

Candidates and the EPC need to review Dale Pfau's toxicity

I am writing this statement because, as a friend wrote me, "all we need for tyranny to occur is for good (wo)men to stay silent."

During The Almanac's Portola Valley Town Council [election forum](#) on Sep-29-2022, disparaging comments about several women were cited from candidate Dale Pfau's emails. These emails became public record because of the lawsuit brought by Lloyd Day ("Rusty") et al against the Town and the Wildfire Preparedness Committee (WPC).

I was upset to learn Dale Pfau is skeptical of anything I say. But I was not surprised. When I first joined the WPC, 4 former or then-current female volunteers individually warned me that "Dale doesn't work well with strong women". With the publication of Dale's emails, add 3 more women to that list.

I was very embarrassed, but I was glad that Craig Hughes revealed what was in the public record. For people who care about the character of our leadership, we now know Town Council candidate Dale Pfau from his own intentional toxic words (listed below).

In declining to discuss this openly, the candidates and Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) members give tacit approval of his behavior.

I ask that everyone talk about Dale Pfau's toxicity. We can't normalize his behavior and make it acceptable. We are so much better than that.

Our Town and committees need thoughtful, respectful leadership.

From the public record emails requested by former mayor Jon Silver

2021-12-07 – Dale – "Not sure I trust Jennifer [Y.] on anything right now."

2021-12-08 – Dale – "Is this woman [JY] clueless or what?"

2021-12-13 – Dale – "I am trying to get someone to talk about fire maps - a qualified fire professional not from WFPD or seduced by Jeremy."

2022-01-07 – Dale – "Her [Jennifer H] appointment is on the calendar for the next town council meeting - this is a disaster. No one will work with her."

2022-01-08 – Dale email trying to stop JH's appointment to the WPC

2022-01-11 – Dale – "...please forward me Sarah's agenda. We will completely ignore it, but I would like to see what it is."

2022-01-25 – Dale – "I have a healthy skepticism of anything from MJ."

2022-01-27 – MT email to Sarah Wernikoff saying that Dale has "texted 3 times and called several times - give me a break" as Dale tries to prevent Bob Grandy from presenting to the WPC on Feb-2-2022

2022-02-03 – Sarah email that "Dale just sent me a text - "**I am beyond furious**" --- do you know what that might be about? He's calling me at 11"
2022-03-07 – Dale – "I think Jennifer H. is insurance; BTW IMO Insurance is more important than the other shit she wants to do."
2022-03-11 – Dale – "Insurance is a hot topic ... Good rat hole for Jennifer."

Lastly, I take issue with Dale Pfau's claim that WPC members "hijacked its charter". In Mar-2022, the WPC voted to move evacuation to the EPC, so that the [WPC could focus on wildfire mitigation](#).

Dale Pfau disagreed because evacuation would extend EPC meetings beyond 1 hour, which was unacceptable because his EPC members "**have real jobs**" ([video is here](#)). Most WPC members were offended, especially because at that time, the EPC was all male.

Subsequently, the EPC concluded that evacuation planning historically rested with them, and they accepted responsibility for the traffic study, where it has not lost a step.

In Portola Valley, residents, volunteers, and town staff are passionate about what they do. We all care. The Town's leadership has helped me to be productive and promote wildfire preparedness, and I am grateful for the Town Council and staff. I am also very grateful to have volunteered with some badass women who are now my friends.



-MJ Lee

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