

Ms. Donna Biggar, Councilor
Wheatland County, AB.
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Carseland, Alberta, Canada
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FOIP s. 17(1)

Dear Ms. Biggar

Thank you for your time on the phone re: my Land Tax for the Wheatland County June 30, 2019.

This letter is a follow up and the information in writing regarding the problems occurring that I am having.

The farm I have is a part of the farm my parents had and where I grew up. When my parents were senior I bought part of the farm and when they passed I receive more of the farm. I was a boy with Allergies so I suffered growing up with the molds, etc. a mixed farm has from hay and animal feed dust I breathed in when it was handled. Of course they were not called Allergies when I was growing up. Terms like "Hay Fever, etc." were used. Fast forwarding in my life I developed Heart problems and had a triple bypass in 1996. Through all this I stuck with the farm and before the bypass I had taken off farm training and worked an off farm job and have had an off farm job as well as the farm until 1995. During the period from 1955 until 1966 I went to University and worked off farm. After 1966 I began farming again doing all the farm work myself. After approximately 2000, I did only farming. In 2018 I was at the YMCA going through a work out program ordered by my cardiologist when I collapsed and was diagnosed with a stroke. After this, I found the bureaucrats in Edmonton got into the mix and my driver's license was affected. So when the bill for the Wheatland tax for 2019 came in the mail I couldn't drive to Strathmore to pay the bill and I do not trust the mail getting everything to Strathmore when there are target times or dates involved that are set by others. The people who I asked to drive me are all working and their work hours are the same as the county office hours. Using taxis will bankrupt me.

I checked with the county office and asked if I could pay the bill at a bank. I checked because paying this way was not noted on any of the bills. They told me yes but the bill had to be broken up into prescribed amounts sent with each amount matching a county tax roll number

having separate amounts sent with each of these numbers and not just one payment of the total billing. This surprised me as I was sent a summary sheet and a total tax owed for 2019. Why the bureaucracy? It seems like just basic arithmetic.

I went to the bank on June 29, 2019 and did as I was told. I got back a receipt for each roll number. I wasn't careful enough as the bank stamped each receipt July 03, 2019. Instead of the date I was there which was of course June 29, 2019. I admit that I missed this at the time of paying the bill. I got the receipts and didn't check the dates on them. I trusted the bank. Since then I have gone back to the bank and discussed this and they told me I had to have been in the bank doing business on July 3, 2019 because **they have computers and they do not make mistakes**. When I called you I was under the impression I had receipts for the bills dated June 29, 2019. There was a mistake somewhere and I wanted the penalty dropped as there was no fault on my part. After looking up the receipts I was very shocked. There was a bank mistake like this mistake which happened to me before when paying a bill for a credit card at the end of the month on a Friday and I found that the bank took the money from me and used the first day of the next week (a Monday) as the day the banking business considered to be done. The credit card company penalized me but I got the interest back that time and I expected that this time with the Tax bills would be the same. The bank instead dug in their heels and accused me of not being there on June 29. I felt after this discussion this bank was accusing me of being a liar. I need a different bank.


Would the County of Wheatland wave the penalties assessed to me based on my medical circumstances and missing the target date by just **three days involved over a long weekend**? The county got all their money.

I have my driver's license back but do not like to drive long distances into the country and during the winter months without having others in the car with me. Also could the County change its rules of demanding all payments to match a roll number and let **the total amount be wired to the county from a bank** (one total amount for the year for all properties involved)? The penalty of 5% is about \$200.00 for me in June.

I have found that there is extra money needed to pay all bills now that my hair has turned white and I am now a **senior**. I feel these are out of my control and I will wind up struggling to be able to pay all of my bills as I continue to age.

I am enclosing photo copies of all receipts and the billing of the penalties from Wheatland. I hope you and the other councilors can find a way to help me with this penalty charge.

Yours sincerely


FOIP 217(1)