

First Selectman

From: Andrea L. DePaola <andrea_depaola@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:38 AM
To: First Selectman; Denise Turner; Rosemary Coyle; Jason LaChapelle; Deborah Bates

Members of the Board,

I have been involved in politics (at both the state and local levels) in various ways throughout the years. As such, I have an extensive understanding as to how the personal information of private citizens— to include names, addresses, phone numbers— are to be ethically used.

Such information is often used for GOTV calls, political mailers, or for campaign canvassing purposes.

This information is NOT to be used as a strategic tool to be used against political opponents.

I was recently made aware that my personal information— home address with explicit directions— was added to a list that could potentially be used in such a manner.

I, as a citizen, should be able to speak freely and without fear of recourse.

As someone who has been involved in Colchester politics (on and off) since 2010, I can say with absolute certainty that I have never seen such a vitriolic political environment. Civility and mutual respect have long disappeared.

Unfortunately, this is not limited to small-town politics... this trend can be seen on a larger, nation-wide scale.

I can only hope that these political tactics will be addressed, for the betterment of our town.

Respectfully,
Andrea DePaola

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First Selectman

From: DIMITRIOS BISBIKOS <dbisbikos@snet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:21 PM
To: First Selectman; Jason LaChapelle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; Rosemary Coyle
Subject: Supports Investigation

Selectmen,

I support opening an investigation into Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Public Safety Committee Member Bernie Dennler, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman in the creation and maintenance of a list of political dissidents in Colchester.

We must not allow elected officials of our town to use their seats to collect information about citizens that can then be used against them politically. The First Amendment is very clear on this issue, and we must ensure it is respected and upheld by every member of our government. Any attempt to hand wave this list away with innocuous excuses should be ignored until a full investigation has been concluded.

I request that my name be immediately removed from your list.

Thank you,

Dimitrios & Demetra Bisbikos

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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First Selectman

From: Jennifer Cox <jennifer3280@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 7:41 PM
To: First Selectman
Cc: Jason LaChapelle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; Rosemary Coyle
Subject: budget and agenda items for 6-15-2023 Town Meeting

Dear First Selectman Bisbikos,

I just previewed the agenda items for tomorrow's meeting, and I have a few questions regarding the agenda and comments regarding the budget referendum.

I do not understand the first agenda item. Why would the town be concerned with anyone's personal emails? Personal emails do not belong in the business of the town. I read the supporting documents and it looks like the people mentioned are being accused of discussing who may be democrat or republican leaning, and how best to gain supporters?? So what? Citizens want the town to work on town business.

Town business: I am looking forward to hearing how you will interpret the voting results. The citizens, by voting no to the budget, for reasons of being too low, have said that they would like the budget increased. The past year, during ARPA discussions, it became clear that there are many maintenance projects, in several town departments (Parks and Rec, Public Works, Fire, etc), that have been put off because of lack of funding in past budgets. In addition, you have stated that several town employees have left because the salary was too low. I am hopeful that you will increase the budget to address these town's needs.

Best,
Jennifer Cox
7 Ivy Court

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First Selectman

From: John Farrell <john.e.farrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 7:40 PM
To: First Selectman; Jason LaChapelle; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates; Rosemary Coyle
Subject: Sham Investigation

Hi Selectman,

I want to express three concerns with the sham investigation on the agenda.

My first concern is that what is being described is basic canvassing tactics. For example, a common canvassing tactic is "tagging" supporters and non-supporters so you can send supporters postcards and avoid sending them to non-supporters. This tactic has been used for decades by both parties. There is nothing notable about recording supporters or non-supporters.

My second concern is that this is an investigation by the government into the inner workings of an opposition-led political party. This has all the hallmarks of a political hit job, and I question whether a town government has any productive concerns here. The government of the Town of Colchester shouldn't be involved in what a political party does with public information.

My third concern is the source of the information. Board Member LaChapelle is frequently involved in nonstop drama. This time he's taking private emails obtained through questionable means and manufacturing a crisis using nothing but his imagination. This isn't the first time he's wasted taxpayer time with made-up accusations and conspiracies.

The town has important work to do, especially considering the budget votes. Please focus on what is good for the town, not what Bisbikos think will make him look good for the next election.

Best,
-John

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First Selectman

From: tori vaillancourt <torivvail@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:57 PM
To: Rosemary Coyle; Jason LaChapelle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; First Selectman
Subject: Unethical Behavior

Selectmen,

I support opening an investigation into Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Public Safety Committee Member Bernie Dennler, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman in the creation and maintenance of a list of political dissidents in Colchester.

We must not allow elected officials of our town to use their seats to collect information about citizens that can then be used against them politically. The First Amendment is very clear on this issue, and we must ensure it is respected and upheld by every member of our government. Any attempt to hand wave this list away with innocuous excuses should be ignored until a full investigation has been concluded.

I request that my name be immediately removed from your list.

Thank you,

Victoria Vaillancourt

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First Selectman

From: montelks@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 6:18 PM
To: First Selectman; Andreas Bisbikos; Rosemary Coyle
Subject: RE: Referendum voting today on Budget

Andreas,
Thank you for your prompt response on this busy day at Town Hall! I appreciate hearing from you and agree, we must focus on the positives!
Thanks again, take care.
Karen

From: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 3:59 PM
To: montelks@comcast.net; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: RE: Referendum voting today on Budget

Hi Karen,

Thank you for sharing your concerns and insights on today's referendum. I share some of your observations and express disappointment on how highly politicized the process became. I hope moving forward that we can all focus on the positives that bring us together.

Sincerely,

Andreas

From: montelks@comcast.net <montelks@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 3:41 PM
To: Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Referendum voting today on Budget

Hi Andreas and Rosemary,

I hope there is a good voter turnout today, but I for one, am not voting because I truthfully, can not decide which way to vote. I will tell you why ~ I am a senior living on a fixed income, so of course, do not want my taxes to go up. I have been upset about the proposed cuts to the school budget, namely, the cuts to music classes and world languages for the schools and reducing kindergarten to half days. I do not like the fact that these are the 'buzz words' no one wants to hear, and I thought when the opposition started for these particular cuts, they would be eliminated and other areas cut. Not the case. I feel badly for the parents and understand their confusion over all the inconsistencies with the way the BOF had presenting the budget with numerous errors that never were corrected. This is totally unacceptable! I understand that a vote NO will not bring back those cuts, but will require more cuts to the school budget.

Unfortunately,

the voting public does not seem to understand this. So, for all these reasons, I will not be voting today. I am hearing from friends who are saying the same things, they are confused and won't be voting because of this. I have always taken my right to vote seriously and have taken every opportunity to vote. Not today, unfortunately!

Good luck with whatever the results are with today's Referendum. We need to turn this Town back in our recent history where we looked out for one another and watched out for each other's back. It's gone on too long with the confusion and dissension.

Please, let's move on!

Thanks for listening.

Karen Monteleone

Colchester Resident & Taxpayer



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First Selectman

From: Michael Dubreuil <dubreuilm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 7:31 AM
To: First Selectman; Rosemary Coyle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; Jason LaChapelle
Subject: DTC Political Dissident List

Selectmen,

I support opening an investigation into Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Public Safety Committee Member Bernie Dennler, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman in the creation and maintenance of a list of political dissidents in Colchester.

Last year I joined the private Facebook group, "Colchester - What's Happening?" A group ran by Denise Turner, Bernie Dennler, Mary Bylone, Rosemary Coyle, Monica Egan, and Dave Koji. I enjoy reading about the issues from everyone's perspective. I don't believe I ever made a single post. About a week later I was dropped from the group for no apparent reason. I didn't think much of it at the time.

Now I have a suspicion that I could have been pruned from that group because I was added to the Democratic Town Committee's list of political dissidents.

I would agree that it is their private Facebook group and it is their right to remove me- even if that would be antithetical to the publicly stated purpose and policies of the group. However, any attempts at explaining the list with innocuous excuses should be dismissed until an investigation is complete.

Thank you,
Michael Dubreuil

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First Selectman

From: PAUL BUREAU <paul_bureau@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 10:16 AM
To: First Selectman; Rosemary Coyle; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates; Jason LaChapelle
Cc: Shannon Ramsby
Subject: Political Enemies Hit List?

Good Wednesday morning,

In light of the disclosure of several emails indicating the possibility that some elected BOS officials (and others) may have colluded and engaged in targeting Colchester citizens due to their political preferences, I support a public investigation into this matter by adding this item to the scheduled June 15 BOS meeting. I can think no issue that is more important to pursue than the possibility that citizens may have been targeted due to their political leanings.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Bureau
Stollman Road

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First Selectman

From: Taras Rudko <trudko@rudko.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 11:07 AM
To: Jason LaChapelle; Rosemary Coyle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; First Selectman
Subject: Investigation Request (Political Dissidents Hit List)

Importance: High

Selectmen,

I support opening an investigation into Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Public Safety Committee Member Bernie Dennler, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman in the creation and maintenance of a list of political dissidents in Colchester.

We must not allow elected officials of our town to use their seats to collect information about citizens that can then be used against them politically. The First Amendment is very clear on this issue, and we must ensure it is respected and upheld by every member of our government. Any attempt to hand wave this list away with innocuous excuses should be ignored until a full investigation has been concluded.

I request that my name be immediately removed from your list.

Thank you,

Taras W. Rudko
Chairman, Colchester RTC

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First Selectman

From: Clifton O'Donal <cliff@empirestatepiping.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 12:04 PM
To: Rosemary Coyle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; Jason LaChapelle; First Selectman
Subject: FW: Unethical Behavior

Selectmen,

I support opening an investigation into Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Public Safety Committee Member Bernie Dennler, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman in the creation and maintenance of a list of political dissidents in Colchester.

We must not allow elected officials of our town to use their seats to collect information about citizens that can then be used against them politically. The First Amendment is very clear on this issue, and we must ensure it is respected and upheld by every member of our government. Any attempt to hand wave this list away with innocuous excuses should be ignored until a full investigation has been concluded.

I request that my name be immediately removed from your list.

Thank you,

Clifton D. O'Donal
President
Empire State Piping Co. Inc.
P.O.Box 240
Colchester, CT.06415
860-537-4666
cliff@empirestatepiping.com

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First Selectman

From: Monica Swyden <monicacegan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Rosemary Coyle; Jason LaChapelle; Deborah Bates; Denise Turner; First Selectman
Subject: BOS Letter for June 15th

Hello-

I also submitted this via the form online, so my apologies if there's duplication. Please include the following letter in the Board packet of official correspondence for tomorrow's night meeting. Unfortunately, I may be unable to attend in person and would therefore also like for it to be read.

So that the public is well aware, the email that Jason is so concerned about was between myself and other Democrats using personal email addresses. We were discussing how we mark voter tendencies in the voter contact tracking system used by all Connecticut Democrats statewide called VAN that is referenced in the email. To reiterate, this was all done on personal email accounts. Evidently, someone on the Republican team, probably Andreas Bisbikos or Jason LaChapelle, has hacked our emails. This uncalled-for breach was already made apparent when Jason recently shared a different email between the same group of us using personal accounts with others. None of this has anything to do with the professional responsibilities of these officials. Their intrusion into our personal emails deserve an investigation. There is no way that this email came from a concerned citizen.

I want to remind the First Selectman and Mr. LaChapelle that the unauthorized access to a computer network may be considered a class B misdemeanor in Connecticut; this means that a defendant could face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine, which could be reduced to a term of probation. A computer crime that causes more than \$1,000 in damage could lead to five years in prison.

If you want to talk about ethics and violations of ethical behavior, I have a couple of ideas. Firstly, when Jason LaChapelle was at odds with Andreas, he shared that the First Selectman was at the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol with the chairman of the RTC, Taras Rudko, and that pictures of them together exist. Maybe you could ask the First Selectman what he was doing there as thugs pillaged our democracy and beat police officers.

Secondly, Jason LaChapelle also told individuals outright that he and Andreas were behind the fake website created to embarrass Mary Bylone during the 2021 election.

If you remember correctly, the town had to seek legal counsel and spend taxpayer money when Andreas threatened to sue the town after Ms. Bylone commented on the website that Andreas himself created but lied about. Jason even produced the receipt for the website domain he and Andreas paid for. I can provide you with a copy of that receipt and

the messages in which Jason says that Andreas did all the nasty writing for the fake website. I think it might be worth investigating a First Selectman who threatened to sue the town and wasted taxpayer dollars after lying about unethical election behavior and election law violations.

Thank you.

Monica Swyden

Colchester DTC CHair

10 Vicki Lane

Colchester, CT

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First Selectman

From: Amy & Al DOMEIKA <adomeika@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 1:51 PM
To: First Selectman; Denise Turner; Rosemary Coyle; Deborah Bates; Jason LaChapelle
Subject: Investigation launched following budget defeat

Hello,

Following the budget defeat on Tuesday 6/13, the First Selectman's first course of action was to launch an investigation into the voter outreach of local democrats. (?) The timing is obvious and as a citizen it reads as political abuse of authority and a real waste of our government time/money.

If an investigation is to go forward, I will ask that the Board provide details on how the private emails were obtained. Claiming, "a concerned citizen" delivered them is not sufficient. If anyone on this board hacked into a citizen's account or has knowledge of a hack, that person can be held liable for damages. If justice is the goal, those questions must be satisfied.

However, what I AM really asking is that the Colchester Board of Selectman do its job and focus the immediate needs of the town which at the moment involves providing an accurate and transparent budget.

Of note, the GOP version of a voter outreach platform here in CT is called Intercom (click [here](#) for info on how to manage/create/tag voter groups), but seeing how inefficiently our town government is working right now, it is no surprise that this group doesn't use Intercom and instead claims to knock on "100% of doors."

Please get back to work and do your job. Colchester needs an organized and transparent budget. Stop wasting taxpayer time and money and creating unnecessary drama.

Regards,
Amy Domeika
53 Old Rod Road
Colchester, CT 06415

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First Selectman

From: Tim Vaillancourt <tvaillancourt@hartfordsprinkler.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Jason LaChapelle; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates; Rosemary Coyle; First Selectman
Subject: Unethical Behavior

Selectmen,

I support opening an investigation into Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Selectman Denise Turner, Public Safety Committee Member Bernie Dennler, and Town Clerk Gayle Furman in the creation and maintenance of a list of political dissidents in Colchester.

We must not allow elected officials of our town to use their seats to collect information about citizens that can then be used against them politically. The First Amendment is very clear on this issue, and we must ensure it is respected and upheld by every member of our government. Any attempt to hand wave this list away with innocuous excuses should be ignored until a full investigation has been concluded.

I request that my name be immediately removed from your list.

Thank you,

Tim Vaillancourt

Tim Vaillancourt
Project Manager

 Hartford Sprinkler Company, Inc.

4 Britton Drive
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Cell: 860-500-8274
Office: 860-231-0088
Fax: 860-236-7611

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First Selectman

From: Joseph Leone
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 4:58 PM
To: First Selectman
Cc: Shannon Ramsby
Subject: RE: Stephen Coyle

Sure thing, sorry for just getting to this now.

- Steve called me at 2:27 on Thursday
- He wanted to coordinate with me to schedule the next meeting of the Sewer and Water Commission.
- I interjected and told him that I was told by Andreas not to discuss town business matters with him because he is suspended, and I told him that I didn't want to get in any trouble
- He said that he understood where I was coming from
- I encouraged him to talk with you if he felt that there were still things that needed to be discussed.
- I apologized for not being able to talk with him about town things and reiterated that I was worried about getting in trouble
- He said that he understood

Thanks,

Joe

Joseph Leone, EIT, M.Ed
Director of Public Works
127 Norwich Ave, Colchester CT, 06415
Direct: (860) 537-7286



From: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Joseph Leone <jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>
Cc: Shannon Ramsby <sramsby@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Stephen Coyle

Hi Joe,

You notified me earlier today that Mr. Coyle reached out to you to discuss the business of the Sewer & Water Commission. Mr. Coyle is currently suspended pending a vote of the Board of Selectmen. Could you please provide me with a written statement on what was discussed? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andreas