

Correspondence received by the  
Concord Select Board  
Week Ending – August 12, 2024

1. Thomas Doyle – 176 Old Pickard Rd
2. Mark Martines – 66 Alford Circle

Board of Selectmen:

My family has lived at 176 Old Pickard Rd since 1987. After I retired in 2005, I became a Florida resident but we continue to spend five months a year in Concord. When we are in FL, we do not use the town services.

I was shocked when I opened my tax bill earlier this year to see my taxes were up 29%. I checked with the Assessor and Finance Departments to understand the reason for the increase. My property was reassessed but that would have accounted for only a small portion of the increase. The larger part was caused by my home evidently being classified as a "vacation" home because of my FL residency and unqualified for the tax abatement.

As a long time resident of Concord, I find this policy ridiculous. How do you defend taxing someone who is not residing full time MORE than a full time resident who is using more town services? I certainly hope you reconsider this illogical policy.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Doyle

239-963-5189

176 Old Pickard Rd

Sent from my iPad

From: Mark Martines <mjmartines@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 11:35 AM

To: Mary Hartman <mhartman@concordma.gov>

Cc: Mark Howell <markhowell@concordma.gov>; Cameron McKennitt <cmckennitt@concordma.gov>; Terri Ackerman <tackerman@concordma.gov>; Wendy Rovelli <wrovelli@concordma.gov>; Andrea Fountain <afountain@concordma.gov>

Subject: My July 22nd Email/SB's Proposed Amendment to the CMS Building Committee's Charter/follow-up

My email to the Select Board dated July 22nd was not published. To follow-up, I emailed Shannon who forwarded my email to Andrea. (copied) In her email to me (see below), Andrea notes that my email was not published based on #7 of the Select Board's Correspondence Policy - letters will not generally be published that "contain personally identifiable information (PII) of individuals other than the writer."

As I noted below, it was not possible to identify what happened and who was involved without reference to individual names. My email did not contain any PII, including telephone numbers, addresses or email addresses, for example. Further, all of the individuals I named are public figures and publicly-elected officials who serve currently on Town Boards and committees, which names are all publicly available and are commonly in the news. Finally, note that you, as Chair, ask individuals regularly to state his/her name and address before he/she speaks at public comment at Select Board meetings, which are recorded and publicly-available.

As noted below, I and others remain concerned about the following:

- Two members of the Select Board, apparently on their own, decided to amend an advisory committee's charter via the Select Board's consent calendar without any prior discussion with other Select Board members or during a Select Board meeting.
- The Select Board did not communicate with the other committee; in fact, the other committee was not aware of the Select Board's plan to amend its charter or to add a new member to its committee, even though the Select Board's liaison attended a committee meeting the week before.

- The Select Board was unaware of or dismissed the proposed candidate's negative history with a number of members of the other committee.
- The Select Board's proposed candidate currently serves on two or more Town committees in violation of the Town's long-standing policy.
- The Select Board did not consider apparently how the proposed charter amendment and/or appointment would impact the Select Board's relationship with the other committee or the School Committee, especially following the last Town Meeting.

As I noted to Andrea below, emails like my July 22nd email are not pleasant or easy to write. However, I intended to surface an important governance issue that I feel requires discussion and assessment in an open, public forum. Further, at a time when the Town faces critical financial and infrastructure challenges (referenced in my email), it does not seem constructive or effective for the Select Board to be taking these types of actions.

I would appreciate if you publish my email and respond to me directly regarding the actions the Select Board has or is taking in response to my email. In addition, I respectfully request the Select Board provide an update on the proposed charter amendment at a future Select Board meeting so that the public is informed and updated.

Thank you. Mark