

## Mary Portell

---

**From:** sales@shorecom.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019 1:07 PM  
**To:** Mary Portell  
**Subject:** RE: Canon copier

I have logged into the c5030 and found no saved images, scans or files. The internal hard drive contains a few log files dating back 30 days and its operating system. The "save and scan" feature has never been setup or configured on this machine. I have downloaded the log files for the available data and will store those on the server for your review.

Rick

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Canon copier  
**From:** "Mary Portell" <vk.clerk@kentcitymi.org>  
**Date:** 5/7/19 12:10 pm  
**To:** "'Shorecom WM'" <sales@shorecom.us>

Dear Rick: I am requesting that you backup any and all contents of the copier for the Canon C5030 that is in the village clerk's and village treasurer's office.

Mary Portell, Clerk at the Village of Kent City

Phone: 616-678-7232      Fax: 616-678-4256

Vk.clerk@kentcitymi.org

#4,

May 9, 2019

State of Michigan Bureau of Elections  
Attn: Adam Fracessi  
Richard Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 W Allegan  
Lansing, MI 48918

Dear Adam,

I would like to address the allegation made by Steven Buckner regarding the Village of Kent City Personnel's use of Village equipment for campaign purposes. I did not, nor do I know of any use of Village equipment or supplies for campaign purposes against Steve Buckner.

1. The allegation states that labels and envelopes were found on my desk. I do not know exactly what Mr. Petruska saw on my desk, as he has not made the statement himself. I do know my desk sits directly next to a supply cart that is full of mailing labels, envelopes, cardstock, sheet protectors, etc. I have attached a photo of my desk in relationship to the cart. I use many different kinds of labels in the course of my work. It would not be unusual to have labels and/or envelopes sitting on my desk.
2. Mr. Buckner believes that the mailing list used for a mailing came from the Sewer Bill list. I have never printed a list from the sewer account for campaign purposes. The person who claimed to have received a letter with a label that could only come from the Sewer list, doesn't even have a Sewer account. Her name would not be found on any Sewer list created from my computer.
3. Labels on my desk were not used in the Village office. This one has me stumped. Mr. Buckner could not possibly know what labels I use in my day to day work. As I sit here, I can count at least 6 different sizes and styles of labels that I use for various projects. Mr. Buckner and Mr. Petruska have never come into the office and observed what I do in my position on a day to day basis.

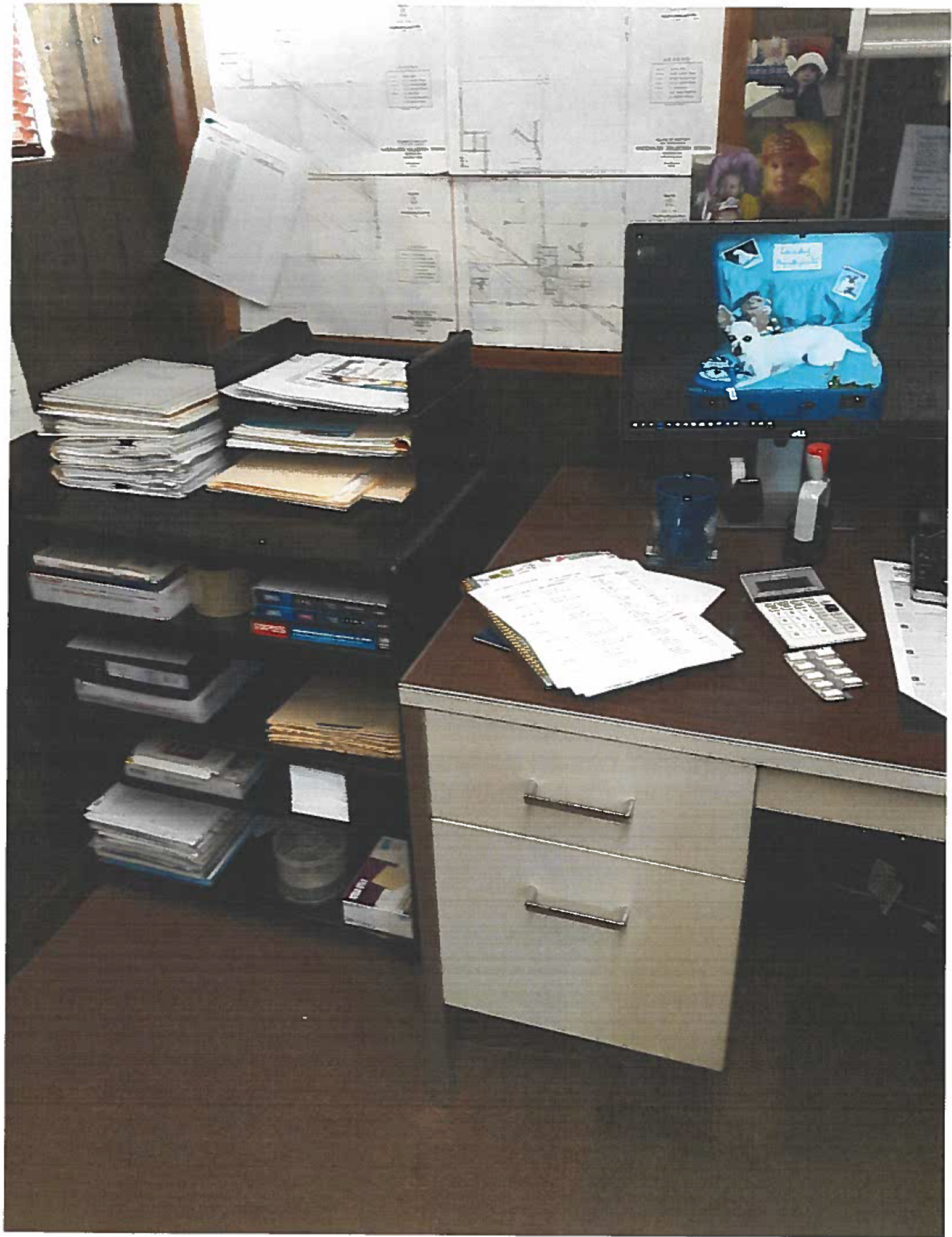
Just to reiterate, I did not, nor do I know of anyone using Village supplies or equipment to campaign against Steve Buckner. The allegations he has made are completely fabricated and have no basis for a complaint.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Forth  
Village of Kent City Treasurer



#5.

Dear Adam,

My name is Dennis Kaminski and I hold the appointed position of Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of Kent City. I received several harassing calls from Village President, John Petruska during the course of my work. Council member, Steve Buckner made a motion for my dismissal during a Village Council meeting, which did not receive support by any Council member. This made for a tense working environment in the Village office. I felt that it would be in the best interest of the Village for me to endorse Bert Rose for Village President and Mary Portell for Village Clerk.

I am the author of the campaign flyer titled "Just the Facts". I created this flyer on my home computer and I took to FedEx to have copies printed. (I have attached the receipt from FedEx). On November 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Rose and myself hand delivered this flyer, along with a list of property violations produced by Steve Buckner while out campaigning house to house throughout our Village. I never mailed any letters to Village residents. I have no knowledge of who authored and mailed out the other 3 page letter.

You can reach me at (616) 262-7580 if there is any other information you think I might be able to supply.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Kaminski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Kaminski  
Village of Kent City  
Zoning Administrator & Code Enforcement





FedEx Office is your destination  
for printing and shipping.

4028 Alpine Ave NW  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
Tel: (616) 647-4236

11/2/2018 11:34:26 AM EST  
Team Member: Mark G.

SALE

BW 1S on 24# Wht	100 @	0.1450 T
000330 Reg. Price	0.17	
BW 2S on 24# Wht	100 @	0.2900 T
000331 Reg. Price	0.34	
CleanScreen 6mL	1 @	3.9900 T
012661 Reg. Price	3.99	

Regular Total	54.99
Discounts	7.50

Total	47.49
-------	-------

Sub-Total	47.49
Tax	2.85
Deposit	0.00

Total	50.34
-------	-------

MasterCard (S)	50.34
----------------	-------

13(1)(a)

Total Tender	50.34
Change Due	0.00

Total Discounts	7.50
-----------------	------



\* 1 7 1 7 0 0 2 4 3 5 5 \*

*M. Kaminski*

#6.

DATE: May 10, 2019  
TO: Bert Rose, Mary Portell  
FROM: Greg Goss

At the regular monthly meeting of the Village Trustees last night (5/9/2019) I was made aware of a campaign Finance Complaint filed with the State of Michigan by Steve Buckner. I wish to clarify two items in that complaint, #3 & #5 as well as a handwritten note in section 5.

A couple months ago, I do not recall the exact date, Mr. Buckner called me and expressed concern that the Village was planning to replace the copy machine. He alleged that copies of a campaign document may have been made on that machine and he stated that the hard drive on the machine would contain evidence of those copies. He wanted to make sure the hard drive was preserved. I told him I did not believe such evidence would exist, but he needn't worry because the Council had voted to put a new copier in next year's budget and stick with the existing machine for now.

He also indicated that he was told the Village computers were being replaced in an effort to destroy evidence. I told him that we have routinely replaced the desktop computers every 4 years and this year is the normal year for that upgrade, however, we were looking at the whole computer system to get away from our peer to peer network and upgrade to a domain-based server. I told him that we were looking at updating the RAM in the two desktops, changing out the SCSI hard drives for SSD drives and moving all the data to redundant hard drives on the server. He was concerned about what would become of those old hard drives and I told him they would be preserved for FOIA purposes.

In his complaint, Mr. Buckner stated that I told him that I have knowledge of illegal document production and duplication. I do not have a key to the Village office, I do not have alarm codes and I do not have passwords for the computers. I have not seen, nor have I attempted to see, any digital evidence of any kind that would either affirm or refute his claims. I regret that he construed from our conversations that I was in possession of materials which would support his allegations.

The salient facts are these:

- At the time the letter(s) were produced and distributed I was on an extended vacation to the East Coast. I did not return until October 12, 2018. Because of that extended vacation, I had resigned from the Council in May 2018. I won election in November 2018 and returned to the Council at the December 2018 meeting.
- The individuals named in the complaint did not initiate the plan to replace the computers, the hard drives or the copy machine. The IT committee, of which I am a member, recommended those actions.
- Preserving the hard drives was not motivated by any evidentiary purpose, it was because of the Freedom of Information Act. The removed drives are in the possession of the Village's IT supplier, Shorecomm WM LLC.
- I have no knowledge or evidence of any illegal activity by any individual.



State of Michigan Bureau of Elections  
Attn: Adam Fracessi  
Richard Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 W Allegan  
Lansing, MI 48918

2018 MAY 17 PM 3:07

Dear Mr. Fracessi:

This letter is in response to a complaint filed by Steve Buckner regarding a possible campaign violation. Steve believes village personnel may have used village equipment to produce a letter sent out to village residents on my behalf. I would like to address each allegation individually.

1. (It appears that the letter originated in the village office by village personnel.) Yes, I distributed a 2 page flyer prior to the election. This contained a flyer and a list of property violations on certain properties within the village. (attached). The flyer I distributed was created by Dennis Kaminski on his home computer. The list of property violations was produced by Steve Buckner and distributed at an open Village Council meeting in September 2018. Dennis Kaminski took the flyer and the list to FedEx on Alpine and had copies made (see attached letter from Mr. Kaminski). We then hand delivered these to residents while out campaigning the next day. This flyer was never sent through the mail by me or anyone else.

I became aware of a different letter that was sent through the mail to certain village residents. (attached) I do not know the author of this 2<sup>nd</sup> letter, although there have been several rumors floating about as to its origin. Again, I was not involved in the creation or distribution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter but I am confident it did not come from any village personnel or was it produced on village equipment. Anyone can obtain a list of registered voters from the Township office with the names and addresses of every registered voter in the village.

2. (The mailing list used appears to be from the Sewer Bill list). Paula Snoap was the past Village Treasurer and also sits on the Zoning Board. In each instance, she is known as Paula Snoap. Paula has grown up in the village and attended Kent City High School where there she was known as Paula Fuller. It seems to me that if the author of the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter addressed it as Paula Snoap or Paula Fuller, the author probably knows her and that she lives with her mother, Mrs. Fuller. We live in very small village about 1,000 people. Everyone knows everyone in this village. Also, it is my understanding that Paula's home is not connected to our sewer system so she wouldn't be in our billing software.
3. (The letter was copied on the village copy machine). Greg Goss addresses this issue in his letter that is attached. I did not nor do I have any knowledge of any Village personnel using the village copier for campaign purposes.

4. (Labels were on the Treasurer's desk). The information supplied by Mr. Buckner states that labels were found on the Treasurer's desk. I can't really address this because Mr. Petruska has not made this claim directly. I am curious as to how Mr. Buckner and Mr. Petruska know what kind of mailing labels are used in the Village Office as neither one of them kept office hours and were only in the building during Council meetings.
5. (Greg Goss indicated knowledge that the copier may have been used to copy the letters). Greg Goss addressed this statement in his attached letter.

The root of this whole complaint stems from the belief that the second letter originated from the village office. This is just not the case. First of all, I, as a Village Trustee, did not have a key or access to the Village office after hours. Secondly, anyone in the village could have, and in fact did, create and mail the second letter. There were 229 votes cast against Mr. Buckner in this election which shows I was not the only person in this village that did not want to see Steve Buckner elected as Clerk. I did notice that Steve only sent you part of our text conversation about the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter. I have attached the whole conversation so you can see he admitted that we were discussing two different letters.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your determination in this matter.

Sincerely,



Bert E. Rose  
Village of Kent City, President

Attachments:

1. The letter I distributed.
2. Notarized letter from Dennis Kaminski as to the origins of the flyer and copies made.
3. Letter from Debra Forth, Village Treasurer regarding labels in the office.
4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> anonymous letter
5. Letter from Greg Goss regarding the statements made by Mr. Buckner
6. Full text message between myself and Steve Buckner.

1

# JUST THE FACTS!

John Petruska has not been in the Village office during office hours in well over a year. After the October Village Council meeting, John stated he was unable to work during office hours because he has a full time job that makes it impossible. Bert Rose is retired. He does not have a job conflict that would prevent him from doing his job during Village office hours.

Steve Buckner would like to be the Village Clerk. Does he have any experience with the position? Steve also has a full time job that would prevent him from being in the Village office during normal office hours. In order for Steve to accept the position, the Village would have to hire additional staff just to cover the hours that Mary Portell puts in.

For the past 2 years, John and Steve have been spending your tax dollars on attorney fees. Here are a few examples of their spending.

- Over \$3,000.00 harassing Bert Rose, Dennis Kaminski, Mary Portell. They call the attorney over and over trying to find reasons for their dismissal. Thankfully, they haven't had much luck!
- Without Council consent, they spent over \$3,000 on a private sale between Kent City Baptist Church and a potential buyer. That deal did not go through. Tyrone Township ended up purchasing the property to use for the new library.

That is over \$6,000 needlessly spent on attorney fees that could have been spent on items the Village needs, such as new playground equipment, handicap picnic tables or water and restrooms for Ball Creek Park.

John Petruska and Steve Buckner would like to fire the Zoning Administrator based on a list that they have personally compiled of violations here in the Village. The Zoning Administrator does not feel that such trivial violations should result in a ticket being issued. Is your address on this list?

Do you want to live **Your** life in **Your** Village, or **Their** life, in **Their** Village?

**Vote No to John Petruska and Steve Buckner!**

*These facts were comprised by  
Public meeting HAND outs BY Steve Buckner*



Property Address/Street	Issue	Parliament Ordinance(s)	Comments/Status
14344 N. Ball Creek	Cars parked on side of road (off road)	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
340 N. Ball Creek	Trailer along side of house, unimproved surface.	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
291 W. Muskegon	Trailer in driveway parked for sale	Chapter 4, 4.27 (e)	
298 W. Muskegon	Banners out by road need to come down? Carts of recycling, carts for merchandise can be seen from M-37	April 5 PC Meeting Minutes	Family dollar was allowed to have their banners up for 30 days after April 20th.
490 W. Muskegon	Junk behind building, pallets next to dumpster area fenced in	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (d)	Dollar General
345 S. Main	signs for deer next to road zip tied to the lamp post?	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (d)	Mobil Station
345 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	Mobil Station
281 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
326 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
345 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
331 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
23 S. 2nd	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
47 S. 2nd	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
81 S. 2nd	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
81 S. 2nd	Cars look like they may not run, and may not be legally plated?	Ordinance 18 - Inoperable & Junk Vehicles	
77 S. 2nd	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
85 S. 2nd	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
85 S. 2nd	Boat parked in front yard, not on improved surface	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
72 S. 1st	Truck parked into street from parking area in back, jutting into alley	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
55 S. 1st	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
30 S. 1st	Old truck there	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
258 S. Main	"Technical Environmental Surfaces" truck parked (banker, heavy)	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
256 S. Main	Large RV in front yard	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	
256 S. Main	RV not on improved surface	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
281 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces, may be in back yard?	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
65 Kent Ridge	Dumpsters not in enclosures, wide open, and full of furniture, overflowing	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (a) - Dumpster has to be enclosed	Kent Ridge Apartments
85 Kent Ridge	Motorcycle parked up on sidewalk	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (f) - Trash cannot be unsightly	Kent Ridge Apartments
183 Kent Ridge	Dumpsters wide open, and overflowing (but in dumpsters)	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (a) - Dumpster has to be enclosed	Kent Ridge Junction
217 S. Main	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
Trailer Park	MANY	Too many - not going to list each out individually	Mobile home park
112 S. Village	Trailer parked in front yard of lot	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	Mobile home park
28 S. Ball Creek	Trailer not parked on improved surface	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	Kent City Lounge
28 S. Ball Creek	Pop-up A-Frame type tarp tent thing - legal for use in this zone of establishment?		
28 S. Ball Creek	Temporary, but been there a while	Not sure where this goes, but building inspector?	Kent City Lounge
28 S. Ball Creek	Questionable setback for shed that was put in (doesn't show on GIS)	Chapter 4, Section 4.15 (d) - Accessory Setbacks	Kent City Lounge
74 S. Ball Creek	Boat on trailer in front yard (maybe...odd shaped lot)	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	
380 Wynwood Dr.	Shed on property line	Chapter 4, Section 4.15 (d) - Accessory Setbacks	
380 Wynwood Dr.	Placed vehicle on property line with grass growing around it (100.16 Handicap)	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
380 Wynwood Dr.	Boat on trailer in front yard		
121 Wynsong Ct	RV parked in side/front yard along Rusco	Chapter 4, Section 4.11 - Double frontage RV	
97 Wynsong Ct	Needs to mow grass	ORDINANCE NO. 4-83.03 - Noxious growth & grass	
97 Wynsong Ct	Car on jacks	SECTION 4.34	
91 Wynsong Ct	Pop up trailer up, maybe people staying in it?	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (d)	
90 Wynsong Ct	Grass all around - general property maintenance & harbor rodents?	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (f) - Trash cannot be unsightly	
90 Wynsong Ct	Trailer in side yard not on improved surface	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
137 Wynsong Ct	Needs to mow grass	ORDINANCE NO. 4-83.03 - Noxious growth & grass	
347 Wynwood Dr.	General property maintenance - bushes, etc	12-2006.08 - General property maintenance	
30 Spring St.	Trailers & equipment everywhere	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	Feed Store
98 Kent Street	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces, pulling into driveway	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
91 Kent Street	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces, right next to house	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
42 Kent Street	Cars parked on non-improved surfaces	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
42 Kent Street	Trailer in driveway with lawn tractor	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	
29 Kent Street	Trailer in front yard	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	
104 E. Muskegon	Crap all around yard	4.38 - Junk	
104 E. Muskegon	Trailer in front yard	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	
9 S. East	Car in grass	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
85 S. East	Needs to mow grass	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
98 S. East	Pop-Up trailer up, someone staying in it?	Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (d)	
97 S. Main	General maintenance - overgrowth?	12-2006.08 - General property maintenance	
71 S. Main	Dumpsters full & overflowing	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (a) - Dumpster has to be enclosed	EJ Zapopan
71 S. Main	Trash all over back of building	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (f) - Trash cannot be unsightly	EJ Zapopan
71 S. Main	Microwave just sitting out behind building	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (a, b, c, d)	EJ Zapopan
39 S. Main	No enclosure for dumpster	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (a) - Dumpster has to be enclosed	Laundromat
7 S. Main	Junk around dumpster, dumpsters open, milk crates & stuff piling up all around	Chapter 4, Section 4.22 (d)	SpeedWay
46 W. Muskegon	Big trampoline really close to road?		Not sure if this is a "clear vision" issue or what - but that trampoline is REALLY close
	Located in Front Yard		
	RV & Cars in yard, without improved surface		
46 S. Clover	Got car - functional? (RV parked in front of lot)	Chapter 16, Section 16.05 (a) - Improved Surface	
68 S. Clover		Chapter 4, Section 4.27 (e) - RV in front	

2

Dear Adam,

My name is Dennis Kaminski and I hold the appointed position of Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of Kent City. I received several harassing calls from Village President, John Petruska during the course of my work. Council member, Steve Buckner made a motion for my dismissal during a Village Council meeting, which did not receive support by any Council member. This made for a tense working environment in the Village office. I felt that it would be in the best interest of the Village for me to endorse Bert Rose for Village President and Mary Portell for Village Clerk.

I am the author of the campaign flyer titled "Just the Facts". I created this flyer on my home computer and I took to FedEx to have copies printed. (I have attached the receipt from FedEx). On November 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Rose and myself hand delivered this flyer, along with a list of property violations produced by Steve Buckner while out campaigning house to house throughout our Village. I never mailed any letters to Village residents. I have no knowledge of who authored and mailed out the other 3 page letter.

You can reach me at (616) 262-7580 if there is any other information you think I might be able to supply.

Thank you,



Dennis Kaminski  
Village of Kent City  
Zoning Administrator & Code Enforcement



FedEx Office is your destination  
for printing and shipping.

4028 Alpine Ave NW  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
Tel: (616) 647-4236

11/2/2018 11:34:26 AM EST  
Team Member: Mark G.

SALE

BW 1S on 24# Wht	100 @	0.1450 T
000330 Reg. Price	0.17	
BW 2S on 24# Wht	100 @	0.2900 T
000331 Reg. Price	0.34	
CleanScreen 6mL	1 @	3.9900 T
012661 Reg. Price	3.99	

Regular Total	54.99
Discounts	7.50

<b>Total</b>	<b>47.49</b>
--------------	--------------

Sub-Total	47.49
Tax	2.85
Deposit	0.00

<b>Total</b>	<b>50.34</b>
--------------	--------------

MasterCard (S)	50.34
----------------	-------

13(1)(a)

Total Tender	50.34
Change Due	0.00

<b>Total Discounts</b>	<b>7.50</b>
------------------------	-------------



\* 1 7 1 7 0 0 2 4 3 5 5 \*

M. Kaminski

3

May 9, 2019

State of Michigan Bureau of Elections  
Attn: Adam Fracessi  
Richard Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 W Allegan  
Lansing, MI 48918

Dear Adam,

I would like to address the allegation made by Steven Buckner regarding the Village of Kent City Personnel's use of Village equipment for campaign purposes. I did not, nor do I know of any use of Village equipment or supplies for campaign purposes against Steve Buckner.

1. The allegation states that labels and envelopes were found on my desk. I do not know exactly what Mr. Petruska saw on my desk, as he has not made the statement himself. I do know my desk sits directly next to a supply cart that is full of mailing labels, envelopes, cardstock, sheet protectors, etc. I have attached a photo of my desk in relationship to the cart. I use many different kinds of labels in the course of my work. It would not be unusual to have labels and/or envelopes sitting on my desk.
2. Mr. Buckner believes that the mailing list used for a mailing came from the Sewer Bill list. I have never printed a list from the sewer account for campaign purposes. The person who claimed to have received a letter with a label that could only come from the Sewer list, doesn't even have a Sewer account. Her name would not be found on any Sewer list created from my computer.
3. Labels on my desk were not used in the Village office. This one has me stumped. Mr. Buckner could not possibly know what labels I use in my day to day work. As I sit here, I can count at least 6 different sizes and styles of labels that I use for various projects. Mr. Buckner and Mr. Petruska have never come into the office and observed what I do in my position on a day to day basis.

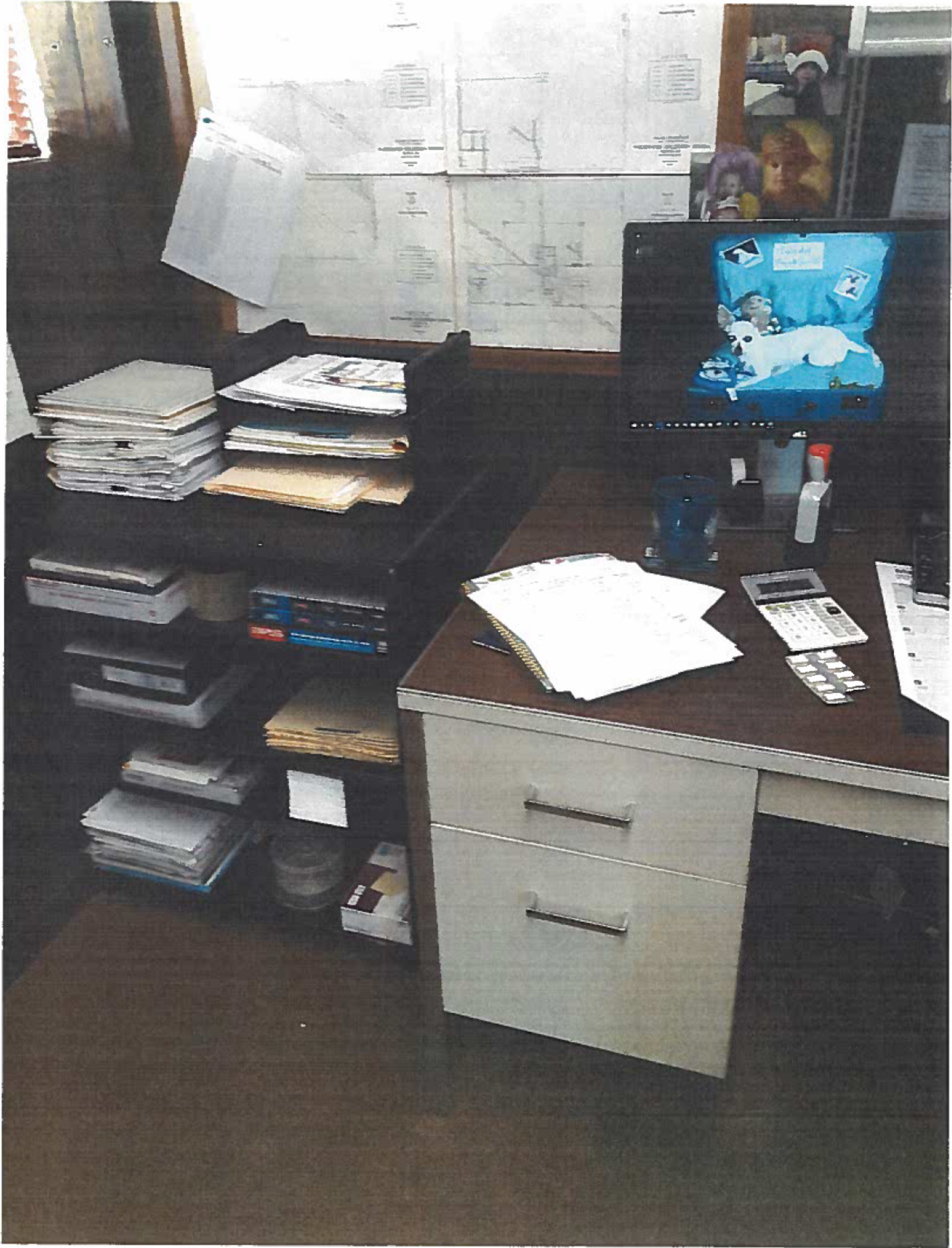
Just to reiterate, I did not, nor do I know of anyone using Village supplies or equipment to campaign against Steve Buckner. The allegations he has made are completely fabricated and have no basis for a complaint.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Forth  
Village of Kent City Treasurer





B

## Vote Rose for President

## Vote Portell for Clerk

4

Dear Fellow Residents and Voters of the Village of Kent City,

As you know, November 6 is fast approaching, and you have the opportunity to make a difference in YOUR village. It is time to "Flush the John and Bag the Buck!" Your vote really does matter, and as concerned and informed citizens of this great village, we've put together some of the reasons another term in office for John Petruska and Steve Buckner would continue to harm our growth and forward momentum.

Bert Rose is a lifetime local with the wellbeing of this village as his highest priority. His years of experience on the council and various other boards have given him the insight and experience needed to lead our village.

Mary Portell has been the village clerk for 35 years. Chances are you've talked with her, and chances are her long time experience as the "brain" of the village has shown through. Mary knows the day to day operations, has general knowledge that speeds up the answering of questions and has made it her mission to improve public relations within the village.

What has happened with John and Steve in office over the last decade plus, let's take a drive into the village from M37, where much of our visitors (opposing schools etc.) enter our village and get their first impression. The first thing they see is a vacant Dr's office as they approach the old O&M lot, which still sits empty. A small used auto lot was proposed, but blocked, leaving the land still vacant. As our visitors cross the tracks, the old Junk shop sits vacant, providing too many hoops for a new owner to quickly set up shop. Next to that sits another vacant building, owned by Steve Buckner. This building was turned over to the village by Tyrone Township with the intent of creating some funding in the village through its sale; a sale the township "highly discouraged" to a sitting village trustee. Has it even been brought to code since changing ownership and why would a "pro-growth" village trustee let a great commercial building sit vacant? Next door, the newly remodeled building struggled to find and maintain tenants until Kent City Baptist church moved offices there; it's great to see it finally getting used after the owner's hard work and investment. Approaching the stop sign, what was once a hardware store now sits as yet another vacant building, where the hardware store was basically forced out because of alleged violations reported by John and Steve. That's 3 vacant prime commercial sites in less than 1/4 mile. What's more? Kent City Ford is no more, bought out by Betten Baker and converted to a used car lot; this is a lot of real estate that could have been compromised over within village ranks. The Jerky shop on Ball Creek is no longer open to the public because of signage and the lack of ability to bring in retail customers. Red Rock Grille has a new sign, but is continuously harassed for efforts made to draw attention to their business... But hey, we got another national box store in town, didn't we? We understand that there are multiple mitigating factors in all these business growth snafu's, but we also know that a little more fighting and compromising with business owners and prospective investors in our village WOULD HAVE gone a long way. Both John and Steve tout their extensive business management experience, but why did John's store in Sparta close? And what is Steve's management experience? Turn this over for a list of shocking facts: