

Mr. Ryan	
Author	Post
<p>tspong Member</p> <p>Joined: Fri Aug 24th, 2007 Location: Posts: 358 Status: Offline</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">New Topic Reply Print</p> <p>Posted: Tue Apr 1st, 2008 11:53 am Quote Reply</p> <p>What do you think?</p> <p>From the Delaware State News: Town settles suit for \$300K</p> <p>Cheswold's ex-manager claimed breach of contract</p> <p>By Ali Cheeseman</p> <p>Delaware State News</p> <p>CHESWOLD — Cheswold recently settled a two-year-old lawsuit with former Town Manager Edward J. Ryan for a six-figure sum after the Delaware Supreme Court ruled there were grounds for a civil trial.</p> <p>The lawsuit was settled out of court a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Ryan's attorney, Thomas S. Neuberger of Wilmington, said Monday, with the town agreeing to pay \$300,000.</p> <p>"The case was settled to the mutual satisfaction of all parties," Mr. Neuberger said.</p> <p>Another of Mr. Ryan's attorneys, John LaRosa, said town officials admitted no wrongdoing and settled the claim to avoid further expense and cost.</p> <p>He said Mr. Ryan looks forward to continuing his career in public service in Milton, N.H.</p> <p>Mr. Ryan, who had served as a councilman before signing a five-year contract to work as the town's manager, sued the town and three council members who voted to fire him.</p> <p>The General Assembly approved a town charter change on Jan. 27, 2005, eliminating a one-year waiting period before a resigning Cheswold council member could be hired as town manager.</p> <p>But council contended Mr. Ryan had assumed the job 13 days before Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signed the bill into law on Feb. 9, making it an illegal contract.</p> <p>The Delaware Supreme Court ruled in February that the case could go to trial, allowing both Mr. Ryan's breach-of-contract and his retaliation claims to be presented to a jury. That trial that was scheduled for March 24.</p> <p>But the case was settled before the set date.</p> <p>Once all the paperwork is signed by both parties, Mr. Neuberger said, the town will have 10 business days to make a down payment of \$50,000 to Mr. Ryan.</p> <p>After that, the remainder of the balance must be paid by June 27 without added interest, Mr. Neuberger said, or three payments on June 27, Oct. 3 and Jan. 2, 2008, must be made with quarterly 7-percent interest added.</p> <p>"I don't know what it's going to happen with the town," Cheswold Mayor Donald Tinari said. "The town will be under the burden to take care of it."</p> <p>Council wants to schedule a public hearing to discuss the settlement with residents and possible methods to <i>come up with the funds</i>.</p> <p>After the hearing, a special election will be held to vote on what solution will work best for the town, he said.</p> <p><small>Post your opinions in the public issues forum at newszap.com</small></p> <p><small>Staff writer Ali Cheeseman can be reached at 741-8218 or acheeseman@newszap.com.</small></p>