

Comments on CRC Vote during March 2nd, 2011 LC meeting

Begins at 2:40 on the video

Kevin Fitzgerald - Question Jeff, with regard to the vote (we took) on the 9th. I think we know now that there are towns that do bifurcate without being binding. Is there anyway that we should look to correct that? How do we get the information out that what we thought was the case on the 9th, that there are no towns that bifurcate legally without it being binding, and it's not the case? The Council believed that you could not bifurcate without it being binding, and have the ability to change a passed budget.

Gary Davis – I think the point of contention was simply that in New Milford, they have a system where they do bifurcation of the budget. The question that was debated was if you pass one side of the budget and not the other, could you go back and then change the other side of the budget? The answers we got were that you could not but it turned out from further research that indeed that's what they do in New Milford and I believe that's what Kevin is trying to clarify in the minutes.

Kevin Fitzgerald – my purpose is not to throw blame on the CRC or the Council, but I think the CRC that evening also told us the same thing.

Jeff Capeci – Right.

Kevin Fitzgerald – I know you can't go back and redo the CRC vote, so how do we set the record straight for the public so they understand?

Jeff Capeci – It looks like our clerk is taking copious notes as we speak.

Mary Ann Jacob – I think you need to include the fact that that makes it a nonbinding referendum and the voters can be overturned. So that's an important piece of that.

Kevin Fitzgerald – I'm not sure if it's a CRC error because of what Mr. Goldin said but I'd like to make sure we do correct the record accordingly.

Jeff Capeci – Apparently he made a mistake when he made that statement.

Kevin Fitzgerald – The reason I bring it up is because of what Mr. Goldin said when I brought the issue up, that my opinion on it was wrong when in fact I was right. My point is our decision was made and a vote was taken based on most people believing that in fact it could not be done. That was my concern. I know it doesn't matter because there is nothing we can do now about the Charter Review Process, I just want to make sure that it is on the record accordingly, thank you.

End 6:10 on the video

