

Response to Mayor's Remarks in Open Session on January 28, 2020

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020, I asked Littleton's retired ORC Director, Keith Hamm and Commissioner Steve Barcelo to meet me at Littleton's Town Hall to review the sewer maps to see which sewer lines, by streets, were in need of repair. As I wrote down the 911 addresses, I was thinking about the Grant Information that I had received some months earlier from the Upper Coastal Plain. I knew that the Water & Sewer Department was low in funds and that the Sewer Plant was in need of upgrading and repairs. I ask the Town clerk, Ellen, to give me the phone number for USDA and she did. It was the number for a Mr. Jonathan Jones however he wasn't at his office. I was given another phone number. I was told that Mr. Jones was at another office in Henderson where a Mr. Dennis Delong answered the phone. Mr. Delong informed me that Mr. Jonathan Jones was in his office and they were on speaker phone. I identified myself & Mr. Hamm and that we were on speaker phone as well.


I told Mr. Delong the nature of the call was to get information as to the status of the USDA Grant with the Town of Littleton. I thank Mr. Delong for the USDA Grant for the Police Department however I was calling about clarification as to what the status was concerning the Wastewater Plant Grant. I let did inform him that we were working with the Upper Coastal Plains for a 100% Grant however I needed to know where Littleton stood with USDA because our coffers are very low. Mr. DeLong stated that no funds had be allocated and we were not bound to accept the USDA Grant/Loan however if Littleton wasn't going to accept the Grant/Loan please inform so that another municipality can be considered and I made no comment. I also wanted to know about the administration of USDA Grant/Loan. I was trying to compare "Apples" to "Apples" not "Apples" to "Oranges." After about 5 mins Commissioner Steve Barcelo joined the conference call as I had invited him to join Mr. Hamm and myself to look over the sewer maps. Mr. Barcelo announced himself and he joined the conversation.

According to the Mayor Scott during our roundtable open session, on January 28, 2020, he said I said I, Ophelia Gould-Faison did not want USDA nor SERCAP to help the Town of Littleton. Let me be clear "I never said, Mr. Hamm never said, nor did Commissioner Barcelo ever say that during the telephone call. Mayor Scott also stated because of what "We Said" during our conversation with Mr. Delong and Mr. Jones, that SERCAP wasn't bringing the intern to help the town with our economic development plans going forward and I refute that as well.

It appears that the Mayor was misinformed about comments that were allegedly made by me and Mr. Hamm. Moreover, Commissioner Steve Barcelo was also at the meeting and will verify that we did not make the said "negative" comments about USDA nor SERCAP.

The only reason for my call to USDA, on January 14, 2020, was to inquire information as Littleton's Commissioner of Water and Sewer to be the best steward with citizens' funds.

Submitted By:

Ophelia Gould-Faison, 
Commissioner of Water & Sewer

February 11, 2020

Board Regular Meeting