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Windham, VT 05359

Selectboard
Windham Town Office
Town of Windham
Windham, VT 05359

April 17th 2017

Dear Selectboard:

I wish to voice my concerns and opinions with you regarding my experience as Town Clerk and as a citizen of Windham.

During my tenure as Town Clerk I have been truly in awe of the support of many members of the community of Windham as well as outside vendors alike. I have thoroughly enjoyed the work, it has been thought provoking and highly enjoyable, I have learned a great deal and feel honored to have spent this time serving the community.

The downside has been the onslaught of attacks from a select few in town especially Michael Simonds and his wife Mary McCoy and the pro wind group alongside the lobbyists KSE and Iberdrola. Their delusional portrayal of misrepresented information that they provided to the mainstream media as well as to the Secretary of the State to renege on the wind vote was and remains unforgivable.

A simple request was made to the signatory of that letter, Micheal Simonds, to contact the media and Secretary of the State to remove those accusations, this has still has not transpired. Due to this, my name, which I have tirelessly kept off the internet is now splattered all over it in a negative context. Consequences of this betrayal could and will potentially if I were to seek employment again, scar my otherwise good name. This is unacceptable.

I find it remarkable that Kord Scott and Michael Simonds did not attend, nor write a letter, when the Board of Civil Authority met to address the accusatory letter written

about me. This proved to me their deep involvement in their attempt to work against the town to prevent a vote for the wind development. If people did not question their abstention from that meeting to support not just me but the town, then they should now.

My husband wrote a letter to the selectboard to sign a good faith agreement that the selectboard members would not receive monies or any form of compensation including employment from the wind developer, sub contractors or any of their subsidiaries. Maureen and Frank both signed that letter, Kord Scott not only refused, he sought legal counsel! Kord was informed by legal counsel that there was no harm in signing such a letter as it was just a good faith letter. That letter still remains to see his signature today!

I was asked by Kord Scott to “chase down” on more than one occasion last year the bid from M&M excavating (the son of Gail Wyman) for the mowing of the side of our roads. We are never to chase down bids, RFP’s (right for proposal) are to send their bids in in a timely manner, their bid is either successful or not. I feel that this conduct was wrong. I also intercepted an email regarding the proposal for Ernie’s bridge and the John Pozzi bid which I feel may have an issue. I am gravely concerned that there is misconduct here in town, and that measures must be set in place to prevent any misconduct going forward.

Alan Partridge and Gail Wyman both tried to violate the rights of privacy of Windham voters, their actions are shameful. Gail was my first Vermont friend, she used me for information and in doing so betrayed the citizens of this community. I spent countless hours talking with lawyers and the director of elections as well as unlawful and threatening demands from Iberdrola to turn over those documents for which I refused. Never an apology from any of those involved including the involvement of Michael Simonds who’s actions as a Justice of the Peace, an election official and many other important positions that he held, he could have prevented this diabolical nightmare as he had the knowledge to prevent the happenings which transpired in the first place. Again, this is and remains unacceptable.

In my decision to terminate my position as Town Clerk, which happened some time ago, I took the incentive to reach out to Theresa Farrace as she ran against me for the position. At least four times I have reached out to her to ask if she would be interested in the position as Town Clerk as I wanted to leave. I hope that if Theresa is here this evening so she will acknowledge that fact. Theresa on all of those occasions stated that she was either not interested, had taken on extra work or was just too busy.

Last week I was told that Theresa was interested in the position and wanted to talk to me. As Theresa had turned down and not shown any interest in the Clerk position I had someone reach out to the new selectboard clerk Claudia Voight. Claudia said she was interested, came to talk to me about the position and voiced that she was interested. I attended the selectboard meeting, presented my resignation and happily presented that Claudia Voight was very much interested. It appears that I have been accused, and once again wrongly so, in manipulating some form of collusion. Let me make one thing

painfully clear; I did not know, had never met, nor spoken with Claudia Voight until she was asked if she was interested in becoming Town Clerk.

This brings me to a very important and very disturbing set of facts. When I called Theresa Farrace I asked her right away what was going on, and why after all of this time of me asking her if she was interested in the position did she have a change of mind as I was only aware that she was most definitely not interested in the position. Theresa's response was she thought I was joking! Not once did I insinuate that I was joking or otherwise. Theresa then states that her son and Kord's grandson are best friends and that she had spoken with Kord about the Town Clerk position. What transpired next left me very angry and terribly concerned as to the antics that are being played out here in Windham. Theresa basically told me that Kord had groomed her to attend the next selectboard meeting and voiced to her what to say. Next from Theresa came what I consider to be antics that I have never encountered before. Theresa asked me to state at the next selectboard meeting that I should state that Claudia, (who was being introduced to the workings of the Town Clerk) was not working out and that she was not doing well and that I should put a good word in for her instead! I was shocked and stated that I could not under any circumstance do such a thing as I am a member of the community. I have never, not now nor in the future be involved in the "buddy system".

I am ashamed that this town is operating in this way, and disgusted. There are members of this community whom I believe have some directive to turn over the democracy of this town. They have lied and cheated, ran smear campaigns with no repercussions. I hope that the manipulation stops and that apologies are made in a timely manner.

As I close, I want to make note to the new Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is it's own entity, it is not responsible to any part of this town's governance including the selectboard, the clerk is responsible to the town's people. Her hours cannot be dictated, she can be open anywhere and up-to 23.5 hours per week, she should not work any more than 23.5 hours per week. She is not a secretary to anyone including the selectboard. She is the keeper of the records, she runs the elections, and so much more, she has and holds a great responsibility to the town. I recommend that the clerk be open for 12 hours per week to the public and utilize any additional time to play catch up.

Yours Truly,

Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis