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Ms. Hallett: Uh, when it comes to, uh, conflicts between, say, the public, staff, council, and you represent council, but you also represent, you know, staff, commissions, whatever, how do you find yourself dealing with that?

Mr. Phillips: You know, I think it's a matter of experience. Uh, there is no good way, and no pat answer to that question. You're right. It arises all the time. There's frequently some confusion about who a municipal lawyer's client is. Uh, more times than I'd like to count over the years, uh, the city council is standing in the position of determining the chief executive officer, the city administrator, the county administrator, or whatever. **The law's crystal clear on this. My client is the governing body of the municipality.** And it's very difficult to thread that line. Um, I've done it successfully for well over three decades. And I think basically a matter of experience and explaining your role to everybody involved in the process. ...

Ms. Hallett: So if you've had a sit... how would you deal with ... or how are you comfortable with the technique of maybe having the council come to you as just one body or do you deal with members individually or how, how is that?

Mr. Phillips: You know most members of city council, town boards, commissioners, understand their role. And I help them understand mine, and that's that they serve as a body, not as individuals. **And on occasion over the years I've had to explain to elected officials that this is a governing body. You need 4 votes, you need 3 votes, you need 5 votes, or whatever the magic number is.** And I think it's just a matter of, hopefully, in a friendly and diplomatic matter of, uh, drawing those lines, because they have to be drawn.

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