

SENATOR WESELY: And then I would like to ask you a follow-up then. What...what is the purpose of doing this with the individual names and salaries, not only here but wherever else it may apply? Have you...what is the reason that you understand that we do this in the first place?

SENATOR WILL: I think the reason we do this, in the first place, is so that the taxpayers can...can take a look that the local government is required at least once a year or quarterly or whatever to print the employees that they have so that the taxpayer can judge for him or herself whether his tax dollars are being spent wisely, given the job that the employee does.

SENATOR WESELY: But the option is there to go and to find that information out...

SENATOR WILL: Absolutely.

SENATOR WESELY: ...anyway.

SENATOR WILL: Absolutely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Crosby, how would you respond to that argument about if the point is getting access to information and that access is available with or without the municipality running this legal notice?

SENATOR CROSBY: Well, I don't...I don't understand the argument, Senator Wesely, that this is so they can go and raid and hire people away. That does not wash with me at all. And, yes, it is public access but...and I did find out the answer to one of your questions. The public schools in Hastings, at least, do run all the employees' names and how much they make. So why should city employees be the only ones who are not? But, go back to your original question, I can't see...the average person isn't going to go down to the courthouse unless they have some real reason for finding out that name. And when you run them in the newspaper names are what are important.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I appreciate that and I did think the schools did have this practice and, frankly, it always bothered me. I didn't quite understand why having individuals' names and their salaries was so essential. I think I can see the point of having some sense of where the money is going to and having some accountability there, but I...I don't quite understand what the