

At last week's meeting, a resident provided a public comment. I would like to respond to her allegations.

First, she alleged that the board members received a complaint from the Arkansas Ethics Commission, and that is true. Commissioners are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest annually, and due to an unanticipated delay, ours were several days late. She filed an ethics complaint, and we received a reprimand from the commission. Was it worth the commission's time, energy, and postage? That is for you to decide. I can assure you that these reports, in the future, will not be a day late. Likely you have not seen a Statement of Financial Interest. Unless you own a road paving company or perhaps a chemical company that might perhaps contract with Holiday Island, there is very little of interest to the public in that annual financial filing.

Secondly, she inferred that the board does not follow accepted executive session requirements. Within the past year, I recall only one executive session. It was held for an approved, legal reason, as they all are, and the results of the session were announced in public as required by law. We understand the requirements for an executive session.

Also, the speaker accused the district manager of accepting an illegal gift. The resident was referring to the payment of air fare and housing, made by the local volunteer organization, HIPRO, for the district manager to represent Holiday Island at a "Places to Retire" expo, held in Chicago, in January 2021. Let me explain the circumstances of that expo.

The State of Arkansas Division of Tourism is tasked with promoting tourism and marketing the State of Arkansas. They participate in numerous travel expos and conferences around the country each year. For several years they have attended the travel, relocation, and

retirement expo in Chicago, along with several other Arkansas communities, including Bella Vista, Horseshoe Bend, Cherokee Village, and Hot Springs Village. This year, Holiday Island was invited by the Division of Tourism to occupy one of 6 booths that are paid for by the State. Holiday Island wanted to participate and promote our community, alongside these other retirement communities, but, as we received notice of this opportunity in December, no funds had been budgeted for the expense. HIPRO offered to sponsor the trip and pay for hotel and airfare. HIPRO's mission is to promote Holiday Island and entice people to move here; this expo was consistent with their purpose. It was a brief 2 ½ day trip, held over the weekend. It was not a pleasure trip. In fact, Mr. Presley worked those two days setting up the Holiday Island booth and engaging with hundreds of prospective Holiday Island tourists and others who might want to relocate to Holiday Island. Bella Vista, Horseshoe Bend, Cherokee Village, and Hot Springs Village have participated in this event for years, but this was the first time for Holiday Island to be represented. It was a very successful event, and the State has asked Holiday Island to come back next year. I appreciate that Mr. Presley volunteered his weekend time and his public relations skills to promote home ownership in Holiday Island. This trip was not an illegal gift.