

Edit Referral

H-23-418 Referral Information

Hotline ID: H-23-418

Date of Submission: 9/26/2023

Entity Type: Local

Entity Category Type: City/Town

Entity: Lind, Town of

Sub Entity Name:

Category:

1-2 sentence description of concern: Citizen has concerns that it appears there is embezzling and theft going on in the mayors office and they are trying to change city ordnances as they want

Report Issued: No

Reporting Type: Verbal Resolution

Report Number:

Investigation Contracted: No

Contract Number:

Contract Name:

Billing Time Code:

Costs:

Public Records Request: No

Flag For Annual Report: No

Substantiated: No

ARRA: No

Action: Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit

Audit Team: Tri-Cities

Audit Team Contact: waltmang@sao.wa.gov

cc:

Referral Date: 9/26/2023

Action Taken: No

Response Date:

Report Date:

Follow Up Date:

Date Closed: 2/5/2024

Edit Referral

H-23-418 Contact Information

Hotline ID:	H-23-418	Date of Submission:	9/26/2023
Submission Method:	Phone	Call Duration:	0
Call Time:	12:00 AM		
Submission Type:	Citizen	Staff:	gillisj
Author(Last, First):	Sonne , Greg		
Address:			
City:		State:	WA Zip:
Home Phone:	425-760-1225		
Work Phone:			
Mobile Phone:			
Email:			
Can Contact:	Yes		
Contact Preference:	Home Phone		
Anonymous:	No		
Waived Confidentiality:	No		

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H-23-418 Referral Details

Hotline ID: H-23-418

What state or local organization is involved?

Town of Lind

Please identify the specific concerns you are hoping the audit will address.

Citizen has concerns that it appears there is embezzling and theft going on in the mayors office and they are trying to change city ordnances as they want

Please provide a detailed description of the assertion or outstanding achievement, including who, when, where, what, how and how much.

How did this issue come to your attention?

**What employee(s), contractors, etc., were involved in the assertion or achievement?
Please include employee titles if possible.**

Please provide the names of any witnesses to the assertion or achievement, if possible.

Please provide any additional details or comments that would help us understand your assertion or achievement.

Edit Referral

H-23-418
Activity
Log
Hotline ID: H-23-418

Entry Date ▼	Log Entry
02/05/2024	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.
02/05/2024	I was in on phone call to citizen with Ruby on 1/12 and 1/29. The citizen has not returned our calls. Issues he is concerned about is outside of our audit scope or areas where there might be concerns, he has not provided us with specific details, reports or dates. This hotline is closed. --waltmang
01/29/2024	Attempted to call the citizen on 1/29 and left a message for him to call back. --chungy
01/12/2024	Attempted to call the citizen on 1/12 and left a message for him to call back. --chungy
12/29/2023	Received phone call from citizen on 12/28 and provided his concerns of the Town. All notes from the phone call are included in a word document in supporting documentations. --chungy
12/14/2023	We are currently conducting the audit and conclusions will be added related to this issue when we are done with the audit. --waltmang
10/26/2023	Received follow-up phone call from citizen on 10/26 and provided some concerns he noticed (Included in a word doc in supporting documents). --chungy
09/29/2023	Called Citizen and left a message --chungy
09/26/2023	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.
09/26/2023	Task assigned to 'waltmang@sao.wa.gov'. Team notification email sent to: waltmang@sao.wa.gov
09/26/2023	Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'. Action changed from (not set) to Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit.

Phone Call with citizen for H-23-418 on 10/26/2023

The Citizen was very concerned about the following items.

- He received a very high utility bill when he was moved to the Town which included months from he closed the house to when he actually moved in. He stated the Town charged him utility even though he was not living there.
- He stated the Town was changing the Town Ordinance to put a lien on a house which had a fire and trying to kick out the family lives there
- He stated the Town was not charging uniform fees for shutting down water across the Town: someone would be charged for \$250 and other would be charged \$25.
- He stated some citizens got their water shut down without a reason and other would got fined for providing waters to other whose waters were shut down.
- He stated the Town sold a lot of water to a company and refused to provide water to citizens.
- He also stated the Town Council refused to answer questions during Council meetings

The Citizen suggested us to review the Town Council meeting videos on YouTube.

Phone Call with Citizen on 12/28/2023

The citizens(there were at least two people) stated the following.

- The Town Council passed the new ordinance on the day before for only allowing 2 vehicles per property and does not allow recreational vehicles on any properties for more than 2 weeks.
 - o Stated over 90% of the properties owner in town has more than 2 vehicles
- During council meetings, the Town only allows citizens who submit written comments for proofread to speak
- During a construction of water line in front of his house, the maintenance workers were being disrespectful to citizen when he ask the workers to move the equipment placed on his driveway so he could move his vehicle.
- The Mayor is trying to kick people out of their own houses and picking on citizens who have different opinions than the Mayor.
- The Town does not accept credit card payments so the Mayor and staffs can embezzle money
- Utility rate increase was unreasonable and citizen cannot afford it
- The Town's code enforcement officer is not certified for the position.
 - o He is picking on specific people when enforcing the code.
- There was a house fire happened in Town and afterwards, the Town shut off its water and electricity which forces the family to move somewhere. Then the Town hired people to clean up the house as the house was abandoned.
 - o Was unable to obtain a explanation of why water and electricity were shut off.
- One of the citizens (Hodgson) who was on the call stated the Town tried to get rid of him from his parent's property as he is registered offender for multiple times. He explained that he is living in an RV on his parent's property and the Town claimed it is within the City limit as it has City water; therefore, the property has to comply with the City code and city code does not allow RV to be parked on property in long term. I suggest that if he requests a Town map to determine if the property is within the city limits and he stated he did but the Town never provide the map to him.

The Citizen again suggested us to watch the Council Meeting videos on YouTube.

Contact information for the citizen who is not on the hotline

Darrin Lee Hodgson Sr. (509)770-4725