

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Martin, David
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 6:03 PM
To: Eric Knott
Subject: Non-payment of Harbor Master expenses required under CT Statute 15-2

Dear Captain Knott,

I have received and read your several emails. I am afraid that you are mistaken on a number of points.

Your e-mail stating that I would not reimburse you for your expenses is untrue.

At the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) meeting I tried to indicate that I was unfamiliar with the details of your situation. I had no knowledge that you had not been reimbursed for your expenses for a couple of months. In fact, until you made your accusation, I didn't even know that you had expenses that needed to be reimbursed. I did say that your situation is unusual, which could be the reason you had not been paid. I.e., since you are not a City employee, the City typically denies requests for reimbursement (or payment) unless the requester has a P.O. or other contractual relationship with the City.

Your e-mail stating that I have no willingness to work with you or the HMC to develop a system for payment that is acceptable and workable is untrue. I have never made any such statement. In fact, I had just indicated to the HMC my willingness to support their fair budget requests and fee proposals. And, perhaps unbeknownst to you, the City's acting OPM director had already met with the chairman of the HMC to make good on this commitment.

Regardless, yesterday morning I began to try to get to the bottom of your complaint to straighten this out.

I was surprised to learn that your request for reimbursement had never been received by the city controller. I think you would agree that the City controller cannot reimburse you for paperwork he does not have!

Interestingly, by the end of the day yesterday, your request was received by the controller. I note that the majority of the expenses were in late March and dated by you 3 weeks ago, not two months ago. The details of your request also raises several questions:

- There does not appear to be an approved budget to pay this claim. Perhaps this is just a perfect example of my earlier conversation with the HMC that the City typically needs an approved budget to pay expenses.
- The request was forwarded by Frank Fedeli. But since you are "working" for the Harbor Management Commission (HMC), we would expect the chair of the HMC to approve your request. Perhaps the HMC has voted to grant Frank Fedeli (or someone else) the authority to approve HMC expenditures.
- The majority of the expenses appear to be for routine boat maintenance. Typically the city would require a P.O. or prior contractual relationship with the vendor. It is highly irregular for a person who is not a city employee to be independently obligating the City to pay for expenses for City equipment.

Please let me be clear, **I have no reason to believe anything but that you have acted in good faith and should be reimbursed.**

And, as I tried to politely explain to the HMC, there are a number of atypical aspects to the HMC budgeting and financial procedures that should be clarified and brought into conformance with the City charter and financial and risk management policies.

The Harbor Management Commission's legal status is somewhat unique and may require special consideration. But simple suppositions about the situation may be in error, and I have not had time to review your assertion that because you are a state official, the City is legally obligated to reimburse your expenses.

I am confident that these issues can be resolved. I assure you that once this is accomplished, any future reimbursements can be processed and paid in a more timely fashion.

Very truly yours

Mayor David R. Martin