

Fw: Regarding correspondence in yesterday's BOF agenda packet

Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Mon 1/23/2023 3:46 PM

To: Gayle Furman <townclerk@colchesterct.gov>

for agenda

Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-705-1118

From: Jason LaChapelle <jLaChapelle@colchesterct.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:36 AM

To: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Cc: Tim Vaillancourt <tVaillancourt@ColchesterCT.gov>; Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; John Thomas <jthomas@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Regarding correspondence in yesterday's BOF agenda packet

Andrea -

I am writing to express my disappointment in this board's decision to share my family's private medical information with the public. In an email dated 1/5/2023 I reached out to the state FOI Commission to request a postponement of the FOI Hearing that was scheduled for 1/10/2023 regarding a complaint against the Board of Finance. I also copied the participants of the FOI hearing because I was instructed to do so. You were not included in this email but one of the lawyers representing the Board of Finance in the complaint was. That lawyer then forwarded my email to another lawyer at Shipman & Goodwin who then forwarded the email to you and the First Selectman. The email then made its way to at least one private citizen who attempted to weaponize it against me in my private life and, because of your direct actions, to both the Town Clerk and to the public at large.

This is completely improper. I did not choose to share that information with you or your board. I chose to only share that information with state FOI and a town attorney because it was relevant to my request for postponement. I did not give anyone permission to share that information. And while I'm sure your argument is going to be "It's FOIable", I have already spoken with state FOI and they informed me that while communications with them are subject to FOI, they would have redacted the reason for my request under the personal privacy exemption. It is important to note that you had access to this private information solely because of your position as Chairman of the Board of Finance. It is extremely distasteful when an individual chooses to ignore the basic decency of privacy, it's gravely concerning and, at best, unethical when a government body decides to do so -- especially when it's because of their own personal animus. "Freedom of Information" is not a shield for unethical behavior.

Had it been just me I likely would have looked the other way as I'm a public figure and this type of behavior comes with the territory. My family, however, are not public figures and should absolutely be able to expect their government to respect their privacy. And I understand how ironic that is coming from me. I am far too aware that this is the environment I had a hand in helping to create. However I would have expected an elected official acting as a representative of the Town of Colchester to have a little more tact than to use private information she has only because of her role in government to infringe on the privacy of her constituents.

I reached out to your attorney yesterday morning immediately after seeing the correspondence and requested she help rectify the situation by asking you to remove my family's private information from public documents. She never responded to my request and the information was never removed so either your attorney ignored my request or you ignored hers. While who ignored who is ultimately irrelevant, it does highlight that my only course of action is to reach out to this board and express my disapproval and ask the board directly to please remove my family's private medical information from any and all documents made public by the Board of Finance.

Please include this email as correspondence in the next Board of Finance agenda packet.

Thank you,

Jason LaChapelle