Enough Already

On October 21, 2019, The Green Valley Recreation (GVR) Fiscal Affairs Committed (FAC) held a work session to go over recommendations made by Susan Vos, CPA, CFE. Ms. Vos was hired to review the GVR financial statements for completeness, explain any inconsistencies to the committee, and make recommendations to the committee on how the financial staff is to report to the board.

In summary, she stated that the way the GVR staff is reporting corporate financials was within industry standard, and nothing untoward was occurring with the handling of GVR accounts. Ms. Vos did recommend the use of a spreadsheet that may (or may not) make movements between GVR internal accounts easier to follow. Her findings were consistent with the findings of every internal and external audit conducted on GVR since Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kent Blumenthal, Ph.D, CAE began his tenure.

These observations give rise to the question, what did the GVR Board of Directors (BOD), and specifically the FAC, hope to achieve by hiring Ms. Vos? They already had the audited GVR financial statements for the last 5 years, and no irregularities were ever found. The FAC, and the BOD, already have the GVR financial staff produce 40 (yes, 40) different reports to help the directors and committee members understand GVR corporate finances. Ms. Vos was paid $10,000 for the initial consultation, and the BOD authorized another $10,000 to her for future assistance. Will one more report or meeting make a difference at this point?

One phrase that was used multiple times by committee members during this meeting “I don’t understand”. Certain members didn’t understand the difference between expenses and capital expenses, others didn’t understand the difference between an income statement and a balance sheet, and one member didn’t understand how GVR could have a year to year increase in cash accounts. The board has access to some great resources within the corporation, namely Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Cheryl Moose, CPA, and Accounting Supervisor David Webster. If they have not asked, and listened, to these two for advice, who have no reason to lie and want GVR to succeed, then that alone should give everyone an insight to the mindset of this committee. It is NOT GVR’s job to train committee members on how to read financial statements, but I believe GVR staff has gone above and beyond to try to make these reports understandable.

In my opinion, the only reason that Ms. Vos was hired was to continue the fishing expedition to find out where CEO Blumenthal has been “hiding the money”. Guess what? Nobody is hiding anything. Certain members of the board seem to despise CEO Blumenthal so much that they will go to any lengths to have him fired for cause, even if they have to manufacture an infraction. Additionally, I believe that some board members want the GVR financial staff to resign, since CFO Moose, and David Webster both have the audacity to question the committee, and the board in general, as to how to report finances.

So, ENOUGH ALREADY! This, and the previous board, have spent enough time and money looking over the books for any sign of financial malfeasance. It is not, and never has occurred, at least during the last 5 odd years since CEO Blumenthal has been at the helm. GVR is in good financial health at the moment, no thanks to some of the ill-advised financial decisions the FAC and GVR BOD have made in the recent past. Let’s stop this foolishness and get back to the business that GVR was created for, namely to “…provide recreational, cultural and educational programs for the enjoyment of the GVR members…”.

Chuck Soukup