

My name is Barb Toal, I live over at ---- South Main Street Road, Batavia, New York, and I'd just as soon have a Bible and swear to tell the truth, whole truth and nothing but the truth. So – do you have one (Bible)? (RESPONSE that this is public comment, not a public hearing)

Okay, fine, well, I just want you to know that's where I stand on this issue.

Okay: the Daily News has reported news. The City of Batavia would not comment on every article...that was ever written by them. They had every opportunity, and they chose not to comment. The Batavian, WBTA, the City Council,

Management...has not contacted me personally for any reason...to do with any of this information that's out in the public. So is it one-sided or isn't it? I was there 20 years, I ought to know a little bit about what goes on.

Seven months ago, I came to the Council, with this problem – still no response from you. Just automatically. I had nothing from the Council. I had a couple of Council-people talk to me a little bit about this, but I still don't have the answer to the question I brought back in February.

Okay – management...has taken the position there has not been a full plumbing board for more than one year since we started. Therefore, there's no meetings, no minutes, and no – no business could be conducted. New applicants were kept from taking the exam until new code was adopted, and no plumbing board, therefore, no test.

City Council has had copies of this General City Law for years, as I have hand-delivered it to most of them at their homes, trying to get them to realize that there has been a problem with city management for several years.

As of 2009, a goal was set to get the exam written by 2012. For five months a volunteer came in so that we could have a quorum and could therefore write the exam. The appointment wasn't made for five months, after he'd already donated

his time...from January to May. So, that goal was met, the exam was written, it was written on the study guide.

The Plumbing Board meetings for the past four years have been the third Wednesday of the month. What a surprise. No one knew that? Kind of management - what kind of management is running this city? Advertised at the beginning of every year...that the meetings are the third Wednesdays of the month. So, how are these meetings not legal? How is this – how does management not know what's going on? How does someone get a job for 20 years, all of a sudden the last year they don't know what the hell they're doing? Therefore, with no Plumbing Board, again, no meetings, no minutes, no book-keeping, no management appointments made.

Recently letters sent to us as plumbers all did not receive letters who was responsible. Lack of proof – proof is in the applications.

This is back to the application that the Plumbing Board did not want to correct the test, did not want to accept the qualifications, because there's 20 years of illegal plumbing sworn to by the supervisor, by the City DPW worker. And that's the proof, and that information would not be released to the Daily News, but it is on the application that's sworn to by his supervisor that he's been doing plumbing in nine City of Batavia buildings for the last 23 years. I don't understand how he can not-do-it, there's no permit, there's no inspection, there's no licensed plumber. How is that different than Joe Blow up the street? What makes anything better or legal? How'd they put bathrooms in the parks? How'd they put sewer and water from the street to the buildings? Where's the permits, where's the licenses? Where's the licensed plumber? I could only issue plumbing permits to licensed plumbers! These are facts!

This is not, alone – okay, General City Law – it's not up to the manager to say that the test needs to be taken. I have an e-mail with a directive from the City Manager,

against the Plumbing Board's decision, to not give the test. I was directed by the City Manager to do it, and I have the e-mail to prove it.

New plumbers that had applied to take the exam were told, "No test available and no appointments on the Plumbing Board." None made an issue, and understood, and were willing to wait...no plumbing inspector's fault. Who's paying attention?

If I'm talking to the plumbers, and they come in and they want...to take the test, and I tell them that we don't have the test, we can't give the test, then they have to wait until we have the test, and we have to have a full board to do that. And if we have an application where somebody came, brought it in and left it there, and didn't come in and show up for it and showed up in 2004 – whoop-de-doo, that doesn't have anything to do with what – whether you're doing your job or not.

Three that were on a waiting list, were given the test in January as-planned and met goals set by the supervisor.

As far as the test questions, the answers were submitted to the secretary and reviewed by the Assistant Manager, City Engineer, Director of Public Works, tests were given on study guide, but for the Plumbing Board to use, and it was corrected the second time by using three different codes. The Plumbing Board members, some of them even bought their own book, but we're not looking out for the best interest of the City of Batavia, I don't think so.

I'm sorry I'm out of time.