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Date: 07/22/2024 2:30 PM EDT

Subject: Tonight's SB Meeting/Please Remove the Proposed Amendment to the CMS Building Committee's Charter

Efforts by Mary Hartman, the Select Board Chair, and Mark Howell, the Select Board Clerk, to add Court Booth to the CMS Building Committee through the Board's administrative consent without transparency or discussion perpetuates and supports a wide-spread belief that Town leaders appoint "insiders" who think similarly and are not representative of the broader and more diverse community.

Furthermore, Mary and Mark appear to continue to plot ways to divide the Town and to create problems where there appear to be none. For example, neither Mary nor Mark communicated or collaborated with the Building Committee. Rather they acted in a unilateral and arrogant manner without regard for good governance or fiduciary obligations and duties owed to Town residents or fellow committee members.

Our Town's Finance Committee continues to warn that residential property taxes are scheduled to increase 8% per year for the next 5 to 6 years. The Select Board should be leading efforts to assess and curb the Town's spending, including conducting peer reviews of towns similar to Concord. Additionally, the Select Board, in coordination with the Town's Planning Department and Planning Board, should be finding ways to increase the Town's revenues, including growing the Town's commercial and business communities. Finally, the Town faces continuing infrastructure challenges that need to be addressed such as improving the Town's roads, solving the lack of cell coverage in the Town's center, curbing the Town's electric rates which were reported recently to be among the highest in the Commonwealth, and supervising the Town's operations to confirm they are reasonably efficient compared with neighboring towns.

With respect to the proposed amendment to the Building Committee's charter, the Building Committee did not ask for assistance from the Select Board, including the need to find a new member. More troubling is that Mary and Mark did not share their proposed amendment with the Building Committee prior to putting it on the Select Board's consent calendar. In fact, Mark lacked the courtesy and professionalism to raise his plan to add Court to the Building Committee during the Building Committee meeting last week that Mark attended as the Select Board's liaison. The Town deserves better than leaders who act in this type of underhanded manner.

To make matters worse and relevant to their judgment on the issue, Mary and Mark should know that Court is not a good candidate to add to the Building Committee. Among other deficiencies, Court displayed an openly adversarial and destructive attitude and role with the School Superintendent and

with a majority of the School Committee members during the last years he served on the School Committee.

Moreover, Mary and Mark are aware Court serves currently on at least two other Town committees. In fact, the Select Board appointed Court to the Town's Financial Audit Committee last month. Rather than continuing to pack Town committees with cronies and friends, the Select Board needs to commit to finding Town residents to serve on committees who are independent and outside of the Select Board's current circle of "friends". The Town would benefit greatly from broader participation of its residents to help solve the Town's current challenges.

Finally, the Select Board needs to repair and improve its relationship with the School Committee and School Superintendent. The Town does not need leaders who try to promote and enact their own personal agendas in sneaky ways as represented by the attempt by Mary and Mark to appoint Court to the Building Committee based on a consent calendar and behind the backs of the Building Committee and the public.

I respectfully urge the Select Board to consider the issues raised above and to:

- adhere to the Town's long-standing policy that committee members serve only on one committee at a time unless there are unique and compelling circumstances;
- focus its energy and time on solving the Town's daunting fiscal and infrastructure challenges; and
- find ways to show exemplary leadership to unify the Town and propel it forward during a challenging time in the Town's history.

Thank you.

Mark Martines

Alford Circle