

~~Armed, Anonymous, anonymous and Unaccountable~~unaccountable

▲ It's quite chilling when the front page is used as a cudgel to silence civic engagement and government accountability.

Rep. Becker-Finn's care to make names of armed government workers anonymous belies her legislation to make more police data public. Apparently, she cares if hunters quit culling, but not when officers quit protecting? It was especially concerning when the council tried to block this public information and Metro Bowhunters (who "aren't trophy hunters") tried to classify their services as "recreational." They claim to obey game laws, but what about other laws? Seven months later, they still have not provided non-profit/nonprofit public disclosures.

Requests showed substantial problems with Mahtomedi's records management. ~~The city clerk provided false statements.~~ Other data was incomplete and inconsistent. The city didn't research anything beyond hunting, which studies show is an ineffective long-term strategy. There were no reports of CWD testing, proof of sharpshooting certification, venison donations to the needy, or natural ecological damage caused by deer—just complaints about nibbled landscaping. There was misinformation about deer and Lyme's disease, and abysmal enforcement of deer feeders when Goebel (public works director) said there were too many to count, some hundreds of pounds in size.

At least Stevens Point's culling program provides complete transparency. What about Mahtomedi?

I will be publishing detailed reports of these failures on my website. Citizens should know and demand accountability.

Chris DeWuske  
Mahtomedi

Formatted