

Steve,

I'm in the process of polling various members of the community that worked so hard on the petitions to see what specific requests they have regarding this meeting and I'll get back to you very soon. However, one thing is without doubt. We feel that because of your extremely strong and consistent "pro-speed bump" stand on this, it would be highly inappropriate if you officiated at this meeting. Even your "news release" refers to the speed bumps as "effective" as though that were a fact. Yet there's absolutely no agreement on that in Hansville. I believe that the bumps are not only NOT effective, I feel they've reduced the level of road safety in Hansville for a large variety of reasons all readily available at www.beep4bumps.com. So do hundreds and hundreds of my neighbors. So it's plain to all of us that we'd need a neutral party -- perhaps someone like Jan Angel -- to run this meeting. I'd like to hear other suggestions, too. Without such neutral party, the meeting will not only be perceived as unfair/biased by the community but in fact, it will be unfair and biased and won't have any credibility for the vast majority of Hansville citizens.

Let me be blunt and honest with you, Steve. To disregard our petitions and string this out until April 23th is insulting enough. If you were to be the one to run this meeting... well, it would be an absolute farce. Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you're willing to step aside and allow this meeting proceed objectively with someone else -- mutually agreeable -- at the helm. And if you just choose to do the right thing and comply with what Hansville citizens are requesting via their overwhelming number of signatures on the petition to remove these bumps, that would be much preferred.

If you insist on this meeting, other things that come to mind will be the need to have the meeting televised on the county's television system so that needs to be arranged. And we'll need to seek the services of local road engineers beyond Kitsap County's. Perhaps from some of our cities or from other nearby counties.

I'll be in touch with additional conditions. I may find that community members don't even want this meeting. In any case, I'll be getting back with you and hopefully people will write directly to you as well.

Thanks!
--John Hostvedt

Dear County Commissioners:

I agree with John Hostvedt. As a proponent of the speed bumps, Mr. Bauer should disqualify himself from moderating and mediating any discussion about the speed bumps. In talking to my neighbors, many are suspicious that this process will be loaded at the front end to achieve a desired result.

I also agree that we need to discuss where the data is that we had a problem in the first place. People speed on every county road in the United States. What situation (data) in Hansville warranted this drastic remedy against the advice of Kitsap County's own Public Works Department.

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From: "Gerald A. Kearney" <gerry@kitsapattorney.com> (Add as Preferred Sender) 
Date: Sat, Mar 29, 2008 7:04 am
To: "Steve Bauer" <sbauer@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Jan Angel" <JAngel@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Josh Brown" <JWBrown@co.kitsap.wa.us>
Cc: "John Wiegenstein" <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com>, <info@beep4bumps.com>

Commissioner Bauer:

I have not received a response to my previous e-mail urging you to step aside and find somebody neutral to facilitate the upcoming April 23 meeting. Even if you think you can act as an intermediary despite your involvement as an advocate (and I believe you cannot), the appearance of fairness will be violated. Many think, including myself, that the process you are designing will be loaded at the front end to achieve your desired result. Your inability to fairly moderate this process is evident in the two narrow options you set out for discussion. Despite the over six hundred signatures given you asking for removal of the bumps, not included in your discussion options are "removal of the bumps".

One more point. Your stock boilerplate speech on the speed bumps always includes the maudlin "dead dog" anecdote (which now appears to be "two dead dogs"). There is a leash/voice control ordinance in Kitsap County. People should not be allowing their animals to run loose on the County roads and because some carelessly do, this is certainly no justification for the speed bumps.

Would either of the other two Commissioners care to weigh in on this issue? You do represent all of the citizens of Kitsap and not just those in your district.

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From: "Steve Bauer" <SBauer@co.kitsap.wa.us> (Add as Preferred Sender) 

Date: Sat, Mar 29, 2008 9:49 am

To: "Jan Angel" <JAngel@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Josh Brown" <JWbrown@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Gerald A. Kearney" <gerry@kitsapattorney.com>

Cc: <info@beep4bumps.com>, "John Wiegenstein" <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com>

Gerald,

I do not intend to step aside. This issue is too complicated to ask someone else to step in and facilitate. The "outcome" of the meeting is to educate people who are not familiar with the background of this issue, allow both sides to express their concerns and then explain the committee process that will follow. Why is it that you seem so afraid or unwilling to work with your neighbors to find a common solution to this problem?

Steve Bauer

Steve,

Let's get a few things straight. No one is saying you cannot "attend" the meeting. But you need to face reality, Steve. You are the absolute least appropriate person to run this meeting because we all know that you want to keep these bumps at any cost. We know you were the central strategist to get these speed bumps installed at taxpayer expense. Frankly, since all three commissioners voted to install these bumps, none of you are

qualified. That said, however, Jan Angel is probably the one commissioner that people in this area could trust to attempt a fair and equitable job at this speed bump meeting. If Jan is willing, I personally would like to request that she step in as mediator in this mess.

You can "educate" us from your point of view all you want at the meeting but trust me, the residents of North Kitsap County don't need educating from you or anyone else to have a thorough understanding of this issue. They can read the public records, and they have. They can read what our county's professional staff said, and they have. They can read what national organizations have said, and they have. They can read about what an expert high-ranking fire dept. official said from one of the countries largest fire departments about delayed response times, and they have. They can browse hundreds and hundreds of Internet sites about speed bumps, and many of them have. There's no shortage of information on these speed bumps.

Conversely, they can see how the bumps were installed at the urging of a local committee made up mostly of residents at the location of the speed bumps. All the road committee meeting minutes are available for public viewing. The people who live at the speed bumps are angry and tired of hearing horns honking. I don't blame them one little bit. Removing these bumps will bring peace and quiet back to Hansville. And don't even think about saying the horn honking is my fault. I've heard that before. The honking started long before www.beep4bumps.com was born. And even on the site itself, I stress very strongly that beeping is a very personal choice. I think we know by know that as long as the bumps remain, the beeps will continue. You have yourself to blame for that!

The idea that this issue is "too complicated" for us little old Hansville residents to understand without your facilitation is the most breathtakingly arrogant thing I've ever heard a public official say and frankly, you owe us all an apology. Are you going to tell us about the wild llamas again and the pets running without leashes again? Is that your education?

I'm stunned, disgusted, and angry that you would have the nerve to ask Gerald Kearney a condescending question like, "Why is it that you seem so afraid or unwilling to work with your neighbors to find a common solution to this problem?"

Shame on you Steve! Gerald Kearney has lived in this area for years. He writes a column for the local paper. He travels these bumps every day. He's been very civic-minded. Shame on you Steve!

I try, I really do try, to be as absolutely civil and respectful as I can about this issue despite its emotional side. But I'm sorry. The fact that you're insisting to lord over this meeting because the issue is just too complicated for us -- that only YOU can guide us to the "correct" solutions? Excuse me? Steve, just who the hell do you think you are? It's time for you to get off your high horse, buddy!!!

--John Hostvedt

From: "Gerald A. Kearney" <gerry@kitsapattorney.com> (Add as Preferred Sender) 
Date: Sat, Mar 29, 2008 10:43 am
To: "Steve Bauer" <SBauer@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Jan Angel" <JAngel@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Josh Brown" <JWbrown@co.kitsap.wa.us>
Cc: <info@beep4bumps.com>, "John Wiegenstein" <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com>


Wow!!

What conceit. If I read your response correctly, you are the only person capable of fathoming the issues surrounding the speed bumps. Aren't we lucky to have the omniscient leading us. The rest of us might as well give up exercising our tired little brains, fall in line and let you do the hard task of thinking for us.

If you haven't noticed, I have been working with my neighbors. You saw me at a County Commission meeting with a number of my neighbors. I have been more active in both Kingston and Hansville affairs over the past twenty years than you have.


My objection is a process that appears to be front loaded and channeled to achieve your desired result. I have never seen an issue that has driven such a deep divide in Hansville. You are not doing anything to make it better.

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From: "Jan Angel" <jangel@co.kitsap.wa.us> (Add as Preferred Sender) 
Date: Sat, Mar 29, 2008 4:03 pm
To: <info@beep4bumps.com>, "Steve Bauer" <SBauer@co.kitsap.wa.us>, <dsheppard@kitsapsun.com>, <jirwin@northkitsapherald.com>
Cc: <hmtucker@centurytel.net>, "Debbie Austin" <DAustin@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Josh Brown" <JWbrown@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Nancy Grennan" <NBGrenn@co.kitsap.wa.us>, <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com>, <gerry@kitsapattorney.com>

I have read all the correspondance that has been coming on this. I feel we should have a mediator and I will ask the board to consider doing that. That way, hopefully, all would

with minds set to the outcome, it will not be successful. I would hope all could agree to this. That way Commissioner Bauer can give information and responses without having to be the referee. Our County Administrator is out of the office this week for spring break, but the Commissioners can discuss this Monday morning at our 10am briefing. Jan Angel

From: "Gerald A. Kearney" <gerry@kitsapattorney.com> (Add as Preferred Sender) 
Date: Sat, Mar 29, 2008 5:35 pm
To: "John Wiegenstein" <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com>, <info@beep4bumps.com>

WOW AGAIN:

Jan Angel did weigh in. I think this is a step of progress. I think we should at least some suggestions about format/mediator. Should be out of county, a mediator from WAMS, JDR, etc. Suggestions? Let's have a real session.

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From: "Gerald A. Kearney" <gerry@kitsapattorney.com> (Add as Preferred Sender) 
Date: Thu, Apr 03, 2008 6:46 pm
To: "Jan Angel" <jangel@co.kitsap.wa.us>
Cc: "Steve Bauer" <sbauer@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Josh Brown" <JWBrown@co.kitsap.wa.us>, <info@beep4bumps.com>, "John Wiegenstein" <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com>

Commissioner Angel:

Thank you for your efforts so far. The problem with the proposed action plan is that many, including myself, suspect that Commissioner Bauer will attempt define and limits future discussion at this first meeting. He has already done so in his public announcements about this meeting. Suspect the facilitator will then be assigned the limited task of discussing the options as defined by Commissioner Bauer.

I think the local community has enough collective intellect to discuss

the bumps as well as whatever other factors are fit to consider. Why is Commissioner Bauer trying to avoid a full and open public discussion from the beginning?

Who is going to make presentations at this meeting? What is the format and agenda? What mandates will be given to any committees that might be formed? How will WE decide what these mandates are? What public testimony will be taken?

I am still asking Commissioner Bauer to step aside, participate if he wants as any other local interested community member and let the good people of Hansville do their work.

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From: "John Wiegenstein" <johnw@hellerwiegenstein.com> (Add as Preferred Sender) 
Date: Fri, Apr 04, 2008 12:06 pm
To: "Gerald A. Kearney" <gerry@kitsapattorney.com>, "Jan Angel" <jangel@co.kitsap.wa.us>
Cc: "Steve Bauer" <sbauer@co.kitsap.wa.us>, "Josh Brown" <JWBrown@co.kitsap.wa.us>, <info@beep4bumps.com>, "Laurie Wiegenstein" <laurie@hellerwiegenstein.com>

Commissioners, I share Mr. Kearney's appreciation for Commissioner Angel's efforts on this problem, and I also share his comments and concerns regarding Commissioner Bauer's ongoing effort to control this sham "process" when he clearly has his own agenda that he seeks to advance, to the detriment of the many people in Hansville who have asked that the bumps be removed. Many of us - me included - have posed straightforward questions to Commissioner Bauer about the meeting process, agenda, details, and whether he will heed the will of the majority of people in Hansville who have an opinion on whether the bumps should stay or go. We have not received straight answers to these legitimate inquiries, and the people of Hansville are smart enough to see that.

When we presented the 600+ signatures to you on February 25, I told you that the longer the bumps stay, and the longer the Commissioners let this fester, the worse it would be for the County, the Commissioners, and the people of Hansville. The proposed April 22 meeting will not

make the situation worse unless a neutral person manages the meeting, provides for a balanced agenda, and encourages open debate that includes the simplest, most obvious solution: remove the bumps, and have the Sheriff's Department enforce the speed limits if, in fact, there is some unusual speeding problem somewhere in Hansville (i.e, the solution that 600+ people have told you they want). Commissioner Bauer is neither capable of filling, nor willing to fill, that role. Please find someone who can.

John Wiegenstein