



Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Lombardi, Bonebrake respond to personnel-issue letter leak

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Julie Lombardi, Owasso city attorney, and Mayor Doug Bonebrake commented briefly Wednesday, June 12, about the public leak of a letter addressed to Bonebrake and other councilors by Tulsa lawyer Christopher Camp, who represents Councilor Patrick Ross.

The letter deals with allegations regarding the job performance of Lombardi and at least one other city employee.

Ross and the Owasso Taxpayer Alliance appear to have leaked the letter to the public, rather than allowing the personnel allegations contained in it to be resolved through the executive session process for personnel discussions that city government normally follows.

"It's unfortunate it has been handled this way," Bonebrake said, adding the leak of the letter was apparently way to gain attention and stir things up.

The letter accuses City Attorney Julie Lombardi of conspiring with City Manager Rodney Ray "to publicly malign Mr. Ross and intentionally expose him to legal liability and financial ruin, all in the name of political revenge."

An interactive link to the letter was posted Tuesday, June 11, at the Facebook page of the Owasso Taxpayer Alliance, where the document was described as a "public letter."

Bonebrake said Wednesday he thought it would be wrong for him to publicly comment on the accusations in the letter.

"I can't comment to it," he said. "I just simply can't."

Lombardi said she was already familiar with Ross' accusations against her, and said she will be answering Camp's letter during the next week or so.

"None of Councilor Ross' assertions are new to me," Lombardi said in an email message Wednesday. "I have previously responded to his concerns. I am deeply disappointed that any member of Owasso's City Council would question my commitment to represent them as fully and

zealously as possible in any legal matter.”

She expressed hope the dispute can be resolved.

“I will again respond to Councilor Ross’ assertions and am hopeful this matter will finally be fully resolved,” Lombardi said.