

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF IRONWOOD RECALL

Statement of Reason (Township Citizens for Change)

1. During Mattson's first few days in office, she was responsible for a "proposed" draft budget which would have increased her salary by 15% over her predecessor and 17.5% increase for the Treasurer and Clerk. These wages could have taken effect if not for public outrage.
2. Failed to adequately notify the media of special meeting times and dates, including sending false information about the start time on a special meeting held on February 18, 2009.
3. Tried to keep information from the public at a meeting on April 13, 2009. Mattson had agenda items listed as "items 1, 2, and 3." Called for a vote without publicly discussing the content of those items relating to union pay and benefits. Would not disclose the contents until forced under the Freedom of Information Act days later.
4. Abused her elected position by using the "power of the office" to make false allegations against taxpaying citizens, including calling an employer and causing disruptions in the citizen's respective work environment.
5. Stated there was a pension contract requiring the township to pay 10% of gross compensation to the full-time officials and employees. A Freedom of Information Act request uncovered no such contract.

Justification of Conduct – (Kim Mattson's Ballot Response)

1. ***Mattson:*** *I was not seated in office when the first draft budget was presented. Each department submits their budget to the Supervisor to present. The seven-member board makes the decisions on the proposed budget. As Supervisor, I received a 0% increase from my predecessor. The Clerk and Treasurer received a 3% increase.*

Our Response to Mattson #1: Kim Mattson had the "Proposed Budget" floating around the office in November around the time she was sworn in officially. However, there is preliminary work in preparing a budget in which Kim Mattson had input. Mattson had effectively won the election on August 3, 2008 during the primary election because there was nobody running on the Republican ticket in November which meant she was running unopposed. In August, Rick Estola was still the "official" supervisor and the transition was beginning over the next couple months. Mattson and the other two full-time officials had their fingerprints all over the budget once it was clear Mattson would be the new supervisor. Remember, they ran as a team of three.

Mattson mentions that she received a 0% pay raise and the Clerk and Treasurer received 3%. This reduction only happened because of the large headlines in the Daily Globe about 15-17.5% proposed pay raises. In November and December, there were overpacked board meetings of citizens furious over the matter, especially in the poor local economy where many people are hurting.

There is no reason to believe that Rick Estola would propose a budget that would pay Kim Mattson (an incoming supervisor with no experience) 15% more in base salary than he ever made with 8 years of proven know-how. If someone wants to believe he would do that, then there is nothing we can do to convince the person otherwise.

2. ***Mattson:*** *Notification of meetings is the Clerks statutory duty. Notices are posted as required by the Open Meetings Act.*

Our Response to Mattson #2: On February 18, 2009, a fax was sent directly to Kim Mattson requesting the time of a Special Meeting to be held later in the day. Mattson (or whomever she directed) sent a fax back with just the regular meeting agenda listing a starting time of 4:30pm instead of the actual 3:30pm starting time of the special meeting.

We will concede that the clerk may have the statutory obligation of posting meeting times. However, this was not happening at the township. If Mattson was a leader, she would be directing the clerk to make sure the public is aware of meeting times through the Daily Globe, radio stations, and posting meeting times in distinct places. Mattson, along with Salmi & Olson, felt it is perfectly fine to post meetings at Rick's Muffler, Powderhorn, Pat O'Donell Civic Center, GCC, and Forslunds only 18 hours in advance of a special meeting.

3. **Mattson:** *The union negotiation committee presented items 1, 2, & 3 for board approval and the Board approved them. Once approved, the Freedom of Information request was answered in accordance with the law.*

Our Response to Mattson #3: A union negotiating committee is common during the bargaining process. However, any decisions should be discussed in the open and voted on publicly. During the public meeting, Mattson called for a vote on "Items 1, 2 & 3" without publicly discussing them. One of the reasons why she didn't want to discuss it publicly was the "hot button" issue of the 10% pension contributions. If the union employees received a 10% no-match pension contribution for the new contract, then Mattson could argue that the full-time officials deserve the same benefit. This is in same line as how the three full-time officials under the leadership of Mattson tried to give themselves huge pay raises last fall!

4. **Mattson:** *A petition was circulating at a large local employer. The CEO was contacted regarding the petition.*

Our Response to Mattson #4: There was never a petition circulating at a large local employer (Grand View Hospital) against Kim Mattson! **This is a downright lie by Kim Mattson!!** In this case, Mattson feels that a lie would serve her better than the truth.

During the first week of May 2009, Mattson called the CEO of Grand View Hospital and told her an employee was circulating a petition about her around the hospital. The employee was questioned and denied such. A GVH official then called Mattson back and asked for specifics about the claim. Mattson told the official "she would have to get back to her" and a couple of days later Mattson called and said "she made a mistake." The following Monday, May 11, 2009, the employee intended to make a statement regarding the matter to the Township Board. However, Mattson apologized before the meeting with the agreement that a letter would be sent to GVH acknowledging the mistake.

This is the kind of action that can get a township sued! Kim Mattson acts on emotions instead of using critical thinking skills. It would have been wise to gather the facts before making specific accusations.

No petition was circulated against her at that time. She was not in office for six months and the process couldn't begin until it was approved by the Gogebic County Election Commission on June 16, 2009.

5. **Mattson:** *Timely responses are given to all Freedom of Information Act requests according to Michigan law. Requests are answered exactly as received.*

Our Response to Mattson #5: Read her response! It has nothing to do with answering the question! During the budget hearings last year, Mattson and Salmi made a big stink that they were obligated to pay 10% pensions through the Summer of 2009. We wanted to see written proof.