really need to be used and not homeowner type tractors. I could see a tractor rolling over and over trapping a person underneath. What a horrible way to die. Yet the VC idea is for homeowners to take care of that land. The county never expected homeowners to attempt to cut that grass. Who would pay for that wrongful death

law suit?

Will they help us with anything? So far they can't even help Valley Center proper, albeit to make one lousy decision after another. How can they possible help anyone else when they are already obviously overloaded.

We have been here for years and they let us be. We are older and it would be nice to enjoy our golden years without all this unnecessary drama because Valley Center has bills to pay. We had nothing to do with those bills. Perhaps the answer is for them to be more careful who they hire to assume the duty to make decisions. I believe we are all weary and angry at government over-reach. Perhaps it is time to re-think things and be sure it is appropriate action. I would like to see the state of Kansas examine the annexation concept. The rest of the country has moved away from this type of forced annexation.

In my research online I found this link which tells how Topeka, Ks deals with annexation and is worth a quick read;

Annexation battle approaching limits

.....As a result, the only annexations the city has followed through on in recent years

were those in which the property owners themselves petitioned for annexation or consented to annexation.....

<http://nolathe.net/2011/04/27/kansas-senate-remains-obstacle-to-annexation-reform/>

I appreciate your concern in these matters. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Donna Lowe