

The RPV "Public Records Request" caper has all the trappings of a Washington D.C. whodunit. Councilmen Stern, Long and Clark have portrayed the requestors as guerilla fighters or perpetrators of financial ruin. Although this secret legal request is offensive it may very well have some merit.

For 5-years some of us have questioned the financial priorities and management of RPV. Until recently questions always received a response but not necessarily an answer. During the recent election period, several questions to the new city manager were unanswered, delayed or ignored. Dr. Gardiner finally started to question the council majority's financial practices. Paul Wright also used his war chest to address this issue. The major point was/is Information Technology including PVNet and Channel 33. Coincidentally the management audit covering this item was scheduled for completion after the election.

Questions such as how much staff time was spent on items like the NCCP were answered by "we don't track those hours" and yet the city manager says that this "request" will cost \$15,000-\$20,000. The council constantly allocates those amounts to non-budgeted items with barely a thought about the budget but this request may require a "budget modification". If only they had thought about budget management last year when the General Fund expenditures increased about \$2.8 Million (20%) from the previous year. When asked how much the city spent on consultants last year the response was that it was not possible to answer that question. Just recently, the council allocated \$15,750 to see if anyone actually watches Channel 33 and may spend another \$50,000 on the ill defined vision plan in addition to the \$135,000 previously spent on an abandoned plan.

I have no idea what the requestors have in mind but there may be more to the story than city hall wants you to know.

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