

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 10 Mar 2023 15:28:22 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "John Harlamert" <john.harlamert@newportvermont.org>; "travis.bingham@newportpd.org" <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: March 20th City Council Meeting

Hi Beth

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
With the council chambers room configured the way it is, (c)(17) the meetings are offered in a live format by logging into the google meet link, which can be found on the website calendar and on the agenda once it is posted. We have received favorable feedback that members of the public appreciate having the option to attend remotely.

We can touch base about this again as the meeting date approaches.

(Please note that Clark Curtis has not yet initiated his city email so this is forwarded to his personal email. I am expecting him shortly and will confirm with everyone once his city email is live.)

LD

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law (1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320).

Thank You.

On Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 6:23 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Good Morning. I am very excited about my first City Council as Mayor and am deeply honored to be sharing the table with returning and newly elected City Council members.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

MB PRA4178

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1) 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

2) 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

3) 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Thank you for your input to this e-mail. These are simply my concerns that I wanted to address from the start because my MAIN concern is the safety of those who serve and those we serve. I look forward to your thoughts and feedback.

Regards,

--

Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont
<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 10 Mar 2023 15:31:58 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: March 20th City Council Meeting

Hi Laura,

Thank you so much for these insights, always appreciated. Looking forward to working together with you and everyone.

Beth

On Mar 10, 2023, at 10:29 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
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On Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 6:23 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

, .

MB PRA4180

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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Newport, Vermont
<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 10 Mar 2023 11:22:55 +0000
To: "clark.curtis@newportvermont.gov" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.gov>;
"Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson"
<johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "John Harlamert"
<john.harlamert@newportvermont.org>; "travis.bingham@newportpd.org"
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Regards,

--

Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

From: "1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)"
Sent: Sun, 12 Mar 2023 02:14:10 +0000
To: "beth.barnes@newportvermont.org" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Newport -please be advised about and not silenced too

Hello Mayor Beth Barnes,

It's very nice to have you around, last mayor did not much of anything, he actually allowed alot of bullying by state workers and local governments towards innocent civilians like myself, city manager Laura dolgin is also one who does absolutely nothing, it's been very difficult for myself and for many residents, lots of empty gaps causing major miscommunications and tons of misconducts, glad you can be here to help remediation among everyone, as long as those who do wrong would fix their bad behaviors to let things get fixed.


1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[Redacted]

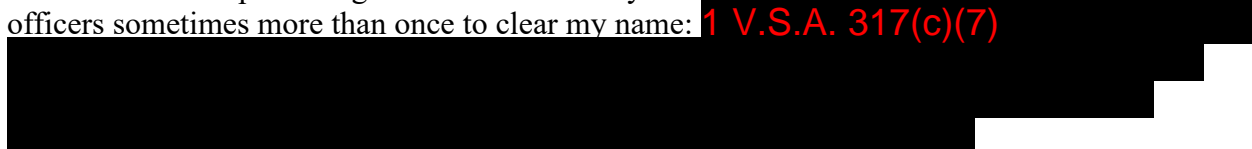
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)



The Federal government has told me that they are watching the state about them not handling this and them noticing the state is actually causing mayhems, my information from the system vanished at one point (as of now I wouldn't be sure anything valid there because the harassment and threats that have been made illegally against me so much), and the federal government seen that (I asked for their guidance years before everything disappeared so in fact they've already seen information but then they seem everything was gone- my information disappeared to try to invalidate me), it's not going unnoticed it's just it's told that because jurisdictions that it all keeps falling back on Newport PD, they have say in everything above everyone thus far so they've been trying to set me up to fail is an example of the retaliation, they sent cops to bother me and harass me until I set that part straight but it took over a year and I had to speak directly to the other officers sometimes more than once to clear my name: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)



1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)



1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)



[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) [Redacted]

Kind regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Mon, 13 Mar 2023 03:50:22 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Newport -please be advised about and not silenced too

Dear Beth Barnes,

Like I said, these are dangerous people, they are not going to admit their faults and honestly they might try to cover the corruption up even more just to let you know, because that's been the biggest problem with them, they would rather see us all fail then to let it be known what really happened, they are needing to be approached with very much caution; 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I appreciate you taking the time to try to help with any mediation, that will be a great deal of help that can go a long way even if it seems like a small amount of support, it can actually change things for the better coming from you. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

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The truth will come out in time when the acts of unlawfulness can be made to be looked at thoroughly and eventually completely seen as to what occurred or the much lack of what should have occurred to have had the situation lawful, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

Please stay safe and thank you!

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Sun, Mar 12, 2023, 7:50 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Dear 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7),

Thank you for reaching out. And, thank you for feeling comfortable enough to share your very personal story with me.

As Mayor, I have very limited powers but I want you to know that I will try and speak with some of the people you have mentioned so that I can get a better idea of the history. In this way I may be able to find a path forward for you and those you love, but again I have no powers as mayor that will allow me to solve the issues.

This is a very long email with a lot of moving pieces so since I've been mayor less than a week, it will take me a few weeks to understand how to proceed.

Please know that I hear you and will do what I can.


With listening ears,
Beth Barnes

On Mar 11, 2023, at 9:14 PM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:

Hello Mayor Beth Barnes,

It's very nice to have you around, last mayor did not much of anything, he actually allowed a lot of bullying by state workers and local governments towards innocent civilians like myself, city manager Laura Dolgin is also one who does absolutely nothing, it's been very difficult for myself and for many residents, lots of empty gaps causing major miscommunications and tons of misconducts, glad you can be here to help remediation among everyone, as long as those who do wrong would fix their bad behaviors to let things get fixed.

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)



Kind regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: "Lisa Daigle-Farney" <lisa.daiglefarney@ncsuvt.org>
Sent: Tue, 14 Mar 2023 13:19:03 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Subject: Re: An introduction to Amanda Stetson

Amanda, if you would like to make an appointment to me, please feel free to e mail me. Lisa

On Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 5:35 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello Lisa,

Thank you for your offer to communicate with 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) I have asked her permission to share our email thread so you can understand her situation. I send this in the strictest of confidence.

Thank you, Samantha and Lizzie for the wonderful work you do in our community.

Sincerely,

Begin forwarded message:

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Date: March 13, 2023 at 11:46:11 PM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Newport -please be advised about and not silenced too

Hi dearest Beth Barnes,

Today I attended the Saint Albans Hate - Free Vermont meeting, via zoom that included very many wonderful people as yourself, there were nine citizens who joined via zoom including myself, those in attendance at the location in a school's gymnasium I think it was, it went very well and I feel good about going to such a great opportunity. There was the V.T. Attorney General's Office, Human Rights Commission, and other there who were in attendance, although it was mainly for Franklin County, they appreciated my attendance and a woman named Tracy's input too without any hesitation, if what they said to me is true, they will be having someone reach out to me soon.

Having you forward my information and about my situation to the one's you are suggesting, is fine by me and very much appreciated, I would repeat but you sharing ahead to them does seem a little better to be honest, to keep moving forward and get to a clearer place about everything for myself and my loved ones, as well as for our community so that the hate can desist and not be harming anyone else.

Best regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023, 4:49 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Dear Amanda,

Allow me to say again, thank you for reaching out to me, I have put a lot of thought into your e-mails so that I could find someone to listen to you as these issues are not part of my duties as Mayor. However, I care so I have found someone that may be able to listen and see if they can help. It is the 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I firmly believe that you would enjoy reaching out to them.

I wanted to ask you if I could forward the very involved e-mails you sent me so that they could understand your situation. You put a lot of effort and detail into those e-mails so I would hate for you to have to recreate them.

Please let me know if you'd like me to do that and when I do I can copy you too which will be your introduction to these wonderful women.

We may not be able to solve problems, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) but rest assured that we hear you.

Beth Barnes

On Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 11:50 PM 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:
Dear Beth Barnes,

Like I said, these are dangerous people, they are not going to admit their faults and honestly they might try to cover the corruption up even more just to let you know, because that's been the biggest problem with them, they would rather see us all fail then to let it be known what really happened, they are needing to be approached with very much caution: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

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Please stay safe and thank you!

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On Sun, Mar 12, 2023, 7:50 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Dear 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7),

Thank you for reaching out. And, thank you for feeling comfortable enough to share your very personal story with me.

As Mayor, I have very limited powers but I want you to know that I will try and speak with some of the people you have mentioned so that I can get a better idea of the history. In this way I may be able to find a path forward for you and those you love, but again I have no powers as mayor that will allow me to solve the issues.

This is a very long email with a lot of moving pieces so since I've been mayor less than a week, it will take me a few weeks to understand how to proceed.

Please know that I hear you and will do what I can.

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Beth Barnes

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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handling this and them noticing the state is actually causing mayhems, my information from the system vanished at one point (as of now I wouldn't be sure anything valid there because the harassment and threats that have been made illegally against me so much), and the federal government seen that (I asked for their guidance years before everything disappeared so in fact they've already seen information but then they seem everything was gone- my information disappeared to try to invalidate me), it's not going unnoticed it's just it's told that because jurisdictions that it all keeps falling back on Newport PD, they have say in everything above everyone thus far so they've been trying to set me up to fail is an example of the retaliation, they sent cops to bother me and harass me until I set that part straight but it took over a year and I had to speak directly to the other officers sometimes more than once to clear my name: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Kind regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

--

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 17 Mar 2023 16:32:41 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Document shared with you: "March 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting"

Hi Laura,

Thank you for sending this. I'm afraid it will just be poking a bear publicly. I thought our conversation today charted a great path forward. I'd like John to let me know what he's thinking, personally it has happened very, very fast and I always find that taking time to think and let something calm down is the best way forward. I think I prefer to sit on this until the next meeting, as I say I think it is all happening so fast that we need to approach it carefully. Last thing I want to do is poke that bear. I prefer to wait.

I would like to give John the courtesy of telling him how I feel but am uncertain of the protocol, can I forward this response? Let's see how it plays out for the time between this meeting and the next and without question, if it needs to be addressed then we certainly will. I cannot find the link on the city website for banner policy, any chance you could steer me to it.

So, if we could remove the parade item, please resend and I will gladly approve it.

Thank you, and thank John and thank Rebecca,,

Beth

p.s. not sure this reply forwarded to Rebecca

On Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 11:15 AM Laura Dolgin (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Laura Dolgin shared a document



Laura Dolgin (laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

Hi Beth

I am speaking to Clark and John W., and at John Wilson's request have added a parade discussion as agenda item #8. I am still working to reach Dave Converse. Please stand by.

 March 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org
shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Mon, 20 Mar 2023 15:48:52 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Follow up

Morning,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I'm going to attend the community meeting tonight, maybe if Lisa Daigle Farney is there I could speak to her in person, doing communication through email or text has not been ever fully answered 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

See you tonight and thank you,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 4:25 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Oh my goodness, my fault, there was a typo, here is the right one:

Lisa.Daiglefarney@ncsuvt.org

On Mar 15, 2023, at 3:53 PM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:

Question: It is possible her email is different then her last name, her email as farmey?

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 3:51 PM 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:
Good day Mayor Beth Barnes!

I have not had the opportunity to hear from Lisa Farney-Daigle person, she never responded to me, not sure she can help with anything. I sure will plan on being at the meeting on the

twentieth, definitely I am supportive of our community, I thank you very much for the invitation. Is the City Council Chambers located in the Municipal building or at the library?

Kind regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 7:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

I am cc'ing Lisa Daigle-Farney on this e-mail because I believe she followed up and I wanted to thank her.

I am writing to you, [REDACTED], to invite you to attend my first city council meeting on March 20 at 6:30 pm in the City Council chambers. Everyone is welcome at all meetings and it's my hope that many people in the community will start attending these meetings. These are meetings for the council to conduct city business.

I can see that you are keenly interested in your community so watching the City Council in action might be interesting.

All the best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 20 Mar 2023 19:44:19 +0000
To: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Subject: Re: Follow up

It will be a crazy nite tonite. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) lisa is waiting for you to reach out, that is how her office works, you need to express an interest and then that starts the ball rolling 😊. Please send her an email, she WILL respond. I don't think the meeting tonight is a great place to connect u til you are on her radar. She has everything you sent me so please email her to get things going.

Thx 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7),
Beth

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<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Mon, 20 Mar 2023 20:11:47 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Follow up

Good day,

Had she received the emails, you had them resent them to her? Is there going to be another community meeting anytime soon after tonight?

Best,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Mon, Mar 20, 2023, 3:44 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
It will be a crazy nite tonite. [REDACTED], lisa is waiting for you to reach out, that is how her office works, you need to express an interest and then that starts the ball rolling 😊. Please send her an email, she WILL respond. I don't think the meeting tonight is a great place to connect u til you are on her radar. She has everything you sent me so please email her to get things going.
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I am writing to you, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7), to invite you to attend my first city council meeting on March 20 at 6:30 pm in the City Council chambers. Everyone is welcome at all

meetings and it's my hope that many people in the community will start attending these meetings. These are meetings for the council to conduct city business.

I can see that you are keenly interested in your community so watching the City Council in action might be interesting.

All the best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 20 Mar 2023 20:26:00 +0000
To: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Subject: Re: Follow up

Hi Amanda,
This is a council meeting, not a community meeting. Tonite is the council conducting city business. Have you sent an email to lisa?

On Mar 20, 2023, at 4:12 PM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:

Good day,

Had she received the emails, you had them resent them to her? Is there going to be another community meeting anytime soon after tonight?

Best,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Mon, Mar 20, 2023, 3:44 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
It will be a crazy nite tonite. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) lisa is waiting for you to reach out, that is how her office works, you need to express an interest and then that starts the ball rolling 😊. Please send her an email, she WILL respond. I don't think the meeting tonight is a great place to connect u til you are on her radar. She has everything you sent me so please email her to get things going.
Thx
Beth

On Mar 20, 2023, at 11:49 AM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:

Morning,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I'm going to attend the community meeting tonight, maybe if Lisa Daigle Farney is there I could speak to her in person, doing communication through email or text has not been ever fully **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)**

See you tonight and thank you,

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 4:25 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Oh my goodness, my fault, there was a typo, here is the right one:

Lisa.Daiglefarney@ncsuvt.org

On Mar 15, 2023, at 3:53 PM, **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)** wrote:

Question: It is possible her email is different then her last name, her email as farmey?

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 3:51 PM **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)** wrote:
Good day Mayor Beth Barnes!

I have not had the opportunity to hear from Lisa Farney-Daigle person, she never responded to me, not sure she can help with anything. I sure will plan on being at the meeting on the twentieth, definitely I am supportive of our community, I thank you very much for the invitation. Is the City Council Chambers located in the Municipal building or at the library?

Kind regards,

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 7:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED] V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I am cc'ing Lisa Daigle-Farney on this e-mail because I believe she followed up and I wanted to thank her.

I am writing to you, [REDACTED] V.S.A. 317(c)(7) to invite you to attend my first city council meeting on March 20 at 6:30 pm in the City Council chambers. Everyone is welcome at all meetings and it's my hope that many people in the community will start attending these meetings. These are meetings for the council to conduct city business.

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All the best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Mon, 20 Mar 2023 20:28:02 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Follow up

Good evening Mayor Beth Barnes,

Yes, I've sent the email to her not long ago, definitely, I can let you know what she suggests.

Best!

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Mon, Mar 20, 2023, 4:26 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

This is a council meeting, not a community meeting. Tonite is the council conducting city business. Have you sent an email to lisa?

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Thx 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Beth

On Mar 20, 2023, at 11:49 AM, **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)** wrote:

Morning,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I'm going to attend the community meeting tonight, maybe if Lisa Daigle Farney is there I could speak to her in person, doing communication through email or text has not been ever fully answered **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)**

See you tonight and thank you,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 4:25 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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Lisa.Daiglefarney@ncsuvt.org

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Question: It is possible her email is different then her last name, her email as farmey?

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 3:51 PM **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)** wrote:
Good day Mayor Beth Barnes!

I have not had the opportunity to hear from Lisa Farney-Daigle person, she never responded to me, not sure she can help with anything. I sure will plan on being at the meeting on the twentieth, definitely I am supportive of our community, I thank you

very much for the invitation. Is the City Council Chambers located in the Municipal building or at the library?

Kind regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023, 7:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7),

I am cc'ing Lisa Daigle-Farney on this e-mail because I believe she followed up and I wanted to thank her.

I am writing to you, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) to invite you to attend my first city council meeting on March 20 at 6:30 pm in the City Council chambers. Everyone is welcome at all meetings and it's my hope that many people in the community will start attending these meetings. These are meetings for the council to conduct city business.

I can see that you are keenly interested in your community so watching the City Council in action might be interesting.

All the best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 21 Mar 2023 16:26:37 +0000
To: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Travis Bingham" <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <Rebecca.Therrien@newportvermont.org>; "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Tomorrow's (3/22) PD Negotiation

Hi Kevin and John and Beth

I double checked the attorney's instructions on warning the internal meetings of the union negotiations [1 V.S.A. 317\(c\)\(4\)](#)

So, there will be no special meeting warning issued for tomorrow's bargaining.

Kevin and John: See you at 4:00 in the city council room.

Beth, if you wish to observe this session, please let me know so that I can update the city attorney's and the union, per the agreed upon ground rules.

Thank you.

LD

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

MB PRA4214

From: Beth Barnes (beth.barnes@newportvermont.org)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 11:22:38 PM
To: Laura Dolgin (Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org)
Cc: Clark Curtis (clarkcurtis63@gmail.com)
Bcc:
Subject: Senior housing

Hi Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

were these two vying for the same grant award? I believe that was a sizeable grant so I think it would be advantageous for Clark and I to be caught up to speed, I'm especially interested on why the proposed housing died and then ended in litigation.

Where can Clark and I get all the details.

Thank you

Beth

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 13:51:18 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Clark Curtis" <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Senior housing

Thank you,
I will read with interest and know that you'll be available for questions which I appreciate.
Beth

On Mar 22, 2023, at 9:05 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth and Clark
I've included the full city council so that all have the same information:

A good place to start is by reviewing the explanation contained in this link from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding-incentives/newportdevelopmentfund>

Attached is the complaint, the City's Motion for More Definite Statement, HOSIV Opposition to Dismiss, the City's Reply Memo, Vt Agency of Commerce and Community Development & the Dept of Housing and Community Development's Motion to Dismiss, Northern Vermont Community Investment Corporation's Motion to Dismiss, and NorthEastern Vermont Development Association's Motion to Dismiss.

This comprises the records of the lawsuit as of today. I hope this helps.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law (1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320).

Thank You.

On Tue, Mar 21, 2023 at 7:22 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

MB PRA4216

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

were these two vying for the same grant award? I believe that was a sizeable grant so I think it would be advantageous for Clark and I to be caught up to speed, I'm especially interested on why the proposed housing died and then ended in litigation.

Where can Clark and I get all the details.

Thank you

Beth

<Complaint, Notice of Lawsuit & Request for Waiver of Service of Summons_ Complaint, Answer Form_ Waiver of Service_ & Notice of Appearance.pdf>

<23-02-13 City's Motion for More Definite Statement & COS.pdf>

<23-03-10 City of Newport's Reply Memo (22-CV-04380).pdf>

<23-02-24 HOSIV Opp to Motions to Dismiss or For More Def Statement & COS (1).pdf>

<23-02-13 VT ACCD & DHCD's Motion to Dismiss.pdf>

<23-02-13 NCIC's Motion to Dismiss & COS.pdf>

<23-02-13 NVDA's Motion to Dismiss & COS.pdf>

From: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 14:45:11 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Kingdom Games

Hi Beth,

In the City Council minutes of February 6, 2023, 5 parade applications were submitted that night. The City funds 4 parades. Phil White withdrew his request for funding, but still wanted to hold a parade. It was not until Friday, March 17, 2023, that I and the rest of the City Council learned that the Parade had been denied a permit. Phil advised he would fully fund the cost of this Parade.

This entire situation could/should have been avoided at the meeting with Department heads and Phil White. Police are essential for road closures. If Newport PD cannot find adequate staffing, then Phil should have been offered the opportunity to possibly contract with the Sheriff's Dept for coverage. If he could not obtain the necessary coverage, then he could not satisfy the requirements as set forth in the Policy and the permit could be denied. As for Public Works, they too are necessary as they provide the signage and cones to direct the traffic. Unlike road closures, this does not need to be done exclusively by the City. Overtime should be offered to City employees and then Phil would have to supplement any other required help. Again, if he failed to get the necessary help, then the permit could be denied.

As it stands now the City of Newport has a 'black eye' from the recent, front page articles in the Newport Daily and the Caledonian Record denying the parade. The Kingdom Games do, in fact, bring business to Newport. A couple of weeks ago I was having breakfast at the Brown Cow. As I was leaving approximately 15 to 20 swimmers came in to eat, filling the restaurant. Once outside, I could see others walking down from the Newport Motel. In this one moment I observed 2 businesses directly benefiting from the Kingdom Games. I know that throughout the weekend the swimmers patronized other Newport businesses, bringing much needed revenue to our City as well as (hopefully) great memories of Newport.

Maybe we should have discussed it at Monday's meeting, but that's water under the bridge.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Just my thoughts,
Kevin

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 5:11 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

MB PRA4218

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Very unfortunately for me, I was not aware of this parade denial until AFTER the city denied it, I had no idea it was a hot button, nor was I privy to the intent to deny.

Then a press release was written and widely distributed, Phil's opening salvo.

I knew none of this but now feel drawn in from both sides. Had I been invited to "sit at the table" maybe I/we could have found a way forward and this could have been kept out of the papers.

In the future, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Our every move and word is open to scrutiny, as we know the public loves a good old controversy, let's not give it to them.

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "Mike Brown" <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 15:11:21 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: RE: Kingdom Games

Email was received. Thank you

Michael Brown
Director of Recreation
City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, VT 05855
802-334-6345



From: [Beth Barnes](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 5:11 AM
To: [Laura Dolgin](#)
Cc: [Chris Vachon](#); [John A. Wilson](#); [Clark Curtis](#); [Kevin Charboneau](#); [Thomas Bernier](#); [Mike Brown](#)
Subject: Kingdom Games

Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Very unfortunately for me, I was not aware of this parade denial until AFTER the city denied it, I had no idea it was a hot button, nor was I privy to the intent to deny.

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I knew none of this but now feel drawn in from both sides. Had I been invited to "sit at the table" maybe I/we could have found a way forward and this could have been kept out of the papers.

In the future, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 18:34:39 +0000
To: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Kingdom Games

Totally agree about talking about it next meeting.? Yes think it could have been avoided but as you say, water under the bridge. I feel confident we can all address it and come up with a resolution.

Thanks, Kevin for your thoughts. They will always be appreciated.

Beth

On Mar 22, 2023, at 10:44 AM, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth,

In the City Council minutes of February 6, 2023, 5 parade applications were submitted that night. The City funds 4 parades. Phil White withdrew his request for funding, but still wanted to hold a parade. It was not until Friday, March 17, 2023, that I and the rest of the City Council learned that the Parade had been denied a permit. Phil advised he would fully fund the cost of this Parade.

This entire situation could/should have been avoided at the meeting with Department heads and Phil White. Police are essential for road closures. If Newport PD cannot find adequate staffing, then Phil should have been offered the opportunity to possibly contract with the Sheriff's Dept for coverage. If he could not obtain the necessary coverage, then he could not satisfy the requirements as set forth in the Policy and the permit could be denied. As for Public Works, they too are necessary as they provide the signage and cones to direct the traffic. Unlike road closures, this does not need to be done exclusively by the City. Overtime should be offered to City employees and then Phil would have to supplement any other required help. Again, if he failed to get the necessary help, then the permit could be denied.

As it stands now the City of Newport has a 'black eye' from the recent, front page articles in the Newport Daily and the Caledonian Record denying the parade. The Kingdom Games do, in fact, bring business to Newport. A couple of weeks ago I was having breakfast at the Brown Cow. As I was leaving approximately 15 to 20 swimmers came in to eat, filling the restaurant. Once outside, I could see others walking down from the Newport Motel. In this one moment I observed 2 businesses directly benefiting from the Kingdom Games. I know that throughout the weekend the swimmers patronized other Newport businesses, bringing much needed revenue to our City as well as (hopefully) great memories of Newport.

Maybe we should have discussed it at Monday's meeting, but that's water under the bridge.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Just my thoughts,
Kevin

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 5:11 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Very unfortunately for me, I was not aware of this parade denial until AFTER the city denied it, I had no idea it was a hot button, nor was I privy to the intent to deny.

Then a press release was written and widely distributed, Phil's opening salvo.

I knew none of this but now feel drawn in from both sides. Had I been invited to "sit at the table" maybe I/we could have found a way forward and this could have been kept out of the papers.

In the future, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Our every move and word is open to scrutiny, as we know the public loves a good old controversy, let's not give it to them.

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 18:41:45 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>; "Travis Bingham" <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>; "Thomas Bernier" <thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>; "John Harlamert" <john.harlamert@newportvermont.org>; "Michael Brown" <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Re: Kingdom Games

Hi Laura and all,

Yes I agree we should discuss it on the next agenda, since we did not get a chance to collectively discuss it before it reached fever pitch. I was not ready at my first meeting to talk about it. There was a lot of energy and emotion and I believed it would be better to put a little space between all of that emotion and energy and discuss it on April 3. I still feel that was the right decision.

I look forward to having it on the agenda and discussing it with the hope we can all move toward resolution. I believe we can.

Beth

On Mar 22, 2023, at 12:00 PM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Good Morning Beth, City Council Members and Department Heads

Yes, the city is constantly under public scrutiny. This is not the first time where sensationalism overrides logic (in this case public safety due to a lack of manpower and an unwillingness to compromise), and crescendos when we reach the state we are now. We are sorry for the divisiveness this matter has caused between council members and department heads, and we are sorry this is happening particularly during the first weeks of your new role. It seems the phrase 'trial by fire' is applicable here.

This response is intended to provide some historical perspective and comment on how the policy works; I hope it does not offend anyone and apologize in advance if I inadvertently end up hitting some triggers.

The city council adopted an events policy that includes the Events Guidebook, the Special Event Permit Application, and the Street Closure Policy on November 8, 2019, and amended it on December 20, 2021 (attached). The city department heads have followed the policy with precision. Neither I nor the department heads have undermined the city council's authority by abiding by the policy. The policy requires a third party applicant to file the Application for a proposed event and pay a \$25.00 review fee. The forms get circulated to each department head for them to comment if they have concerns, or can recommend

approval of the event with no conditions, or can recommend approval with conditions, or do not recommend. When the forms are filled out a meeting is then scheduled with the third party event organizer to coordinate and discuss issues. This is the meeting that was held with Phil on March 16. The policy clearly states all street closures will be evaluated by the City on a case by case basis after reviewing impacts on public safety and convenience. *We have never experienced an unwillingness to compromise from a third party event organizer.*

The policy was created by a council assigned committee, with one of many improvements being the involvement required of the city council is only to vote on which parade gets funding, not to exceed 4. The vote taken February 6, 2023, was for approval of taxpayer funding for 4 parades. The February 6, 2023, minutes reflect the "2023 Parade Requests: The city received five parade requests. The City only funds four requests per year. Mr. White withdrew his request for funding but would still hold a parade. Mr. Vachon moved to approve 2023 parade requests. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously."

The policy requires the council to review who gets taxpayer funding; the policy does not require or expect the council to approve third party events. At the time the policy was approved in 2019 and amended in 2021, this was appealing to the council because it eliminated requests for waived fees. The policy has no appeal process.

Here is the link to the meeting - please scroll to minute 40 where the Pride organizers are describing their hopes and the motion is made at minute 43. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdQLBZd8Bk8>

Going forward **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 5:15 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Apologies, I didn't mean to leave you off distribution, John and Travis.
Beth

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 5:11:37 AM EDT
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>, "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>, Clark Curtis <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>, Thomas Bernier <thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>, Mike Brown <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Kingdom Games

Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

Apparently there is a “history” between Kingdom Games and certain city employees. The past should not be discussed or used as a reason for a present issue/decision. This should not become bigger than it is, a denied parade application for THIS year. We must avoid being drawn into anything other than, this is a denial because of Person Power, plain and simple.

Very unfortunately for me, I was not aware of this parade denial until AFTER the city denied it, I had no idea it was a hot button, nor was I privy to the intent to deny.

Then a press release was written and widely distributed, Phil’s opening salvo.

I knew none of this but now feel drawn in from both sides. Had I been invited to “sit at the table” maybe I/we could have found a way forward and this could have been kept out of the papers.

In the future, I would like to be in the loop so we can avoid damage control, it doesn’t bode well for the city that the Mayor was caught totally off guard for such a hot button issue. This is gaining momentum, I would appreciate thoughts on how we will move forward, all fully informed, all moving together toward compromise or resolution. Instead of saying Phil “refused” whatever compromise we offered, let’s start using “declined” instead. Same message, softer delivery. Our every move and word is open to scrutiny, as we know the public loves a good old controversy, let’s not give it to them.

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

<Amended Newport Traffic Closure & Parade Policy Amended 12 20 2021 (2).pdf>
<Event Guide Book - Updated 11-11-19.pdf>
<Kingdom Games Parade Application signed 1 26 2023.pdf>

From: Beth Barnes (beth.barnes@newportvermont.org)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:19:15 AM
To: info@vlct.org (info@vlct.org)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Time Sensitive Question from Newport Mayor

Hello, and thank you for being available to guide me.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

With Appreciation,
Beth Barnes

Begin forwarded message:

> On Mar 21, 2023, at 4:33 PM, Michelle Richardi
<lago.trattoria@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
> Hi Beth,
>
> Hope you are well and congratulations on being voted in as the new
mayor.
>
> We are applying for a grant through tge CRRP for RICHARDI INCORPORATED
(doing business as Lago Trattoria, Tge warehouse and Sugar Mountain) and
they are requesting a letter of support from a city official. A little bit
about our project, we plan to reopen the restaurants to 7 days/7 nights
and to reopen the candy store(as we have not been able to reopen it since
Covid started). We will be retaining jobs and creating new jobs for local
residents. We also plan to add a back deck at lago for outdoor dining and
purchase new seating for the Warehouse. We will need a few pieces of
equipment to accommodate the higher volume of sales. Last, we will expand
our line of home made fudge and products at the candy store.
> Please let us know if you have any questions.
>
> Thank you,
> Michelle Richardi
> Richardi Inc.
> DBA Lago Trattoria, The Warehouse
> & Sugar Mountain Fudge & candy shoppe
> 95 Main Street
> Newport VT 05855
> 802-334-8222

MB PRA4227

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 09:15:40 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "john.harlamert@newportvermont.org"
<john.harlamert@newportvermont.org>; "travis.bingham@newportpd.org"
<travis.bingham@newportpd.org>
Subject: Fwd: Kingdom Games

Apologies, I didn't mean to leave you off distribution, John and Travis.
Beth

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 5:11:37 AM EDT
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>, "John A. Wilson"
<johnwilson@newportvermont.org>, Clark Curtis <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>, Kevin
Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>, Thomas Bernier
<thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>, Mike Brown <redirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Kingdom Games

Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Very unfortunately for me, I was not aware of this parade denial until AFTER the city denied it, I had no idea it was a hot button, nor was I privy to the intent to deny.

Then a press release was written and widely distributed, Phil's opening salvo.

I knew none of this but now feel drawn in from both sides. Had I been invited to "sit at the table" maybe I/we could have found a way forward and this could have been kept out of the papers.

In the future, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Our every move and word is open to scrutiny, as we know the public loves a good old controversy, let's not give it to them.

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 09:18:41 +0000
To: "elisabeth barnes" <gotwaveslb@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Kingdom Games

Sending to got waves because some of my emails are being wiped from my city email

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 5:11:37 AM EDT
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>, "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>, Clark Curtis <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>, Thomas Bernier <thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>, Mike Brown <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Kingdom Games

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Our every move and word is open to scrutiny, as we know the public loves a good old controversy, let's not give it to them.

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "Travis Bingham" <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 09:54:42 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>; "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "john.harlamert@newportvermont.org" <john.harlamert@newportvermont.org>
Subject: RE: Kingdom Games

Received.

TB

Chief Travis R. Bingham
Newport Police department
222 Main Street
Newport, VT. 05855
[802-334-6733](tel:802-334-6733) (phone)
[802-334-2818](tel:802-334-2818) (fax)
travis.bingham@newportpd.org

----- Original message -----

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: 3/22/23 5:15 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Laura Dolgin <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: john.harlamert@newportvermont.org, Travis Bingham <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>
Subject: Fwd: Kingdom Games

Apologies, I didn't mean to leave you off distribution, John and Travis.
Beth

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: March 22, 2023 at 5:11:37 AM EDT
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>, "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>, Clark Curtis <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>, Thomas Bernier <thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>, Mike Brown <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Kingdom Games

MB PRA4232

Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

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Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 10:03:08 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Thomas Bernier" <thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>; "Mike Brown" <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Re: Kingdom Games

Got it.

John W

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 5:11 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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Our every move and word is open to scrutiny, as we know the public loves a good old controversy, let's not give it to them.

Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 22 Mar 2023 10:06:15 +0000
To: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Kingdom Games

Thank you, have a great day

On Mar 22, 2023, at 6:03 AM, John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Got it.

John W

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 5:11 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello.

I have been receiving emails, as Mayor from Kingdom Games hoping that I can help in some way. I am extremely frustrated and wanted to share why.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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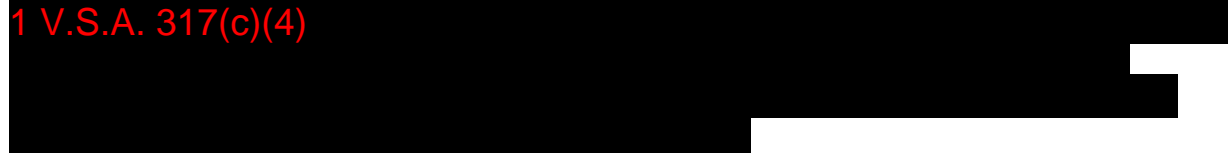
Thank you, all. Tom, Travis, John and Mike could you please confirm you received this email.

Thoughts, always appreciated.

From: "David W. Rugh" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Sent: Tue, 28 Mar 2023 13:47:28 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Susan Manion" <smanion@firmspf.com>
Subject: RE: City attorney

Hi Beth,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



Thanks,
Dave

Sent via mobile device, please excuse typos.

David W. Rugh, Esq.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

171 Battery Street

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT [05402-1507](https://www.google.com/maps/place/05402-1507)

Phone: [802-660-2555](tel:802-660-2555)

Fax: [802-660-2552](tel:802-660-2552)

drugh@firmspf.com

Website: www.firmspf.com

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MB PRA4237

----- Original message -----

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

Date: 3/28/23 8:07 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>

Subject: Re: City attorney

Hi Beth

(I believe David is out of the office until Thursday)

David W. Rugh, Esq.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

171 Battery Street

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

drugh@firmspf.com

Website: www.firmspf.com

Laura Dolgin, City Manager

City of Newport

222 Main St.

Newport, Vt. 05855

(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 4:23 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello Laura

Could you please remind me the name of our city attorney and forward his number and email as well? Thanks so much, appreciated.

MB PRA4238

Have a good Tuesday,
Beth

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Tue, 28 Mar 2023 14:48:11 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Meeting with Lisa Daigle-Farney | 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Good day Mayor Beth Barnes,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Best regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: Beth Barnes (beth.barnes@newportvermont.org)

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:36:57 PM

To: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Re- Meeting with Lisa Daigle-Farney 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Rest assured, what you spoke about with her will go no further unless you give her permission.

Beth Barnes

On Mar 28, 2023, at 10:48 AM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

wrote:

Good day Mayor Beth Barnes,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Best regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Thu, 30 Mar 2023 14:24:52 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Meeting with Lisa Daigle-Farney 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Best,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023, 12:37 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Rest assured, what you spoke about with her will go no further unless you give her permission.
Beth Barnes

On Mar 28, 2023, at 10:48 AM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:

Good day Mayor Beth Barnes,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Best regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Thu, 30 Mar 2023 14:38:42 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Meeting with Lisa Daigle-Farney 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Dear Mayor Beth Barnes,

The time you made for me i will always appreciate. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Some good news otherwise, me attending the hate-free V.T. forum after hearing of it only, I was assigned to a person who is planning on contacting me before too long, it's the second round of the government office having to explore this situation due to the mass government cover up of the corrupted illegal investigation against to me and harming my loved ones, my loved one's needed psychiatric care 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Thank you!

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023, 10:24 AM 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:
1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Best,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023, 12:37 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Rest assured, what you spoke about with her will go no further unless you give her permission.

Beth Barnes

On Mar 28, 2023, at 10:48 AM, 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7) wrote:

Good day Mayor Beth Barnes,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Best regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 30 Mar 2023 12:04:22 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Mike Brown" <RecDirector@newportrecreation.org>

Good Morning, Laura,

Just wanted to follow up on a point covered in our meeting yesterday as we met to discuss the upcoming agenda, the rental of the entire top floor of the Gateway center.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Also, I know that the upstairs of the Gateway is used as a rental space (most recently, all the mother/son, father/daughter highly successful events) and it is a valuable resource for the community as a picturesque and highly attractive option for events.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Thank you so much for answers to my questions, which I know are many. I am sure I, and all council members will appreciate knowing more. I am on a steep learning curve and just trying to understand many things in a short space of time.

**Best,
Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont**

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 5 Apr 2023 10:45:51 +0000
To: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Mike Brown" <RecDirector@newportrecreation.org>; "frank.cheney@newportvermont.org" <frank.cheney@newportvermont.org>; "James Johnson" <james.johnson@newportvermont.org>; "John Harlamert" <john.harlamert@newportvermont.org>; "Travis Bingham" <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>; "Thomas Bernier" <thomas.bernier@newportvermont.org>; "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <rebecca.therrien@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Re: Chain of Command

Good Morning Everyone,

I wanted to sleep on this e-mail exchange so that I could awaken refreshed, prepared to respond, at least a first response. For full disclosure and transparency I am copying the department heads, as well as Mr. James Johnson and Ms. Rebecca Therrien since they were both present at yesterday's meeting. This is a serious issue that needs attention and I am consulting with VLCT to get advice on how to proceed. I also copy the City Attorney, again for full disclosure and transparency.

I have thought long and hard about this and tried to recall what was said at the de-brief yesterday when this subject was discussed at great length, with input from several Department Heads. One crucial point that was left out of your original e-mail, Laura was the fact that in front of me, you issued a directive for all department heads to "stand up and walk out" of any future meetings when such discussions are being had. Do these Department Heads have any say in this, there is a chance that they may not support a directive to "stand up and walk out" of a city council meeting, but may feel they are being given no choice to decide for themselves fearing repercussions if they do not follow.

I fully respect that you have your Chain of Command, but I also respect that your Department Heads are intelligent people who should be allowed to make their own decisions, especially one such as this, to walk out of a city council meeting in protest. To walk out of a city council meeting in dissension, following the City Manager may not be such a great public optic, and it just is not the way I'd like our proud city to conduct business. May I add that these are discussions around the city council table, with the public in attendance. During meetings, disagreements may arise, differences of opinion and as in the past, we have even seen tempers. These are all normal, human emotions and behaviors, talking through issues like proud elected officials and staff that we are is the only way forward; instructing OUR city employees to walk out is not an option.

You also mentioned while speaking about Mr. Curtis, that "he should have known better." I am not sure exactly what that meant.

I thought it was important for context in this e-mail thread that everyone knew of the City Manager's directive so we could talk about just how viable it is, or just how wise it might be to follow through with it. To me, democracy looks like all of us sitting at the table talking through issues like the professional adults that we are, not walking out of a meeting.

I look forward to further discussion but will not proceed until I have taken consult from VLCT. I hope you will all receive this e-mail in the spirit it is sent, the strong desire to move forward as proud elected officials and proud city employees all working together for one common good, OUR COMMUNITY.

Mayor Beth Barnes

On Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 8:51 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Confirming that I have received, and read this email.

Mayor Beth Barnes

On Apr 4, 2023, at 8:43 PM, Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Laura,

I was warned by many that you would do this, I just didn't think so soon.

I take great offense to your comments.

I was told for 14 months from Citizens, former City department heads, former City Council members, former Planning Commission members and former City employees of your power and control issues.

This email will be long.

Please remember that the City Manager answers to the City Council, not the other way around.

Within a few days of being elected I came to your office and had what I thought was a productive meeting. Fire Chief John Harlamert joined us.

So let's focus on the issue of last night regarding the parade by Phil White. What I should have said to everyone is that we are only here on this issue solely and because of the City Manager. About six weeks passed from the time the parade was approved (as directly and correctly

depicted in the Council Minutes) to when Mr. White sat in your office. I fail to see how having about six weeks to look at the minutes, actually have attended the Council meeting and possibly watch the Council video you did not as the City Manager realize there were five parade approvals. Mr. Wilson was extremely upset by what you did to Mr. White in which he had reason to be.. Your answer last night that you were reading was deflative. You did not and do not have the authority to override the Council's decision(s). That is exactly what you did. Instead of simply apologizing to Mr. White you deflected to(we). Who are we? I can only speculate that it is you and the department heads. The Council had to clean up your mess in public.

So seeing that you want to hear from me on issues, I will do it here and probably never visit your office again. The thread of trust that I had for you has now been broken. As City Manager you have the sole responsibility to oversee the day to day functions of the City. Based on what I will write below you have failed miserably and no longer have my support or more importantly my trust.

During the last fifteen months especially and for years before that I have heard nothing good from anyone about the way you serve the City. Most of the people that signed my petition to run for Council and the hundreds of others want you gone. After reading your email it just puts another and for me the last nail in the coffin. Your tentacles are long and far reaching but not long enough to reach me.

Public Works. I have had about the same number of complaints about Public Works as about you. The trees that were cut at the Beach, dumping fill material(s) in Derby of which some is contaminated. I and others will be watching Gardner Park work with a microscope. Removing fill from Prouty Beach where the trees were by dozens and dozens of truckloads. I can not find a filed permit for this as one was required. When the voluminous amount of fill was removed from the Beach area for the new path it was trucked to Derby and the City gravel pit and elsewhere. The City gravel pit is for removing material(s) when needed. The City gravel pit is not for storing fill material(s). I can not find where a permit was granted for storing this fill. Tens and tens of thousands of dollars were wasted in unnecessary transportation costs. I had complaints from residents when I was on The Planning Commission and after. There were piles of dirt at Prouty Beach with no silt fence or hay bales in which runoff dirty water headed towards the Lake. The City excavator was in the Lake over a weekend when the construction was going on. I have dozens of pictures still to show this. The City streets are horrible. Manhole covers are not installed correctly by the dozens throughout the City, actually causing damage to vehicles. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) This is already failing from last year on most streets where this was done. For the most part the speed limit in the City is 25 m.p.h. The City plows go by my house with the blade bouncing because of the excessive speed. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) Tom Bernier lied to me about a culvert under the Bluff Road. I asked him all of last summer to come over to Stagecoach Road and take a look at what the City has done to a few people on that Street, he never came but said it is on his radar. The City is dumping huge amounts of water onto private property on Stagecoach. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

I prevented prior to running for Council at least two more lawsuits against the City regarding these issues. I could go on and on.

You either don't care about these very serious issues or are not competent enough to properly deal with them. I don't think you have any clue what is really going on out there in Newport City.

What you did to Laurel Wilson was inexcusable. What you did to me as the Chair of the Planning Commission was inexcusable. What you did to the former Planning members that I served with and are now all gone was inexcusable. Not going through the proper process with the Planning and D.R.B. openings and trying to slip in Mr. Chennette was inexcusable. Most importantly what you did to Charlie Elliot was perhaps criminal. Not speaking with a Department Head (Charlie) for six months was inexcusable. This is why I am here to make sure these things don't happen any longer. I hear daily from constituents about the lack of proper leadership from you.

I can only imagine what is going to happen to those poor folks trying to rehab the Grandstand. Most of them are not pleased with you either. I will be meeting with some of them soon.

Regarding what you think I said about any Police officer working parades. I am fairly certain that you did not go over and beyond to find or ask any officers to work Phil White's Parade. LET ME BE PERFECTLY CLEAR! I AM NOT AND HAVE NEVER INTERFERED WITH ANY POLICE OPERATIONS. You do not have any authority over me to tell me who or whom I can or can not speak with, period. I have no intention of undermining any Newport City Police Officer. I have great admiration and respect for anyone who puts on the uniform and hits the streets. It is very dangerous out there in today's world. I also saw Mr. Bingham outside of the Municipal building after the meeting and apologized to him if I had offended him. Once again you are referring to (we), please don't deflect.

I would like you to once again understand the Chain of Command, you work for the City of Newport at the pleasure of the Newport City Council of which I happen to be a member. Please don't insult my intelligence about how things work. I don't need your help.

Your actions and yours alone, especially the email you sent today are out of line. I can not and will not tolerate this behavior from you. Based on all of the statements within this email I am asking for your immediate resignation. All of the things that you have done to me and all of the others (how many people, employees and department heads have left since your tenure)? Too many to count, and you and you alone are the common denominator. All of your actions are inexcusable.

I do not consider my (this email) confidential as I am not yet sure what I am going to do with it. This is only a tiny fraction of what I could write but I have time limitations to go further.

Regards, Clark Curtis.

On Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 4:40 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Clark

I want to follow up on your comment at last night's council meeting where you indicated you had already spoken to 2 law enforcement officers who were willing to work at the parade. I understand your son in law works for the police department and you live next door to another law enforcement officer.

These existing relationships do not give you license to interfere with police operations. We were taken aback that you felt it was appropriate to announce your coordination of this scheduling event on the record last night. This gives the appearance that you attempted to undermine the Chief of Police. This is unacceptable.

Council members are not to get involved in the inner workings of any departmental operations. If you have questions or ideas that you want to share with us, then please do not hesitate to contact me and share your ideas. I will research things that need to be researched and get back to you as we are eager to work with our new and seasoned council members.

The City of Newport employs an exceptional cadre of well qualified employees who do their respective jobs very well. If you have questions or suggestions about how we do our jobs, it is your responsibility to communicate those to me, outside the scope of a public meeting. This is the definition of 'chain of command' and I will appreciate you adhering to this. Please feel free to come in and discuss with me so that we have a clear understanding of our respective roles.

Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

From: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 5 Apr 2023 00:42:48 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Chain of Command

Laura,

I was warned by many that you would do this, I just didn't think so soon.

I take great offense to your comments.

I was told for 14 months from Citizens, former City department heads, former City Council members, former Planning Commission members and former City employees of your power and control issues.

This email will be long.

Please remember that the City Manager answers to the City Council, not the other way around.

Within a few days of being elected I came to your office and had what I thought was a productive meeting. Fire Chief John Harlamert joined us.

So let's focus on the issue of last night regarding the parade by Phil White. What I should have said to everyone is that we are only here on this issue solely and because of the City Manager. About six weeks passed from the time the parade was approved (as directly and correctly depicted in the Council Minutes) to when Mr. White sat in your office. I fail to see how having about six weeks to look at the minutes, actually have attended the Council meeting and possibly watch the Council video you did not as the City Manager realize there were five parade approvals. Mr. Wilson was extremely upset by what you did to Mr. White in which he had reason to be.. Your answer last night that you were reading was deflective. You did not and do not have the authority to override the Council's decision(s). That is exactly what you did. Instead of simply apologizing to Mr. White you deflected to(we). Who are we? I can only speculate that it is you and the department heads. The Council had to clean up your mess in public.

So seeing that you want to hear from me on issues, I will do it here and probably never visit your office again. The thread of trust that I had for you has now been broken. As City Manager you have the sole responsibility to oversee the day to day functions of the City. Based on what I will

write below you have failed miserably and no longer have my support or more importantly my trust.

During the last fifteen months especially and for years before that I have heard nothing good from anyone about the way you serve the City. Most of the people that signed my petition to run for Council and the hundreds of others want you gone. After reading your email it just puts another and for me the last nail in the coffin. Your tentacles are long and far reaching but not long enough to reach me.

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

This is already failing from last year on most streets where this was done. For the most part the speed limit in the City is 25 m.p.h. The City plows go by my house with the blade bouncing because of the excessive speed. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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I prevented prior to running for Council at least two more lawsuits against the City regarding these issues. I could go on and on.

You either don't care about these very serious issues or are not competent enough to properly deal with them. I don't think you have any clue what is really going on out there in Newport City.

What you did to Laurel Wilson was inexcusable. What you did to me as the Chair of the Planning Commission was inexcusable. What you did to the former Planning members that I served with and are now all gone was inexcusable. Not going through the proper process with the Planning and D.R.B. openings and trying to slip in Mr. Chennette was inexcusable. Most importantly what you did to Charlie Elliot was perhaps criminal. Not speaking with a Department Head (Charlie) for six months was inexcusable. This is why I am here to make sure these things don't happen any longer. I hear daily from constituents about the lack of proper leadership from you.

I can only imagine what is going to happen to those poor folks trying to rehab the Grandstand. Most of them are not pleased with you either. I will be meeting with some of them soon.

Regarding what you think I said about any Police officer working parades. I am fairly certain that you did not go over and beyond to find or ask any officers to work Phil White's Parade. **LET ME BE PERFECTLY CLEAR! I AM NOT AND HAVE NEVER INTERFERED WITH ANY POLICE OPERATIONS.** You do not have any authority over me to tell me who or whom I can or can not speak with, period. I have no intention of undermining any Newport City Police Officer. I have great admiration and respect for anyone who puts on the uniform and hits the streets. It is very dangerous out there in today's world. I also saw Mr. Bingham outside of the Municipal building after the meeting and apologized to him if I had offended him. Once again you are referring to (we), please don't deflect.

I would like you to once again understand the Chain of Command, you work for the City of Newport at the pleasure of the Newport City Council of which I happen to be a member. Please don't insult my intelligence about how things work. I don't need your help.

Your actions and yours alone, especially the email you sent today are out of line. I can not and will not tolerate this behavior from you. Based on all of the statements within this email I am asking for your immediate resignation. All of the things that you have done to me and all of the others (how many people, employees and department heads have left since your tenure)? Too many to count, and you and you alone are the common denominator. All of your actions are inexcusable.

I do not consider my (this email) confidential as I am not yet sure what I am going to do with it. This is only a tiny fraction of what I could write but I have time limitations to go further.

Regards, Clark Curtis.

On Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 4:40 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Clark

I want to follow up on your comment at last night's council meeting where you indicated you had already spoken to 2 law enforcement officers who were willing to work at the parade. I understand your son in law works for the police department and you live next door to another law enforcement officer.

These existing relationships do not give you license to interfere with police operations. We were taken aback that you felt it was appropriate to announce your coordination of this scheduling event on the record last night. This gives the appearance that you attempted to undermine the Chief of Police. This is unacceptable.

Council members are not to get involved in the inner workings of any departmental operations. If you have questions or ideas that you want to share with us, then please do not hesitate to contact me and share your ideas. I will research things that need to be researched and get back to you as we are eager to work with our new and seasoned council members.

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Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
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222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 5 Apr 2023 00:51:17 +0000
To: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Chain of Command

Confirming that I have received, and read this email.

Mayor Beth Barnes

On Apr 4, 2023, at 8:43 PM, Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Laura,

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Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sun, 9 Apr 2023 21:16:39 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: MCM Lease

Hello Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

I know you were working on a Draft Lease Agreement with the City Attorney so could you please send all of us if it's done. I'd like to have at least 2 weeks to review the Draft Agreement prior to putting it on the agenda.

Thanks so much for forwarding any supporting materials to me/us. I appreciate it, Laura.

Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

MB PRA4260

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 10 Apr 2023 13:37:40 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Mike Brown" <RecDirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Re:

Hi Beth

I am responding to your email of this morning and dovetailing it on the exchange we had about this back on March 30th.

The lease is being drafted and it will be provided as soon as it is available. We spoke to Farm & Forest Realty who suggested commercial is valued at about \$1 per square foot:

Active Properties:

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

Leased properties

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

When matters of real estate or lease options go before the city council, the open meeting law provides for an executive session to occur before any vote is taken 1 VSA 313(a)(2). Council will also have a chance to speak to the representatives of MCM. Any vote pertaining to the lease takes place after the executive session concludes and is taken on the record.

You can place this on the agenda for the May 1 council meeting if that works for you. Council should have all their questions answered before they vote. I hope this helps.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855

MB PRA4261

(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 4:14 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

Please allow some operational perspective. This lease with Memphremagog Community Maritime (MCM) for the second floor of the Gateway has been underway for several months, and is an operational duty that will be presented to the city council. The city has had a lease in place with MCM for approximately 3 years for the snack bar, and longer for the boat storage. The city has a good track record of cooperation and collaboration in working with MCM and this is important.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

The city has had prior leases for the Gateway with a variety of different entities, with many lessons learned over the years. These lessons are being translated into a lease that the attorney for MCM and the city attorney are working on, which the council will review once both parties agree to it. This process allows a unified presentation that the lease is in good agreeable order for presenting to the city council for approval. The rate is based upon the rental amount for previous leases with an escalator built at slightly less than \$1 per square foot.

Our rental records will show the second floor of the Gateway is not a highly sought after rental space. As far as our efforts in advertising its availability, this space is advertised the same way all other city entities are advertised.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

We have removed this item from Monday's agenda. If you'd like to instead hold an executive session to discuss negotiating a real estate purchase or lease option, we can do that. Our city attorney is available should he be needed.

Please advise.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

MB PRA4262

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Thank You.

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 8:04 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Good Morning, Laura,

Just wanted to follow up on a point covered in our meeting yesterday as we met to discuss the upcoming agenda, the rental of the entire top floor of the Gateway center. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED]

Also, I know that the upstairs of the Gateway is used as a rental space (most recently, all the mother/son, father/daughter highly successful events) and it is a valuable resource for the community as a picturesque and highly attractive option for events.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED]

Of course, I copy all city council members on this, as well as the Recreation Director.

Thank you so much for answers to my questions, which I know are many. I am sure I, and all council members will appreciate knowing more. I am on a steep learning curve and just trying to understand many things in a short space of time.

Best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

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Sent: Mon, 10 Apr 2023 14:06:01 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Mike Brown" <recdirector@newportrecreation.org>
Subject: Re:

Thank you, Laura, I'll see you this afternoon, look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to move forward.

Beth

On Apr 10, 2023, at 9:38 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

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Thank You.

From: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 17:17:48 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

Hi Beth,

The Parklet idea had been in the works for several years, spearheaded by Laura Dolgin and approved by the City Council. During the process it was not considered to be dedicated to a particular person. At the dedication of the Parklet, September 2022, some community members were honored for their service to Newport with park benches named after them. This was a well thought out tribute, which also creates the opportunity to honor others.

Michelene was truly an example of selfless service for Newport, I don't believe there is a person who would disagree with that. At the dedication her family was present and when one of the benches was named in her honor recognizing this service. Richard "Dick" Baraw was also honored with a bench named after him. Mr. Baraw served in the U.S. Military and then worked as a U.S. Customs Agent for well over 20 years. He served on the Newport Zoning Board as both a member and Chairperson for 19 years, a Council member for 16 years and Mayor for 2 years. He was also on the North Country Hospital Board for 12 years. By all accounts he was well liked and respected as a valuable member of the Newport Community.

Both of these individuals served Newport in different capacities to the best of their abilities. V.S.A.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
[Redacted]

Kevin

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 4:37 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello Kevin,

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Thanks, I look forward to your response and I always look forward to productive discourse.

Beth

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 17:35:19 +0000
To: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

Hi Kevin,

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Had I only known...

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On Apr 11, 2023, at 1:18 PM, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth,

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Micheline was truly an example of selfless service for Newport, I don't believe there is a person who would disagree with that. At the dedication her family was present and when one of the benches was named in her honor recognizing this service. Richard "Dick" Baraw was also honored with a bench named after him. Mr. Baraw served in the U.S. Military and then worked as a U.S. Customs Agent for well over 20 years. He served on the Newport Zoning Board as both a member and Chairperson for 19 years, a Council member for 16 years and Mayor for 2 years. He was also on the North Country Hospital Board for 12 years. By all accounts he was well liked and respected as a valuable member of the Newport Community.

Both of these individuals served Newport in different capacities to the best of their abilities.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 17:48:39 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Fwd: Parklet

As promised, Chris,
Beth

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: April 11, 2023 at 1:35:30 PM EDT
To: Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

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Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 17:56:58 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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[REDACTED]

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From: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 22:05:02 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

Good Evening,

I noticed that the initial emails sent to Kevin and I were both the same, except for the word always in the sign-off. I wonder if this was meant for the both of us, or a variation for me.

Kevin seemed to also cover many of the thoughts I had regarding the parklet, and went further into history and detail than I would be able to. These are two very important people in the history of Newport, and the ceremony and dedication were both beautifully presented with collaboration of the families. As Kevin stated, the parklet was many years coming and took many people to finalize and make it a reality, the grand opening ceremony was a truly beautiful event for those who attended.

The parklet within the heart of the city and with two great examples of what this city means being dedicated. They were both truly deserving of the honor. In speaking to community members since the ceremony, it has been the consensus that the park will continue to help represent all that is positive in the city. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

I would still consider the phone call I offered, please forward me the best phone number to reach you.

Regards,
Chris

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 1:42 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Chris,
Thanks. Tonite I have two Skype meetings and tomorrow I've been invited to a Let's Grow Kids Rally in Montpelier and probably won't be back until later. Under separate cover I'll

MB PRA4277

forward an email thread between kevin and I, for informational purposes only, under no circumstances am I inviting a conversation. I learned a lot from his email and wished I'd known it when I initially reached out, prior to the last meeting. However, better late than never. Always always feel free to tell me what you're thinking. I am a firm believer in listening and working together, and learning.

Thanks,
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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 22:21:01 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

hi chris,
no intentional variataion, sometimes I reread what I write and think I can make it better or that I forgot something. Please do not read into that, it was nothing more than probably thinking i could explain myself better.

my number, which I hope you will keep in your phone to use anytime is 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

I have no desire other than to work together to serve the community. Look forward to talking to you, Chris, it might be hit and miss but let's just keep trying if we don't connect the first time.

Just going into a planning meeting right now,
Beth

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 6:05 PM Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 23:37:02 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "James Johnson" <james.johnson.clerk@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <Rebecca.Therrien@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: VLCT City Manager Recruitment Services

Hello all,

I guess my first questions **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

Just some thoughts but I'd sure appreciate some input from those who are allowed to respond so we can start to formulate a plan of action..

Thanks,
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On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 4:48 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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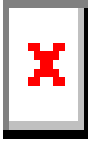
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I hope this quick summary is helpful. I'd be happy to talk with the mayor too.

Sincerely,

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89 Main St. Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602
Office: 802-262-1926
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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 11 Apr 2023 23:45:46 +0000
To: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Parklet

What an awesome idea, again, I so wish we'd have talked about it sooner. I like this idea, Kevin. I am ALWAYS available and open to talk, there is nothing off limits if it comes to serving and honoring and seeing our city go from strength-to-strength. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

I realize you don't know me but ask anyone who does, I am a team player. Thanks for your input, let's move forward with this idea and just see where it goes.

Teamwork, thanks!
Beth

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 1:57 PM Kevin Charboneau <K1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)>

Hi Beth,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Kevin

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Sent: Wed, 12 Apr 2023 08:51:07 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "James Johnson" <james.johnson.clerk@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <Rebecca.Therrien@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: VLCT City Manager Recruitment Services

Agree, wholeheartedly.
Beth

On Apr 11, 2023, at 8:23 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Good evening all,

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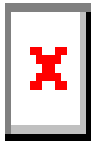
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Sent: Wed, 12 Apr 2023 10:12:04 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "James Johnson" <james.johnson.clerk@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <Rebecca.Therrien@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
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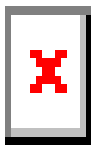
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Sent: Wed, 12 Apr 2023 10:35:34 +0000
To: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "James Johnson" <james.johnson.clerk@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <Rebecca.Therrien@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: VLCT City Manager Recruitment Services

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

I am in Montpelier all day to represent Newport at the Let's Grow Kids rally so please accept my apologies for radio silence until this evening.

It's a beautiful day, enjoy.
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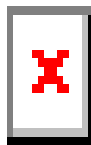
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Sincerely,

- Abby



Abby Friedman
Municipal Assistance Center Director
Vermont League of Cities & Towns
89 Main St. Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602
Office: 802-262-1926
afriedman@vlct.org
Pronouns: she, her, hers
VLCT.ORG

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To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "James Johnson" <james.johnson.clerk@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Rebecca Therrien" <Rebecca.Therrien@newportvermont.org>
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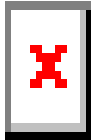
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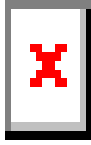
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To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
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Laura Dolgin, City Manager
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Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Also, I know that the upstairs of the Gateway is used as a rental space (most recently, all the mother/son, father/daughter highly successful events) and it is a valuable resource for the community as a picturesque and highly attractive option for events.

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Of course, I copy all city council members on this, as well as the Recreation Director.

Thank you so much for answers to my questions, which I know are many. I am sure I, and all council members will appreciate knowing more. I am on a steep learning curve and just trying to understand many things in a short space of time.

Best,
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<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>
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Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 13:42:49 +0000
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MB PRA4304

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MB PRA4307

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Subject: Re:

Hi Laura,

I have had a conversation with Ernie and have another planned with Jim Campbell the first week of may, following up on his idea about the \$1/sf. I am also researching local venues that are hired out for special occasions and have already gotten input that one wedding could fetch 1500+. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

While I gather more information from more local experts I'd like to wait until the following agenda. By then I should have some concrete stats and comps to share. This meeting I'd like the exec session to address the hiring of a new manager, how to proceed immediately. I haven't had a chance to look at other emails yet so I'm not sure if the contact at farm and forest was forwarded. I actually have time today in an effort to move forward with info gathering. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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MB PRA4310

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

We have removed this item from Monday's agenda. If you'd like to instead hold an executive session to discuss negotiating a real estate purchase or lease option, we can do that. Our city attorney is available should he be needed.

Please advise.

MB PRA4313

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 8:04 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Good Morning, Laura,

Just wanted to follow up on a point covered in our meeting yesterday as we met to discuss the upcoming agenda, the rental of the entire top floor of the Gateway center. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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Of course, I copy all city council members on this, as well as the Recreation Director.

Thank you so much for answers to my questions, which I know are many. I am sure I, and all council members will appreciate knowing more. I am on a steep learning curve and just trying to understand many things in a short space of time.

Best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

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<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 16:13:54 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re:

One more thought, I spoke at length with Dave Rugh yesterday and he stated that the lease isn't even complete yet. So once it is, I think we will all need more than a few days to digest it. Thx.
Beth

On Apr 13, 2023, at 9:43 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

This is on for an executive session on Monday. Can we leave it here for now? I'm not sure what you are looking for but it would be best to address this at the meeting. The open meeting law allows for an executive session to discuss matters of real estate or lease options under 1 VSA 313(a)(2).

We'll get more information at the executive session and a directive from the council will be made at that time. Council will vote on whatever they decide to do after the executive session is complete.

I have many projects I am working on to prepare the agenda for the council, and I will be out of the office some of today and tomorrow so I am quite pressed. I'll share the agenda in a minute...

Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
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Thank You.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 4:08 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Laura,

I've been pouring over the comps you sent 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED] I'd like to talk to the person who advised this per sf cost so I can

MB PRA4316

understand their thinking. I actually had my RE license in Long Beach and worked for a commercial RE firm so I guess that explains my intense curiosity.

I know all the folks at Farm and Forest so I'm sure o can easily connect when I know who you spoke to.

I'm working today but will have some breaks so when the agendas ready for approval go ahead and send it.

Thanks on both counts.
Beth

On Apr 12, 2023, at 9:50 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

\$1.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
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Thank You.

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 8:49 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Laura,
Just a quick question, did you mean \$1.00 or \$10.00/sf? Thanks so much, have a great day.
Beth

On Apr 10, 2023, at 10:06 AM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Thank you, Laura, I'll see you this afternoon, look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to move forward.
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I am responding to your email of this morning and dovetailing it on the exchange we had about this back on March 30th.

The lease is being drafted and it will be provided as soon as it is available. We spoke to Farm & Forest Realty who suggested commercial is valued at about \$1 per square foot:

Active Properties:

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

Leased properties

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

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You can place this on the agenda for the May 1 council meeting if that works for you. Council should have all their questions answered before they vote. I hope this helps.

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MB PRA4318

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MB PRA4319

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Thank You.

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 18:45:25 +0000
To: "David W. Rugh" <drugh@firm SPF.com>
Cc: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Attorney-Client Confidential - Gateway Center Leases

Thank you David.

Beth, is this back on the agenda? - please confirm.

In the meantime, Dave Converse from MCM has called to get an update. Beth, please call him back to provide expectations so he's clear. He is willing to attend Monday's meeting if that is helpful. His **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7), (25)**.

Please let me know if the executive session for the real estate lease options is back on, and please let me know what you tell Dave Converse so we have alignment.

Thank you.

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On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 2:03 PM David W. Rugh <drugh@firm SPF.com> wrote:

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Hi Laura and Beth,

I am copying both of you on this email to provide our recommendation and counsel.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

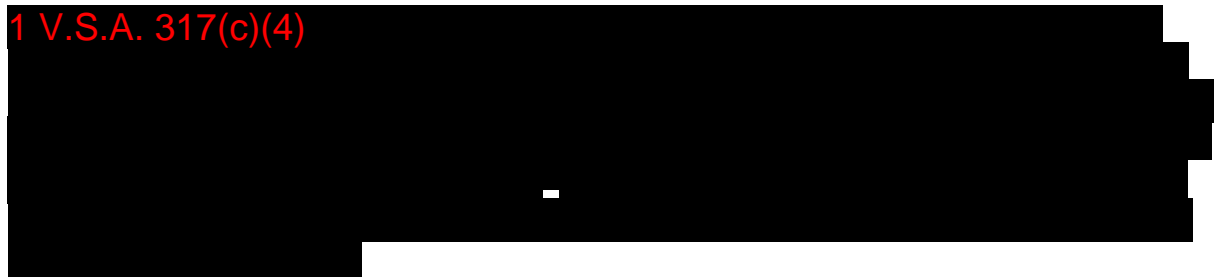
1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



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If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call. I should be in the office until about 5:00 today and on my cell tomorrow – 410-913-0864 – though I’m pretty booked up tomorrow, especially from 10:00-3:00.

Thanks,

Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

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Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

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Website: www.firmspf.com

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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 08:08:24 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re:

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MB PRA4325

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MB PRA4327

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 21:16:20 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Attorney-Client Confidential - Gateway Center Leases

On Apr 13, 2023, at 2:46 PM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Thank you David.

Beth, is this back on the agenda? - please confirm.

In the meantime, Dave Converse from MCM has called to get an update. Beth, please call him back to provide expectations so he's clear. He is willing to attend Monday's meeting if that is helpful. His # **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7), (25)**.

Please let me know if the executive session for the real estate lease options is back on, and please let me know what you tell Dave Converse so we have alignment.

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Hi Laura and Beth,

I am copying both of you on this email to provide our recommendation and counsel.

MB PRA4330

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call. I should be in the office until about 5:00 today and on my cell tomorrow – 410-913-0864 – though I’m pretty booked up tomorrow, especially from 10:00-3:00.

Thanks,

Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

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Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

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From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 21:27:39 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Attorney-Client Confidential - Gateway Center Leases

Hello Laura,

Due to the length and depth of this legal document, I want to wait til the next agenda so we all have plenty of time to read, digest and understand it.

Beth

On Apr 13, 2023, at 5:16 PM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

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On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 2:03 PM David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com> wrote:


ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

MB PRA4333

Hi Laura and Beth,

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call. I should be in the office until about 5:00 today and on my cell tomorrow – 410-913-0864 – though I’m pretty booked up tomorrow, especially from 10:00-3:00.

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Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

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From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 21:32:14 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Attorney-Client Confidential - Gateway Center Leases

Ok. Would you please call Dave Converse to let him know? The snack bar lease is supposed to begin May 1. His number is below.

Thank you.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 5:27 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

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Thank You.

MB PRA4337

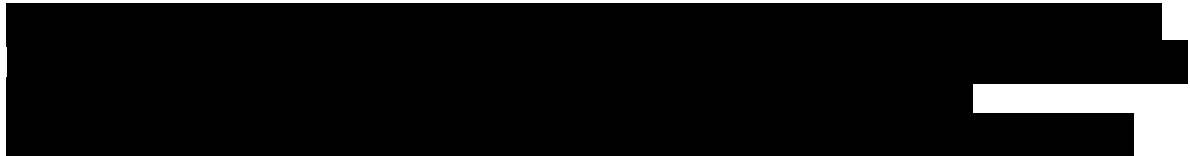
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drugh@firmspf.com

Website: www.firmspf.com

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MB PRA4339

In accordance with IRS Circular 230, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication was not written or intended to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code, or promoting, marketing or recommending to another person any transaction or matter addressed in this communication.

--

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 13 Apr 2023 23:15:51 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Re: Attorney-Client Confidential - Gateway Center Leases

Just spoke with Dave, he answered the questions from the email I sent to you today, so I was grateful for answers but awkward the mayor asking for details. I am satisfied with what Dave told me and am happy to put the Northern Star Ticket Center (formerly known as the snack Bar) on the agenda, but not the top floor yet until all of us have a chance to study the draft lease agreement. This is what Dave told me he understands so this is how I'd like this lease drafted, if this IS in fact the agreement with the city:

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Thank you
Beth barnes

On Apr 13, 2023, at 5:32 PM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Ok. Would you please call Dave Converse to let him know? The snack bar lease is supposed to begin May 1. His number is below.

Thank you.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 5:27 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello Laura,

Due to the length and depth of this legal document, I want to wait til the next agenda so we all have plenty of time to read, digest and understand it.

Beth

On Apr 13, 2023, at 5:16 PM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

On Apr 13, 2023, at 2:46 PM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Thank you David.

Beth, is this back on the agenda? - please confirm.

In the meantime, Dave Converse from MCM has called to get an update. Beth, please call him back to provide expectations so he's clear. He is willing to attend Monday's meeting if that is helpful. His **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7), (25)**

Please let me know if the executive session for the real estate lease options is back on, and please let me know what you tell Dave Converse so we have alignment.

Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
[City of Newport](#)
[222 Main St.](#)
[Newport, Vt. 05855](#)
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 2:03 PM David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com> wrote:

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Hi Laura and Beth,

I am copying both of you on this email to provide our recommendation and counsel.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call. I should be in the office until about 5:00 today and on my cell tomorrow – 410-913-0864 – though I’m pretty booked up tomorrow, especially from 10:00-3:00.

Thanks,

Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

[171 Battery Street](#)

MB PRA4343

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

drugh@firmspf.com

Website: www.firmspf.com

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Thank You.

MB PRA4344

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 14 Apr 2023 13:37:10 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Re: Attorney-Client Confidential - Gateway Center Leases

Hi Beth

Normally the role of mayor is to put matters on the agenda for council discussion or approval - not to do the internal work that we have already done. I am wading through the myriad of emails I have received on this subject and will update the agenda accordingly.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Thank you
Beth barnes

MB PRA4345

On Apr 13, 2023, at 5:32 PM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

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Thank you.

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In the meantime, Dave Converse from MCM has called to get an update. Beth, please call him back to provide expectations so he's clear. He is willing to attend Monday's meeting if that is helpful. His **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7), (25)**

Please let me know if the executive session for the real estate lease options is back on, and please let me know what you tell Dave Converse so we have alignment.

Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager

[City of Newport](#)

[222 Main St.](#)

[Newport, Vt. 05855](#)

(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

MB PRA4346

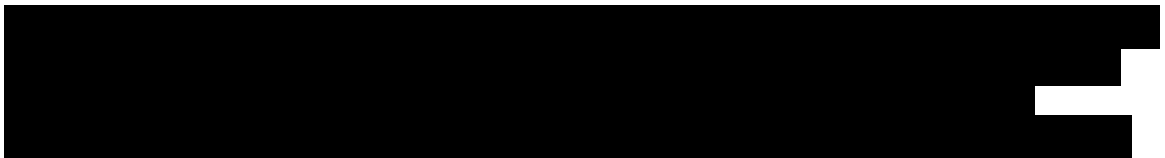
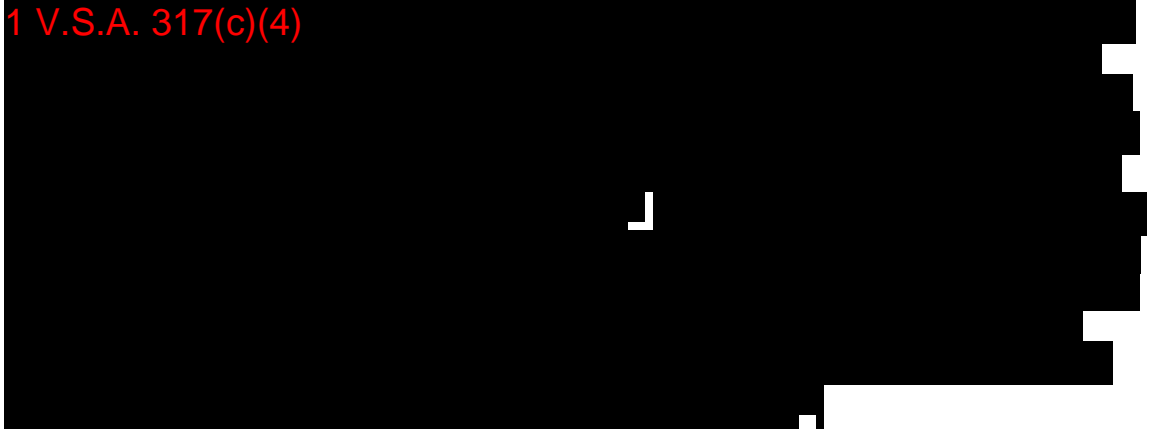
On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 2:03 PM David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com> wrote:

**ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
COMMUNICATION**

Hi Laura and Beth,

I am copying both of you on this email to provide our recommendation and counsel.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call. I should be in the office until about 5:00 today and on my cell tomorrow – 410-913-0864 – though I'm pretty booked up tomorrow, especially from 10:00-3:00.

Thanks,

Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

[171 Battery Street](#)

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

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Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 17 Apr 2023 14:54:45 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: meeting today

I don't know if you are going to use any of my suggestions so I've taken only a quick skim. The public hearing starts at 6. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Although there is a lot on the agenda, the meeting should be fairly efficient and adjourn swiftly.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 6:28 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
hey Laura,

As of last night my calendar has now changed, a small group of constituents have asked for some time to meet this morning and the only way I could make it happen was to cancel our meeting. Apologies. I am sending my script so you can just go over it for flow, as we have in the past two meetings. I appreciate your input, it is a word document, and now I'm thinking I should have put it in outlook. UGH, it was a long weekend working on it so guess we'll have to work with it this way.

Thanks for any suggestions,

Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>
<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

MB PRA4350

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 17 Apr 2023 15:00:04 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: meeting today

Thanks, Laura, I do value your suggestions and will go back in and adjust. This weekend Dave and I went back and forth on the parklet thing as I was so confused so he made some edits to my script and said to put it in as he presented it. I'm still trying to sort it out in my head but trust that I can read what he wrote.

Thanks for the other stuff. see you at SIX
Beth

On Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 10:55 AM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Although there is a lot on the agenda, the meeting should be fairly efficient and adjourn swiftly.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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MB PRA4352

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Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

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<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 17 Apr 2023 15:03:38 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: meeting today

Dave who? And if you already asked Dave, you don't really need my input.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 11:00 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[REDACTED]

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Laura Dolgin, City Manager

City of Newport
222 Main St.
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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 17 Apr 2023 17:31:26 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: meeting today

thanks, Laura, I needed your input on the overall flow, i've been going since 4 a.m. so just banged out a short email without too much description. What I value is your opinion of the flow and I did go back in and change the wordy bits. Thanks for that.

On Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 11:04 AM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Dave who? And if you already asked Dave, you don't really need my input.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

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Thanks for any suggestions,

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Thank You.

MB PRA4357

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 08:00:31 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Fwd: DO NOT DELETE

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: April 13, 2023 at 12:03:57 PM EDT
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re:

Hi Laura,

I have had a conversation with Ernie and have another planned with Jim Campbell the first week of may, following up on his idea about the \$1/sf. I am also researching local venues that are hired out for special occasions and have already gotten input that one wedding could fetch 1500+. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

While I gather more information from more local experts I'd like to wait until the following agenda. By then I should have some concrete stats and comps to share. This meeting I'd like the exec session to address the hiring of a new manager, how to proceed immediately. I haven't had a chance to look at other emails yet so I'm not sure if the contact at farm and forest was forwarded. I actually have time today in an effort to move forward with info gathering. I'm sure the other council members would appreciate having more info, rather than less so they/we can make an informed decision. Maybe you could forward the proposal presented by MCM to start the process, I think that could be really useful for all of us, again thanks.

Beth

On Apr 13, 2023, at 9:43 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

This is on for an executive session on Monday. Can we leave it here for now? I'm not sure what you are looking for but it would be best to address this at the meeting. The open meeting law allows for an executive session to discuss matters of real estate or lease options under 1 VSA 313(a)(2).

We'll get more information at the executive session and a directive from the council will be made at that time. Council will vote on whatever they decide to do after the executive session is complete.

I have many projects I am working on to prepare the agenda for the council, and I will be out of the office some of today and tomorrow so I am quite pressed. I'll share the agenda in a minute...

Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 4:08 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Laura,

I've been pouring over the comps you sent **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

I'd like to talk to the person who advised this per sf cost so I can understand their thinking. I actually had my RE license in Long Beach and worked for a commercial RE firm so I guess that explains my intense curiosity.

I know all the folks at Farm and Forest so I'm sure I can easily connect when I know who you spoke to.

I'm working today but will have some breaks so when the agendas ready for approval go ahead and send it.

Thanks on both counts.
Beth

On Apr 12, 2023, at 9:50 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

\$1.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 8:49 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Laura,
Just a quick question, did you mean \$1.00 or \$10.00/sf? Thanks so much, have a great day.
Beth

On Apr 10, 2023, at 10:06 AM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Thank you, Laura, I'll see you this afternoon, look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to move forward.
Beth

On Apr 10, 2023, at 9:38 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth
I am responding to your email of this morning and dovetailing it on the exchange we had about this back on March 30th.

The lease is being drafted and it will be provided as soon as it is available. We spoke to Farm & Forest Realty who suggested commercial is valued at about \$1 per square foot:

Active Properties:

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

Leased properties

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

When matters of real estate or lease options go before the city council, the open meeting law provides for an executive session to occur before any vote is taken 1 VSA 313(a)(2). Council will also have a chance to speak to the representatives of MCM. Any vote pertaining to the lease

takes place after the executive session concludes and is taken on the record.

You can place this on the agenda for the May 1 council meeting if that works for you. Council should have all their questions answered before they vote. I hope this helps.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 4:14 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

Please allow some operational perspective. This lease with Memphremagog Community Maritime (MCM) for the second floor of the Gateway has been underway for several months, and is an operational duty that will be presented to the city council. The city has had a lease in place with MCM for approximately 3 years for the snack bar, and longer for the boat storage. The city has a good track record of cooperation and collaboration in working with MCM and this is important.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

The city has had prior leases for the Gateway with a variety of different entities, with many lessons learned over the years. These lessons are being translated into a lease that the attorney for MCM and the city attorney are working on, which the council will review once both parties agree to it. This process allows a unified presentation that the lease is in good agreeable order for presenting to the city council for approval. The rate is based upon the rental amount for previous leases with an escalator built at slightly less than \$1 per square foot.

Our rental records will show the second floor of the Gateway is not a highly sought after rental space. As far as our efforts in advertising its availability, this space is advertised the same way all other city entities are advertised.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

We have removed this item from Monday's agenda. If you'd like to instead hold an executive session to discuss negotiating a real estate purchase or lease option, we can do that. Our city attorney is available should he be needed.

Please advise.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 8:04 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Good Morning, Laura,

Just wanted to follow up on a point covered in our meeting yesterday as we met to discuss the upcoming agenda, the rental of the entire top floor of the Gateway center. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Also, I know that the upstairs of the Gateway is used as a rental space (most recently, all the mother/son, father/daughter highly successful events) and it is a valuable resource for the community as a picturesque and highly attractive option for events.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Of course, I copy all city council members on this, as well as the Recreation Director.

Thank you so much for answers to my questions, which I know are many. I am sure I, and all council members will appreciate knowing more. I am on a steep learning curve and just trying to understand many things in a short space of time.

Best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 08:22:18 +0000
To: "elisabeth barnes" <gotwaveslb@gmail.com>
Subject: DO NOT DELETE DO NOT

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: April 24, 2023 at 4:00:42 AM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Fwd: DO NOT DELETE

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: April 13, 2023 at 12:03:57 PM EDT
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re:

Hi Laura,

I have had a conversation with Ernie and have another planned with Jim Campbell the first week of may, following up on his idea about the \$1/sf. I am also researching local venues that are hired out for special occasions and have already gotten input that one wedding could fetch 1500+. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

While I gather more information from more local experts I'd like to wait until the following agenda. By then I should have some concrete stats and comps to share. This meeting I'd like the exec session to address the hiring of a new manager, how to proceed immediately. I haven't had a chance to look at other emails yet so I'm not sure if the contact at farm and forest was forwarded. I actually have time today in an effort to move forward with info gathering. I'm sure the other council members would appreciate having more info, rather than less so they/we can make an informed decision. Maybe you could forward the proposal presented by MCM to start the process, I think that could be really useful for all of us, again thanks.

Beth

On Apr 13, 2023, at 9:43 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

This is on for an executive session on Monday. Can we leave it here for now? I'm not sure what you are looking for but it would be best to address this at the meeting. The open meeting law allows for an executive session to discuss matters of real estate or lease options under 1 VSA 313(a)(2).

We'll get more information at the executive session and a directive from the council will be made at that time. Council will vote on whatever they decide to do after the executive session is complete.

I have many projects I am working on to prepare the agenda for the council, and I will be out of the office some of today and tomorrow so I am quite pressed. I'll share the agenda in a minute...

Thank you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 4:08 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Laura,

I've been pouring over the comps you sent **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

I'd like to talk to the person who advised this per sf cost so I can understand their thinking. I actually had my RE license in Long Beach and worked for a commercial RE firm so I guess that explains my intense curiosity.

I know all the folks at Farm and Forest so I'm sure o can easily connect when I know who you spoke to.

I'm working today but will have some breaks so when the agendas ready for approval go ahead and send it.

Thanks on both counts.
Beth

MB PRA4365

On Apr 12, 2023, at 9:50 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

\$1.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 8:49 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Laura,
Just a quick question, did you mean \$1.00 or \$10.00/sf? Thanks so much, have a great day.
Beth

On Apr 10, 2023, at 10:06 AM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Thank you, Laura, I'll see you this afternoon, look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to move forward.
Beth

On Apr 10, 2023, at 9:38 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

I am responding to your email of this morning and dovetailing it on the exchange we had about this back on March 30th.

The lease is being drafted and it will be provided as soon as it is available. We spoke to Farm & Forest Realty who suggested commercial is valued at about \$1 per square foot:

Active Properties:

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

Leased properties

[Click Here to View Listings](#)

When matters of real estate or lease options go before the city council, the open meeting law provides for an executive session to occur before any vote is taken 1 VSA 313(a)(2). Council will also have a chance to speak to the representatives of MCM. Any vote pertaining to the lease takes place after the executive session concludes and is taken on the record.

You can place this on the agenda for the May 1 council meeting if that works for you. Council should have all their questions answered before they vote. I hope this helps.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
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Thank You.

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 4:14 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

Please allow some operational perspective. This lease with Memphremagog Community Maritime (MCM) for the second floor of the Gateway has been underway for several months, and is an operational duty that will be presented to the city council. The city has had a lease in place with MCM for approximately 3 years for the snack bar, and longer for the boat storage. The city has a good track record of cooperation and collaboration in working with MCM and this is important.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

The city has had prior leases for the Gateway with a variety of different entities, with many lessons learned over the years. These lessons are being translated into a lease that the attorney for MCM and

MB PRA4367

the city attorney are working on, which the council will review once both parties agree to it. This process allows a unified presentation that the lease is in good agreeable order for presenting to the city council for approval. The rate is based upon the rental amount for previous leases with an escalator built at slightly less than \$1 per square foot.

Our rental records will show the second floor of the Gateway is not a highly sought after rental space. As far as our efforts in advertising its availability, this space is advertised the same way all other city entities are advertised.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

We have removed this item from Monday's agenda. If you'd like to instead hold an executive session to discuss negotiating a real estate purchase or lease option, we can do that. Our city attorney is available should he be needed.

Please advise.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

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Good Morning, Laura,

Just wanted to follow up on a point covered in our meeting yesterday as we met to discuss the upcoming agenda, the rental of the entire top floor of the Gateway center. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Also, I know that the upstairs of the Gateway is used as a rental space (most recently, all the mother/son, father/daughter highly successful events) and it is a valuable resource for the community as a picturesque and highly attractive option for events.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Of course, I copy all city council members on this, as well as the Recreation Director.

Thank you so much for answers to my questions, which I know are many. I am sure I, and all council members will appreciate knowing more. I am on a steep learning curve and just trying to understand many things in a short space of time.

Best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

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MB PRA4369

Thank You.

From: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 25 Apr 2023 21:10:11 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Response to CM email re: MCM lease 4/25/2023

Beth,

MCM presented to the council last year, I believe, and explained their idea of using the second floor as an educational center and possibly progress from there, keeping council informed and collaborating as needed.

From what is attached, it does not sound like that plan has changed and intend to lease the second floor.

I would think proceeding in a timely manner would be best for this progression and wonder why this is not an item for May 1.

We all know the importance of our roles and know discussion is key, but this should include prompt movement.

Chris

On Tue, Apr 25, 2023, 4:52 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

(sent under separate cover to each council member so open meeting rules are not violated)

I would like to respond to the City Manager's email dated 4/25/2023 asking if the mayor is "taking over" negotiations for the Mephremagog Community Maritime (MCM) Gateway lease for the entire top floor, with the wish for the ground floor and as stated in the MCM Roadmap on page 16 it says: **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)**

MCM representatives (Mr. David Converse, Mr. Douglas Coutts and Mrs. Felicia Updyke) contacted ME asking for a meeting to discuss their plans. I made myself immediately available at their request and we met on April 21 in the City Council chambers. The City Manager was not there, nor did she appear on their invitation email to attend, and I did not query her absence. At that meeting, they asked to present at the City Council meeting to share their plans, of course I said yes and they are scheduled for May 15th, already communicating their thanks and eagerness to present.

MB PRA4371

I am trying to understand the ongoing negotiations between the City Manager and MCM representatives that seem to have started with the attached letter dated April 15, 2021 from the City Manager. Many things have changed in two years, namely a new Mayor, a new City Council member and a retiring City Manager. I could not find any historical indications that the former Mayor and city council had been informed in detail of these major plans for the Gateway and I believe the current council, who will be called upon to discuss and vote, also do not know of these plans in concept or detail, nor have they had the benefit of a personal presentation like I did on April 21, 2023. MCM's plans have naturally morphed and expanded since 2021, it only seems logical to revisit the details.

I believe it's my obligation to the voters and to the community to pursue the appropriate due diligence and shared with all council members at a council meeting open to our constituents. As mentioned, this will take place on May 15, 2023.

As elected stewards of the City of Newport we have a collective responsibility, and hopefully are in agreement that certain matters be thoroughly discussed to always ensure the highest benefit to the entire City of Newport.

Putting my signature as Mayor on a legal document, under the scrutiny of a Notary is not something I take lightly. I want and need to understand all documents I am advised to sign.

I ran for Mayor with one intention, to serve our community to the very best of my ability. This is what I am trying to do. I look forward to the May 15th presentation.

Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

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Thank You.

MB PRA4372

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 25 Apr 2023 23:52:48 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Response to CM email re: MCM lease 4/25/2023

Thanks Chris, they've already planned for the 15th.
Appreciate your feedback, Mr Wilson didn't know about the upstairs lease so it would suggest we do need a refresher.
Thank you again, so much for your prompt response, it's really appreciated.
Beth

On Apr 25, 2023, at 5:10 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Beth,

MCM presented to the council last year, I believe, and explained their idea of using the second floor as an educational center and possibly progress from there, keeping council informed and collaborating as needed.

From what is attached, it does not sound like that plan has changed and intend to lease the second floor.

I would think proceeding in a timely manner would be best for this progression and wonder why this is not an item for May 1.

We all know the importance of our roles and know discussion is key, but this should include prompt movement.

Chris

On Tue, Apr 25, 2023, 4:52 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

(sent under separate cover to each council member so open meeting rules are not violated)

I would like to respond to the City Manager's email dated 4/25/2023 asking if the mayor is "taking over" negotiations for the Mephremagog Community Maritime (MCM) Gateway lease for the entire top floor, with the wish for the ground floor and as stated in the MCM Roadmap on page 16 it says: **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)**

(I attach all detailed documents MCM sent me).

MB PRA4373

MCM representatives (Mr. David Converse, Mr. Douglas Coutts and Mrs. Felicia Updyke) contacted ME asking for a meeting to discuss their plans. I made myself immediately available at their request and we met on April 21 in the City Council chambers. The City Manager was not there, nor did she appear on their invitation email to attend, and I did not query her absence. At that meeting, they asked to present at the City Council meeting to share their plans, of course I said yes and they are scheduled for May 15th, already communicating their thanks and eagerness to present.

I am trying to understand the ongoing negotiations between the City Manager and MCM representatives that seem to have started with the attached letter dated April 15, 2021 from the City Manager. Many things have changed in two years, namely a new Mayor, a new City Council member and a retiring City Manager. I could not find any historical indications that the former Mayor and city council had been informed in detail of these major plans for the Gateway and I believe the current council, who will be called upon to discuss and vote, also do not know of these plans in concept or detail, nor have they had the benefit of a personal presentation like I did on April 21, 2023. MCM's plans have naturally morphed and expanded since 2021, it only seems logical to revisit the details.

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Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont

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Thank You.

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 13:58:32 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firm SPF.com>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Response to CM email re: MCM lease 4/25/2023

Hi Folks

It seems everyone is falling over themselves to be the first to put their best foot forward.

As city manager, I have been working with MCM for several months. This work was based on their representations to the city council and the city council's favorable response to their efforts. MCM has needed time to come forward with this proposal and to their credit, it is now ripe - they have worked hard. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)**

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

My intention was to have MCM present to the council with my endorsement. The lease would have been presented in the same meeting. Council would have been well informed as they would have the attorney approved materials in advance.

I am confused and out of the loop since Beth's inquiries on the market rate, her meeting with the MCM reps last week, and her representations that she is working with the city attorney. No follow up has been provided to me other than requesting this be placed on the May 15 agenda. I have stopped working on the lease because of the lack of communication.

I do not have the materials that Beth references available to me. The lease work underway with the city attorney that I had started is in a state of mystery; I am concerned those attorney fees incurred are now for nothing. I am equally uncomfortable categorizing MCM as a 'dog and pony show' as their efforts are sincere.

Much appreciation to Chris for voicing his concerns as I share them as well. With the new members on the council I was looking forward to a period of orientation but that has not happened. I make myself available to try and get this MCM matter understood and squared away.

Beth, the agenda for May 1 will be shared with you tomorrow as I am away from the office today.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

MB PRA4376

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Thank You.

On Wed, Apr 26, 2023 at 5:25 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Apologies, Chris, they seem to be in order. I sought counsel from the city attorney before I accepted the invitation to listen to MCM's dog and pony show. He informed me I could listen but make no comments that could suggest support or non support, I followed his advice to the letter and stated such even before MCM got started with their presentation. MCM will validate that I made it extremely clear I was there just to listen, not to comment.

After this courtesy presentation I informed the council and sent all the documents that MCM sent to me, and cc'd the city manager on one that i sent to Kevin so she didn't receive four of the same email. there is nothing I haven't shared, nor do I have a reason not to share, we are a council. I shared the proposal for a search firm to try and get the ball rolling on the city manager search. I have heard nothing from anyone other than a thank you from John. I spent time sending separate emails to each city council member with all the MCM attachments because Mr. Curtis hadn't seen them and during a water and sewer meeting Mr. Wilson said he knew nothing about an upstairs lease either, nor the downstairs or **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)**

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

These are all documents that are new since their presentation to the former city council in May 2021.

Also, when I met with MCM last Friday they wanted to do the dog and pony for me that they'd done for the council. I did the right thing after sitting through it, in my mind by saying the whole council should see it, hence their being on the may 15 agenda. Since their council presentation to the former council in 2021 they have produced a detailed MCM Roadmap, seem to have a more sophisticated vision and when they presented to the former council I'm not sure they were talking about taking over ALL city dock operations like they are now in the Roadmap? I am a bit confused as to why it wasn't voted on and passed in 2021? Now, 2 years later we are faced with a new Mayor and new city council member and a former city council member who, understandably, doesn't remember the details from a presentation 2 years ago. I feel strongly that we need to bring everyone up to speed before an informed vote can be taken.

Thank you for your response and your helpful feedback, I appreciate it now, and will always appreciate it. I take your suggestions and constructive criticisms in the spirit they are given, to help me be a better Mayor.

2 months in and I'm still standin 😊

Beth

On Apr 25, 2023, at 8:48 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Beth,

In an effort to help us get all on the same page, I wanted to share a couple other items or thoughts.

Many of the topics being brought by you have already come to the council table and have been presented to us with plans and discussions already had. I do understand your newness to all that is happening in Newport, and am asking you to start cc'ing council members when conducting business or having communications that will then be brought before us. This should include sharing or forwarding non-confidential communications from residents that could impact our decision at the table. I also want you to start cc'ing council members when pursuing items that relate to city business. This way we do not have to repeat what has already been done, and not impede progress in the city.

I feel I have been left out of conversations. I have not been privy to context when I receive emails from you, and then I must try to understand where the information is coming from, and why, if it is, being repeated. Like you said, we all have a serious job that has been handed to us by the entirety of Newport, and it is nothing we take lightly, but we also need to do our own due diligence and research matters to keep progress moving and open the flow of information to all that need to know.

One of the challenges of our roles is coming to the table with as much background information as possible. Laura, in her role as city manager, has kept us informed and we have been expecting the second floor lease from her. I understand that a refresher presentation may be helpful, but your questioning of market rates has led to confusion. With this in mind for the matter at hand, I am linking the council meeting from 5/17/21 at which Doug presented for the MCM on their plan and ideas (my apologies in thinking it was last year). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc0blnR30f4>

I would ask you to please look over the VLCT resources. I also know from my own experiences the Newport City staff are a fantastic resource for process and updates. They have decades of experience and I communicate with them regularly and find it exceptionally beneficial. This in combination with the bimonthly updates from the city manager, and conversations with residents, ensure I arrive at the table with as much information as possible.

We are all working toward making the best future possible for Newport. Please keep us informed.

Chris

On Tue, Apr 25, 2023 at 7:53 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Thanks Chris, they've already planned for the 15th.
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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)

(I attach all detailed documents MCM sent me).

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**Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont**

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 15:45:07 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gateway Lease Review

Hi Laura,
These were sent this morning, the documents you thought you might be missing
Beth

On Apr 25, 2023, at 4:44 PM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

(sent under separate cover to each council member so open meeting rules are not violated)

I would like to respond to the City Manager's email dated 4/25/2023 asking if the mayor is "taking over" negotiations for the Mephremagog Community Maritime (MCM) Gateway lease for the entire top floor, with the wish for the ground floor and as stated in the MCM Roadmap on page 16 it says: **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)**

(I attach all documents MCM sent , and a draft copy of the lease).

MCM representatives (Mr. David Converse, Mr. Douglas Coutts and Mrs. Felicia Updyke) contacted me asking for a meeting to discuss their plans. I did not initiate this meeting. I made myself immediately available at their request and we met on April 21 in the City Council chambers. The City Manager was not there, nor did she appear on their invitation email to attend, and I did not query her absence. At that meeting, they asked to present at the City Council meeting to share their plans, of course I said yes and they are scheduled for May 15th, already communicating their thanks and eagerness to present.

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I believe it's my obligation to the voters and to the community to pursue the appropriate due diligence and share with all council members at a council meeting open to our constituents. As mentioned, this will take place on May 15, 2023.

As elected stewards of the City of Newport we have a collective responsibility, and hopefully are in agreement that certain matters be thoroughly discussed to always ensure the highest benefit to the entire City of Newport.

Putting my signature as Mayor on a legal document, such as a lease, under the scrutiny of a Notary is not something I take lightly. I want and need to understand all documents I am advised to sign.

I ran for Mayor with one intention, to serve our community to the very best of my ability. This is what I am trying to do. I look forward to the May 15th presentation.

Beth

On Tue, Apr 25, 2023 at 8:41 AM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Beth

Could you please explain what this is about? Have you taken over negotiations with MCM regarding the potential for the second floor lease?

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Converse** <david.converse@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, Apr 25, 2023 at 8:31 AM
Subject: Re: Gateway Lease Review
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: douglas coutts <douglascoutts@gmail.com>, Felicia Updyke <feliciaupdyke@gmail.com>, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

Thank you Beth and we look forward to presenting at the council meeting.

Sent from David's iPad

MB PRA4383

On Apr 24, 2023, at 6:33 PM, Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello Doug, David and Felicia,

As promised, I wanted to get back to you all as soon as possible to let you know that I would like to invite you to make your presentation on May 15, 2023 at the regular council meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at the Municipal Building..

Thank you for the many documents you have sent. I am in the process of reading them all and shall forward them to each city council member tomorrow.. This is new and highly detailed information to all of us, so we'll certainly appreciate you being at the meeting.

Warm regards,

**Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont**

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

<Gateway Exhibit Ideas.docx>

<Gateway managing.docx>

<gateway amended letter 2021.pdf>

<Gateway draft lease upstairs.pdf>

<Gateway MCM Road Map FINAL 7252022.pdf>

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 09:24:48 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>; "Laura Dolgin" <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Response to CM email re: MCM lease 4/25/2023

Apologies, Chris, they seem to be in order. I sought counsel from the city attorney before I accepted the invitation to listen to MCM's dog and pony show. He informed me I could listen but make no comments that could suggest support or non support, I followed his advice to the letter and stated such even before MCM got started with their presentation. MCM will validate that I made it extremely clear I was there just to listen, not to comment.

After this courtesy presentation I informed the council and sent all the documents that MCM sent to me, and cc'd the city manager on one that i sent to Kevin so she didn't receive four of the same email. there is nothing I haven't shared, nor do I have a reason not to share, we are a council. I shared the proposal for a search firm to try and get the ball rolling on the city manager search. I have heard nothing from anyone other than a thank you from John. I spent time sending separate emails to each city council member with all the MCM attachments because Mr. Curtis hadn't seen them and during a water and sewer meeting Mr. Wilson said he knew nothing about an upstairs lease either, nor the downstairs or **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)**
1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
These are all documents that are new since their presentation to the former city council in May 2021.

Also, when I met with MCM last Friday they wanted to do the dog and pony for me that they'd done for the council. I did the right thing after sitting through it, in my mind by saying the whole council should see it, hence their being on the may 15 agenda. Since their council presentation to the former council in 2021 they have produced a detailed MCM Roadmap, seem to have a more sophisticated vision and when they presented to the former council I'm not sure they were talking about taking over ALL city dock operations like they are now in the Roadmap? I am a bit confused as to why it wasn't voted on and passed in 2021? Now, 2 years later we are faced with a new Mayor and new city council member and a former city council member who, understandably, doesn't remember the details from a presentation 2 years ago. I feel strongly that we need to bring everyone up to speed before an informed vote can be taken.

Thank you for your response and your helpful feedback, I appreciate it now, and will always appreciate it. I take your suggestions and constructive criticisms in the spirit they are given, to help me be a better Mayor.

2 months in and I'm still standin 😊

Beth

On Apr 25, 2023, at 8:48 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Beth,

In an effort to help us get all on the same page, I wanted to share a couple other items or thoughts.

Many of the topics being brought by you have already come to the council table and have been presented to us with plans and discussions already had. I do understand your newness to all that is happening in Newport, and am asking you to start cc'ing council members when conducting business or having communications that will then be brought before us. This should include sharing or forwarding non-confidential communications from residents that could impact our decision at the table. I also want you to start cc'ing council members when pursuing items that relate to city business. This way we do not have to repeat what has already been done, and not impede progress in the city.

I feel I have been left out of conversations. I have not been privy to context when I receive emails from you, and then I must try to understand where the information is coming from, and why, if it is, being repeated. Like you said, we all have a serious job that has been handed to us by the entirety of Newport, and it is nothing we take lightly, but we also need to do our own due diligence and research matters to keep progress moving and open the flow of information to all that need to know.

One of the challenges of our roles is coming to the table with as much background information as possible. Laura, in her role as city manager, has kept us informed and we have been expecting the second floor lease from her. I understand that a refresher presentation may be helpful, but your questioning of market rates has led to confusion. With this in mind for the matter at hand, I am linking the council meeting from 5/17/21 at which Doug presented for the MCM on their plan and ideas (my apologies in thinking it was last year).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc0blnR30f4>

I would ask you to please look over the VLCT resources. I also know from my own experiences the Newport City staff are a fantastic resource for process and updates. They have decades of experience and I communicate with them regularly and find it exceptionally beneficial. This in

combination with the bimonthly updates from the city manager, and conversations with residents, ensure I arrive at the table with as much information as possible.

We are all working toward making the best future possible for Newport. Please keep us informed.

Chris

On Tue, Apr 25, 2023 at 7:53 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Thanks Chris, they've already planned for the 15th.

Appreciate your feedback, Mr Wilson didn't know about the upstairs lease so it would suggest we do need a refresher.

Thank you again, so much for your prompt response, it's really appreciated.

Beth

On Apr 25, 2023, at 5:10 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Beth,

MCM presented to the council last year, I believe, and explained their idea of using the second floor as an educational center and possibly progress from there, keeping council informed and collaborating as needed.

From what is attached, it does not sound like that plan has changed and intend to lease the second floor.

I would think proceeding in a timely manner would be best for this progression and wonder why this is not an item for May 1.

We all know the importance of our roles and know discussion is key, but this should include prompt movement.

Chris

On Tue, Apr 25, 2023, 4:52 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

(sent under separate cover to each council member so open meeting rules are not violated)

I would like to respond to the City Manager's email dated 4/25/2023 asking if the mayor is "taking over" negotiations for the Mephremagog Community Maritime (MCM) Gateway lease for the entire top floor, with the wish for the ground floor and as stated in the MCM Roadmap on page 16 it says: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(9)

(I attach all detailed documents MCM sent me).

MCM representatives (Mr. David Converse, Mr. Douglas Coutts and Mrs. Felicia Updyke) contacted ME asking for a meeting to discuss their plans. I made myself immediately available at their request and we met on April 21 in the City Council chambers. The City Manager was not there, nor did she appear on their invitation email to attend, and I did not query her absence. At that meeting, they asked to present at the City Council meeting to share their plans, of course I said yes and they are scheduled for May 15th, already communicating their thanks and eagerness to present.

I am trying to understand the ongoing negotiations between the City Manager and MCM representatives that seem to have started with the attached letter dated April 15, 2021 from the City Manager. Many things have changed in two years, namely a new Mayor, a new City Council member and a retiring City Manager. I could not find any historical indications that the former Mayor and city council had been informed in detail of these major plans for the Gateway and I believe the current council, who will be called upon to discuss and vote, also do not know of these plans in concept or detail, nor have they had the benefit of a personal presentation like I did on April 21, 2023. MCM's plans have naturally morphed and expanded since 2021, it only seems logical to revisit the details.

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Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

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Thank You.

From: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 00:48:26 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Response to CM email re: MCM lease 4/25/2023

Beth,

In an effort to help us get all on the same page, I wanted to share a couple other items or thoughts.

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**Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont**

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Thank You.

From: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 27 Apr 2023 09:58:11 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: City Manager search info

Thanks for the update.

On Wed, Apr 26, 2023 at 8:22 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES please do not respond with "reply all"

Hello,

I had a very long conversation with Mr. Ted Brady today. He is the Executive Director of VLCT. The conversation touched on the search for a CM and he was pleased to hear that Mr. Cory Parent had submitted a proposal to help lead the search. Mr. Parent was actually referred by Mr. Brady when VLCT couldn't help us. Mr. Parent comes highly recommended by Senator Welch's office, Ms. Jessie Baker, City Manager of South Burlington and of course Mr. Brady, and he has recently placed the City Manager for the town of St. Albans

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Attached is an article of a town that wanted a consultant to help with their search but could not find one. There is also an article about a town that appointed a citizen board to help with the search. I hope you've had a chance to read the Leontine proposal and we can revisit options on Monday in another Executive Session. I am sure Mr. Parent can be available via zoom to join us for Q&A so everyone feels fully informed. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

Beth

https://www.timesargus.com/news/local/manager-search-headed-for-home-stretch/article_045852bb-0aaa-59ba-8bb8-de75748747de.html

Brandon creates community search panel for Town Manager
brandonreporter.com



From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 27 Apr 2023 00:22:00 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: City Manager search info

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Beth

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Brandon creates community search panel for Town Manager
brandonreporter.com



MB PRA4395

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 10:47:06 +0000
To: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Exec session question

Hi Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17), (4)
Could you set me straight? 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17), (4)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17), (4)

Thx so much and see you Monday night.

Beth

On Apr 28, 2023, at 3:47 PM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Folks

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

On Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 3:43 PM David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com> wrote:

Hi Beth,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



Have a nice weekend,
Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.
Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.
171 Battery Street
P.O. Box 1507
Burlington, VT 05402-1507
Phone: 802-660-2555
Fax: 802-660-2552
drugh@firmspf.com
Website: www.firmspf.com

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In accordance with IRS Circular 230, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication was not written or intended to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code, or promoting, marketing or recommending to another person any transaction or matter addressed in this communication.

-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:34 PM
To: David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com>
Cc: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Exec session question

MB PRA4397

Thank you, Dave. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

Thx as always

On Apr 28, 2023, at 9:54 AM, David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com> wrote:

Hi Beth and Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

If there are further questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.
Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.
171 Battery Street
P.O. Box 1507
Burlington, VT 05402-1507
Phone: 802-660-2555
Fax: 802-660-2552

drugh@firmspf.com

Website: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_www.firmspf.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=fnSvsGpIly5FI0enHX5TuSnSY99Xh7ELRHqE0jype40&e=

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-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_beth.barnes-40newportvermont.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=ls6u6kpbuhs8KvzdATDpisG6FJVNh5c7Z_hrJJitgM&e=>>


Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 6:24 PM

To: Laura Dolgin <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_Laura.Dolgin-40newportvermont.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=YNmdzkLAWIuZk_mJMzwhj6O>

[r9VrpF5fcB_ylZPGiGyQ&e=>](#); David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Exec session question

Hi

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



Beth

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 12:14:06 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Exec session question

Hopefully you will heed my advice.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

On Sat, Apr 29, 2023 at 6:47 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17), (4)

[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17), (4)

Thx so much and see you Monday night.
Beth

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[Newport, Vt. 05855](#)

(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 3:43 PM David W. Rugh <drugh@firm SPF.com> wrote:

Hi Beth,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

Have a nice weekend,

Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

MB PRA4402

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

[171 Battery Street](#)

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

drugh@firmspf.com

Website: www.firmspf.com

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-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:34 PM

To: David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com>

Cc: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

Subject: Re: Exec session question

Thank you, Dave. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)**


Thx as always

On Apr 28, 2023, at 9:54 AM, David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com> wrote:


Hi Beth and Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the first section of the document.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the second section of the document.A large black rectangular redaction box covers the entire third section of the document.

If there are further questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.
Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

[171 Battery Street](#)

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

drugh@firmspf.com

Website: <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http->

[3A www.firmspf.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=fnSvsGpIly5FI0enHX5TuSnSY99Xh7ELRHqE0jype40&e=](http://www.firmspf.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=fnSvsGpIly5FI0enHX5TuSnSY99Xh7ELRHqE0jype40&e=)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes <[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_beth.barnes-40newportvermont.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=ls6u6kpbuhs8KvzdATDpisG6FvJVNh5c7Z_hrJJitgM&e=>](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_beth.barnes-40newportvermont.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=ls6u6kpbuhs8KvzdATDpisG6FvJVNh5c7Z_hrJJitgM&e=)>

Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 6:24 PM

To: Laura Dolgin <[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_Laura.Dolgin-40newportvermont.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=YNmdzkLAWIuZk_mJMzwhj6Or9VrpF5fcB_ylZPGiGyQ&e=">](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_Laura.Dolgin-40newportvermont.org&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=6benmUK3Bt1a2u8ZraKJo0FvmR2VpGR-sfHsfyGe-ak&m=a-70Ip769bz5Y7OJbVaEyG_0ChSWU8Tue7Mf8C1xaRs&s=YNmdzkLAWIuZk_mJMzwhj6Or9VrpF5fcB_ylZPGiGyQ&e=)>; David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com>

Subject: Exec session question

Hi

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



Beth

--
Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855

MB PRA4405

(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 4 May 2023 19:49:56 +0000
To: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

thanks, Kevin. Great re-cap and I really appreciate it. I remember a lot of it but you really filled in a lot of the blanks.

On Thu, May 4, 2023 at 12:31 PM Kevin Charboneau
<Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth,

Some background information on the EB 5 Program (this is a simplistic watered down version): The State/Federal Government initiated a program where-in a foreign investor could invest \$500,000.00 to a development in a disadvantaged part of the state, with certain provisions such as the investment must create x-amount of jobs. In return they would receive a Green Card allowing them to travel to the US.

Reference the downtown block:

2015 It was purchased from Doug Spates by Quiros and Stenger as part of the 'EB 5' program with promises by them to convert it to a thriving building referred to as "The Renaissance Block". Within a year or so, it was found that although a lot of money was generated by foreign investors and used to develop Burke Mtn and Jay Peak, the program was plagued with fraud and the money was not used for it's intended purpose, specifically the block downtown and the Bogner property. The Government, through the courts, seized property purchased with EB 5 money and turned it over to a court appointed receiver, who was tasked with trying to recover foreign investor monies illegally used and pay them back.

So there are a few things of importance for us to know:

- The City does not own the properties of Spates Block or Bogner.
- The City of Newport has not invested any money in the Spates Block nor the Bogner Property. The City is out \$0 dollars.
- We do not advertise, sell or have any development plans for these properties.
- When Jay Peak was sold, the money from that sale was paid out in accordance with the Courts directives, which was to reimburse scammed investors. That is why the City of Newport was not named as receiving any money in court documents. This refers to your email of last week wondering why Newport did not get ant cash from Jay Peak sale.
- To recap: The City did not invest in EB 5, ergo, we get no money. We do not own the properties, we do not control the sale of the properties. Our interests is making sure that when the properties are sold that they compliment/enhance the City.

Moving forward:

- 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)



-Governor Scott has vowed to help. When he was here for the Centennial Celebration, along with our Senators and Representatives, he got a first hand look at the un-developed block and was able to see it's impact on Newport. A key point is that our City Manager spent an enormous amount of time and energy to organize the Centennial celebration as well as obtain the money for the celebration (which I believe was well over \$250,000.00).

-There was a mention of the State providing money to Newport to help the city move forward. Then COVID hit. Everything was shut down, EVERYTHING. School went remote, business's struggled to stay open, people were told to stay home or severely limit social interactions. Yet, Newport stayed open, our business's were hit hard, but for the most part, they survived. Our City Manager kept the City going. We had passed an ATV ordinance a couple months prior to COVID. Newport residents drove there ATVs to Newport, for ice cream, to go to local restaurants, this ordinance was crucial to helping the City survive. Day to day city operations continued and essential city services continued, thanks to our City Manager. Major projects and grants were delayed, but kept alive, thanks to our City Manager.

-As the world gradually recovered from COVID many things were different and expensive. The Governor remembered his promise to Newport and made grants available for Newport. This was the money promised and it was disbursed in a fair and equitable manner, which our City Manager was a part of.

-The State of Vermont realized, due in part to COVID, that the Superior Court Building, was dated and unsafe on many different levels (ie. air filtration, officer safety transporting prisoners to court, insufficient meeting space for attorney's, etc.). They (SOV Building and General Services) are exploring options to either construct a new Court house or renovate the current one. This is where we are at currently. Our Sen. Russ Ingalls and Rep. Woody Page could provide information on the current intentions of the state.

I am greatly concerned about your emails to have this information explained to you when it is literally only a few key strokes away. I can only imagine what the City's bill will be from our City Attorney as he receives copies of emails and questions seemingly on a daily basis. I was curious when you inserted yourself in negotiations with the Gateway Lease agreement. This is NOT the Mayor's responsibility, it is our City Manager's job. Time and time again we have seen the City Manager do outstanding work and putting Newport in a favorable light. Since my time on the Council there has been a small, vocal group of residents who are ready and waiting to publicly chastise and berate the City Manager for any perceived error, making the most of each incident much like a public stoning. I had hoped for change a more civil discourse, but that does not appear to be the case. Here's what you need to do: Research the voluminous data on EB 5, which is free and accessible, this will probably answer some of your questions. Let the City Manager do her job! Granted she answers to us, but her job is to run Newport City and bring any issue to the Council that requires our input. We do not need to be involved in the day to day operations. We are all on the same page as the direction we want Newport to go (I believe we passed a 5 year plan).

These incessant, derogatory emails bashing our City Manager need to stop, now! If you have questions or concerns Mr. John Wilson can be a viable resource to provide an answer and also history on the subject matter. To write that you want to be an active, integral and immediate part of this conversation is, in my opinion, an overstep of your authority. You speak only for the City only with the Council's assent. I must have missed the part of the meeting when the

Council said to reach out to the various entities you mentioned that your meeting with. Unless I missed something you are doing this to educate yourself, not on behalf of the city.

Just stop, I've had all I can take.

I do not want a reply to this email.

Kevin Charboneau

On Thu, May 4, 2023 at 5:30 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Hello,

As an update, I have zooms today and two early next week to meet and become familiar with David White (White and Burke), David Snedeker (NVDA) and Michael Goldberg (EB5 Receiver). Each one expressed appreciation that I reached out and each one made immediate room on their schedules to assist me in understanding some of the history that brings us to today with the hole issue.

However, in seeking information from our own City Manager who is leaving in less than 30 days, please see her response when I asked for similar background. When I asked the city attorney I received an echo of the city managers response.

These are unacceptable answers to my request for information in order to understand a serious city issue.

As a professional courtesy to all city council members and the mayor, please explain by way of return email an answer to my original email query, what was the Governor referring to when he said the State is working with the City. I have no plans, incidentally to meet with the city manager, nor were any suggested hence this request now for ALL of us to be updated via return email so we can all understand the current state of affairs.

I'd like a response before noon on Monday so I am prepped for my conversations with Mr. White and Mr. Goldberg.

Thank you,

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 3, 2023 at 9:11:57 AM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>

Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

Hi Beth

No urgency on this. I'll fill you in when I next see you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Wed, May 3, 2023 at 6:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello and Good Morning,

I wonder if you could unravel this for me. The Governor goes on record saying the state is working with the city.

Please provide details so I can become an active and integral, and immediate part of this crucial conversation.

Thank you



Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit'
in Newport
wcax.com

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 4 May 2023 09:30:03 +0000
To: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firm SPF.com>
Subject: Fwd: Gov Scott statement

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Hello,

As an update, I have zooms today and two early next week to meet and become familiar with David White (White and Burke), David Snedeker (NVDA) and Michael Goldberg (EB5 Receiver). Each one expressed appreciation that I reached out and each one made immediate room on their schedules to assist me in understanding some of the history that brings us to today with the hole issue.

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From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
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Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Please provide details so I can become an active and integral, and immediate part of this crucial conversation.

Thank you



Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit'
in Newport
wcax.com

From: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 14:41:49 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Thank you for your input/MRI

Have you spoken to **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)** about filling in as Interim Manager?

John W

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 10:36 AM John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org> wrote:
I would get Mr Gould to prepare his proposal but initially discuss it in Executive session. Then if the others concur then in an open session vote on it.

John W

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 6:03 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
John, I am thinking it will go on the next agenda (could you suggest the wording). I am also thinking I should individually ask others before the meeting and get in touch with Mr Gould to prepare a proposal that we can all sign while gathered at the table? I'll keep on top of this. Thanks for your advice on the way to proceed.
Beth

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 16:00:50 +0000
To: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Thank you for your input/MRI

I didn't know [REDACTED] was in the mix. Has anyone mentioned [REDACTED]?

On May 5, 2023, at 10:42 AM, John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Have you spoken to [REDACTED] 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) about filling in as Interim Manager?

John W

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 10:36 AM John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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Beth

From: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 17:57:43 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Thank you for your input/MRI

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

John W

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 12:01 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
I didn't know [REDACTED] was in the mix. Has anyone mentioned [REDACTED]?

On May 5, 2023, at 10:42 AM, John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Have you spoken to [REDACTED] about filling in as Interim Manager?

John W

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 10:36 AM John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org> wrote:
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John W

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Beth

From: Beth Barnes (beth.barnes@newportvermont.org)
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 7:34:38 PM
To: Zoning Administrator (zoning.administrator@newportvermont.org)
Cc: Laura Dolgin (Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org)
Bcc:
Subject: Planning commission appt

Hi Frank

I seem to remember seeing a communique saying you were putting 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) I cannot find that email, could you please resend, and also attach the resumes of all applicants.

Thanks Frank
Beth Barnes

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 22:56:00 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>; "John Monette" <john.monette@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Zoning Administrator" <zoning.administrator@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Planning commission appt

Hi Beth

I'm sorry we can't do this for you. The information you seek falls under the Planning Commission Executive session. The planning commission will be making a written recommendation for the next council meeting.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 3:34 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Frank

I seem to remember seeing a communique saying you were putting **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)** appointee. I cannot find that email, could you please resend, and also attach the resumes of all applicants.

Thanks Frank
Beth Barnes

From: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 23:40:07 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 7:38 PM
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

I was going to have a few questions for you regarding city issues after the DPW negotiating meeting on Tuesday. Is it possible to get the Mayor to come in as well to get us updated? Possibly Chris also if he wants to stay. I will send this email individually to the Mayor and Chris.

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:29 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855

MB PRA4420

(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Dolgin** <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, John A. Wilson
<johnwilson@newportvermont.org>

fyi --

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Dolgin** <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:27 PM
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, Kevin Charboneau
<Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>

Hi Beth

What will it take to get you to listen to the city manager and the city attorney?
Particularly when both are providing consistent information.

You are micromanaging and are outside your boundaries to instigate this meeting. Newport is a City Manager form of government. The mayor only has ceremonial responsibilities, sets the agenda with the city manager, and facilitates the meetings. Even though the charter says the mayor is the CEO of the city, the mayor and

MB PRA4421

city manager must cooperate and communicate for the betterment of the City of Newport. Both positions are accountable to the city council. The mayor cannot conduct city business without the council's consent. Other than you stating you've attended 'great meetings,' no explanation has been provided to the council as to how these various meetings intersect with city business.

You are running out ahead of long-term projects that require sensitivity and I am concerned your rogue and unbridled interference will cause damage for the city. This meeting that you have scheduled should have been strategically planned with the city manager. Instead and now that it is scheduled, it must have the city manager and preferably another council member present. *When is it occurring? Please send us all the links so that the council can take comfort that at least I will be included. I would like Council President John Wilson to attend as well.*

I cannot understand why this matter has become a priority for you. Please be aware that David White will charge the city for this meeting that you have scheduled **at \$295.00 an hour**. And by the way, the city attorney charges **\$200.00 an hour**.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)



The council minutes pertaining to the subject of Governor Scott's support are attached. Beth, I encourage you to come in and meet with me to learn more about the depth and breadth of these topics in order to capably understand how to carry forward with the limitations of your elected position. If you are uncomfortable meeting with me then please invite another council member so you can get the information you need. I am a resource to the entire city council and I encourage you all to take advantage of my offer.

****I am sending this email 'two at a time' to each council member and the city attorney to try and avoid a violation of the public meeting law.****

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

MB PRA4422

On Thu, May 4, 2023 at 5:37 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Pardon the error, I inadvertently forgot the City Manager whom I now include. A simple oversight at this early hour.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 4, 2023 at 5:30:03 AM EDT
To: Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>, "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Fwd: Gov Scott statement

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Hello,

As an update, I have zooms today and two early next week to meet and become familiar with David White (White and Burke), David Snedeker (NVDA) and Michael Goldberg (EB5 Receiver). Each one expressed appreciation that I reached out and each one made immediate room on their schedules to assist me in understanding some of the history that brings us to today with the hole issue.

However, in seeking information from our own City Manager who is leaving in less than 30 days, please see her response when I asked for similar background. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)**


These are unacceptable answers to my request for information in order to understand a serious city issue.

As a professional courtesy to all city council members and the mayor, please explain by way of return email an answer to my original email query, what was the Governor referring to when he said the State is working with the City. I have no plans, incidentally to meet with the city manager, nor were any suggested hence this request now for ALL of us to be updated via return email so we can all understand the current state of affairs.

I'd like a response before noon on Monday so I am prepped for my conversations with Mr. White and Mr. Goldberg.

Thank you,

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From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 3, 2023 at 9:11:57 AM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

Hi Beth

No urgency on this. I'll fill you in when I next see you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

On Wed, May 3, 2023 at 6:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello and Good Morning,

I wonder if you could unravel this for me. The Governor goes on record saying the state is working with the city.

Please provide details so I can become an active and integral, and immediate part of this crucial conversation.

Thank you



Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit'
in Newport
wcax.com

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sat, 6 May 2023 07:20:45 +0000
To: "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement

Thanks Clark. I have tried asking questions of the city manager and I get responses such as 'there's no urgency for you to know'. This has happened too often. I would welcome the chance to sit with you and Laura but we would break open meeting law if Chris is there. I will cancel everything to sit with you and Laura, I'm tired of being treated like a pest instead of a mayor trying to understand her city.

Beth

On May 5, 2023, at 7:40 PM, Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 7:38 PM
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

I was going to have a few questions for you regarding city issues after the DPW negotiating meeting on Tuesday. Is it possible to get the Mayor to come in as well to get us updated? Possibly Chris also if he wants to stay. I will send this email individually to the Mayor and Chris.

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:29 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

MB PRA4426

Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, Chris Vachon
<chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Dolgin** <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, John A. Wilson
<johnwilson@newportvermont.org>

fyi --

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Dolgin** <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:27 PM
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement

MB PRA4427

To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>

Hi Beth

What will it take to get you to listen to the city manager and the city attorney? Particularly when both are providing consistent information.

You are micromanaging and are outside your boundaries to instigate this meeting. Newport is a City Manager form of government. The mayor only has ceremonial responsibilities, sets the agenda with the city manager, and facilitates the meetings. Even though the charter says the mayor is the CEO of the city, the mayor and city manager must cooperate and communicate for the betterment of the City of Newport. Both positions are accountable to the city council. The mayor cannot conduct city business without the council's consent. Other than you stating you've attended 'great meetings,' no explanation has been provided to the council as to how these various meetings intersect with city business.

You are running out ahead of long-term projects that require sensitivity and I am concerned your rogue and unbridled interference will cause damage for the city. This meeting that you have scheduled should have been strategically planned with the city manager. Instead and now that it is scheduled, it must have the city manager and preferably another council member present. *When is it occurring? Please send us all the links so that the council can take comfort that at least I will be included. I would like Council President John Wilson to attend as well.*

I cannot understand why this matter has become a priority for you. Please be aware that David White will charge the city for this meeting that you have scheduled **at \$295.00 an hour**. And by the way, the city attorney charges **\$200.00 an hour**.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)



The council minutes pertaining to the subject of Governor Scott's support are attached. Beth, I encourage you to come in and meet with me to learn more about the depth and breadth of these topics in order to capably understand how to carry forward with the limitations of your elected position. If you are uncomfortable meeting with me then please invite another council member so you can get the information you need. I am a resource to the entire city council and I encourage you all to take advantage of my offer.

****I am sending this email 'two at a time' to each council member and the city attorney to try and avoid a violation of the public meeting law.****

MB PRA4428

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Fwd: Gov Scott statement

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

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However, in seeking information from our own City Manager who is leaving in less than 30 days, please see her response when I asked for similar background. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)**

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MB PRA4429

when he said the State is working with the City. I have no plans, incidentally to meet with the city manager, nor were any suggested hence this request now for ALL of us to be updated via return email so we can all understand the current state of affairs.

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Thank you

<JHYOBRGMYFA47O5XQM4RX6EMXY.jpg

>

Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit'
in Newport

wcax.com

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sat, 6 May 2023 10:42:46 +0000
To: "Kevin Charboneau" <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

(I copy John Wilson as the Council President, but ask both of you not to hit reply all as that would violate open meeting laws. Thank you)

Hello Kevin,

I have been deeply distressed by the nature of your email yesterday May 4, 2023 to the Mayor in which I was instructed/told not to respond. However, I do not believe "not responding" is an option or an appropriate request, it is counterproductive to our mission of serving as an elected body.

This time consuming email thread started by my asking one, valid question...for an update on the hole from our own City Manager who "serves at the pleasure of the council". It should have been so simple and I still haven't received her response. This wasn't the first time I've been refused answers to valid questions and I will supply all documentation for you and the council to study these refusals at your request. I was refused this recent request to be caught up to speed as a new mayor and yes, I called denial of my rightful request "unacceptable", because it is. I do not know what the reference to "many" derogatory emails means. Your last line is especially confusing, Kevin because you write that I am educating myself, not the community. My response is an honest and heartfelt response...the community deserves an educated mayor who asks questions so that she can be of best and highest service to them.

I always ask myself when I write an email, how would I feel if my (deceased) mother, adult daughters or the public saw my words? Would I feel the words were chosen to inform and not hurt, to help and not hinder and above all would I be proud to own them as my own.

I would ask in the future, Kevin that you understand that I pose important questions on behalf of my/our constituents, I take my elected position very seriously, and intend to educate myself so I can be of service to the community as a whole. They deserve it, and THEY are asking me questions I do not have the bandwidth to answer as a brand new mayor in office for less than 3 months. Hence, I looked for answers from the City Manager who does have them. I do not see this as probing or unreasonable, I actually see it as logical and commendable.

I do not believe as a person or a Mayor and fellow council member that I deserved much of what you wrote in your email. Constructive criticism is always appreciated, as are questions, but attacks are hurtful and unproductive, and can cause division, not unity. Incidentally, the receiver, Mr. Goldberg, David White of White and Burke, Mr. Ernie Pomerleau, Ms. Joan Goldstein State Commissioner for Economic Development, and Mr. David Snedeker were all more than happy to share their thoughts and knowledge but our own city manager was not. Even

Mayor Miro Weinberger shared history and present movement on their own downtown pit, hoping it would help inform me on our own hole. You see, these people welcomed my questions and all understand the importance of asking questions and the pursuit of productive dialog, this is all I was looking for from our own City Manager. There is so much more to the EN5 debacle and aftermath than one can glean online, which is where you suggested I look, and I have spent immeasurable hours doing so. I need to fill in the blanks as a Mayor not a casual onlooker doing google searches.

I am happy to discuss this in person, Kevin and I always welcome responses to my emails. In closing, I feel that this email is one my mother, daughters, and the public would be proud to read. I have stated my feelings and concerns professionally and succinctly, with integrity and without using my position as Mayor in any way other than to move forward with positivity and purpose.

There is a reason that history is taught, it is so we can learn from the past in order to chart a course into the future. My one and only motivation, as a newly elected official is to serve the community. It is of utmost importance that you understand me, and I you. We ALL serve together, not apart. We ALL serve for one reason, our community. They ALL deserve the very best we can give them. And I deserve to understand history before being expected to go blindly into the future.

Have a beautiful weekend.

Beth Barnes

On May 4, 2023, at 12:31 PM, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth,

Some background information on the EB 5 Program (this is a simplistic watered down version): The State/Federal Government initiated a program where-in a foreign investor could invest \$500,000.00 to a development in a disadvantaged part of the state, with certain provisions such as the investment must create x-amount of jobs. In return they would receive a Green Card allowing them to travel to the US.

Reference the downtown block:

2015 It was purchased from Doug Spates by Quiros and Stenger as part of the 'EB 5' program with promises by them to convert it to a thriving building referred to as "The Renaissance Block". Within a year or so, it was found that although a lot of money was generated by foreign investors and used to develop Burke Mtn and Jay Peak, the program was plagued with fraud and the money was not used for it's intended purpose, specifically the block downtown and the Bogner property. The Government, through the courts, seized property purchased with EB 5 money and turned it over to a court appointed receiver, who was tasked with trying to recover foreign investor monies illegally used and pay them back.

So there are a few things of importance for us to know:

- The City does not own the properties of Spates Block or Bogner.
- The City of Newport has not invested any money in the Spates Block nor the Bogner Property. The City is out \$0 dollars.
- We do not advertise, sell or have any development plans for these properties.
- When Jay Peak was sold, the money from that sale was paid out in accordance with the Courts directives, which was to reimburse scammed investors. That is why the City of Newport was not named as receiving any money in court documents. This refers to your email of last week wondering why Newport did not get any cash from Jay Peak sale.
- To recap: The City did not invest in EB 5, ergo, we get no money. We do not own the properties, we do not control the sale of the properties. Our interests is making sure that when the properties are sold that they compliment/enhance the City.

Moving forward:

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)



-Governor Scott has vowed to help. When he was here for the Centennial Celebration, along with our Senators and Representatives, he got a first hand look at the un-developed block and was able to see it's impact on Newport. A key point is that our City Manager spent an enormous amount of time and energy to organize the Centennial celebration as well as obtain the money for the celebration (which I believe was well over \$250,000.00).

-There was a mention of the State providing money to Newport to help the city move forward. Then COVID hit. Everything was shut down, EVERYTHING. School went remote, business's struggled to stay open, people were told to stay home or severely limit social interactions. Yet, Newport stayed open, our business's were hit hard, but for the most part, they survived. Our City Manager kept the City going. We had passed an ATV ordinance a couple months prior to COVID. Newport residents drove there ATVs to Newport, for ice cream, to go to local restaurants, this ordinance was crucial to helping the City survive. Day to day city operations continued and essential city services continued, thanks to our City Manager. Major projects and grants were delayed, but kept alive, thanks to our City Manager.

-As the world gradually recovered from COVID many things were different and expensive. The Governor remembered his promise to Newport and made grants available for Newport. This was the money promised and it was disbursed in a fair and equitable manner, which our City Manager was a part of.

-The State of Vermont realized, due in part to COVID, that the Superior Court Building, was dated and unsafe on many different levels (ie. air filtration, officer safety transporting prisoners to court, insufficient meeting space for attorney's, etc.). They (SOV Building and General Services) are exploring options to either construct a new Court house or renovate the current one. This is where we are at currently. Our Sen. Russ Ingalls and Rep. Woody Page could provide information on the current intentions of the state.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)



1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)




I do not want a reply to this email.

Kevin Charboneau

On Thu, May 4, 2023 at 5:30 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Hello,

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<JHYOBRGMYFA47O5XQM4RX6EMXY.jpg

>

Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit'
in Newport

wcax.com

From: 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)
Sent: Sun, 7 May 2023 02:50:03 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Newport, May 2023

Good day Mayor Beth Barnes,

Hoping the community walk was a nice time for everyone, it was a wonderfully splendid day, the weather was fabulous! My situation is improving, and it always will get better I pray forever, I talked to a law professional for fifty years with my mother and he said I haven't done anything wrong, the lawyer telling us that assured me alot that I'm doing my best as best I can given what's happened to me and to my daughter, empathy I have had.

I would have joined, honestly I looked forward to it, and the fact that it's green up day on same note, community days are fun and joyous to me, it's enjoyable to experience neighborhood and my surroundings with the public like when I am fortunate to take the public transportation bus with my fellow peers; today, I had family functions and obligations that needed attending to for me, my daughter's and my mom with my son and my sister with her daughter, we had all got together that doesn't always allow us all to align as well sometimes, due to schedule conflicts at times, but I had thought throughout the day of the nice community hike that too seemed great.

Came home to find out that my neighbors had left their four children unattended and the children ended up jumping off the Marina's dock into the cyanobacterium in the lake, the harbor master had to work overtime and attend to the children, although the children became defiant to the harbor master and they chose to not at first exit the lake upon the request of the harbor master;

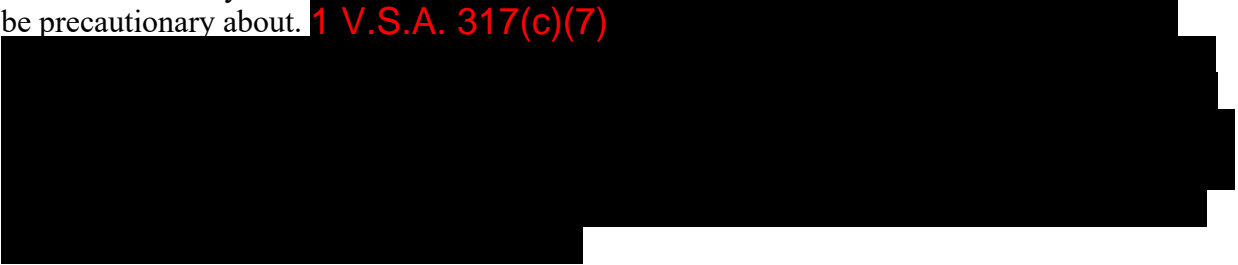
1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Fentanyl is also a big problem as well as suddenly now another problem is that of tranq drug that is new and is an elephant tranquilizer that is getting mixed with the other drugs the addicts obtain by illegal activities, all this stuff I'm living around and I'm trying to be very careful, I talk to three policemen solely about anything that i witness for crimes for unfortunately I come across quite a bit of things that are concerning, or that of things that could be considered concerning to police if they hadn't known the things could expand or escalate for the worst if rather I say nothing like I used to accidentally do and not get involved or say anything due to fear because I live near the addicts who are people that try to get my attention abundantly often but it's getting better the more I ignore or seems like I'm ignoring to not be bothered with issues.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

Sorry to have to mention things that can be considered negative, but it's better to not turn a blind eye to problems because many children need as much support as possible, children are

witnessing their parents drug activities and worse for them, I fear for the children of Newport and dcf isn't always doing things lawfully to where children get left out of things that they should be precautionary about. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)



Kind regards,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(7)

From: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sun, 7 May 2023 17:28:28 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: City Manager search info

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) NVDA and NCIC will have services available for this or know who would.

It would be beneficial in the process to CC the City Manager in these matters, she has the widest knowledge of resources and we are in crunch time.

Chris

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 12:21 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
For Informational Purposes Only

Hello,

I am attaching the proposal that was drawn up by Mr. Alan Gould, at the council's request.

I also attach a very interesting article about placing an interim city manager during the actual search. 1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

This is just for informational purposes so that we can have a lively conversation at the next executive session. But of course reach out directly to me if you feel I can do more follow up or research on the subject, I'm happy to help in any way so we have all the info that'll help us move forward.

<https://www.essexjunction.org/news/item/essex-junction-trustees-name-hysko-and-luck-as-interim-co-managers>

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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MB PRA4440

Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sun, 7 May 2023 17:36:26 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: City Manager search info

Hi Chris,
NCIC is no longer in business.
Beth

On May 7, 2023, at 1:28 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

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<https://www.essexjunction.org/news/item/essex-junction-trustees-name-hysko-and-luck-as-interim-co-managers>

**Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont**

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sun, 7 May 2023 17:39:14 +0000
To: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

Hello

Just getting ready to go into a house on bayview street who has concerns, will look at this email after this meeting, I do not know these folks but I'm anxious to hear what they have to say.

Thank you for your feedback.

Beth

On May 7, 2023, at 1:12 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Beth,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)
[Redacted]

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

I do not want a response to this email.

Regards,
Chris

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However, in seeking information from our own City Manager who is leaving in less than 30 days, please see her response when I asked for similar background. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)**
[REDACTED]

These are unacceptable answers to my request for information in order to understand a serious city issue.

As a professional courtesy to all city council members and the mayor, please explain by way of return email an answer to my original email query, what was the Governor referring to when he said the State is working with the City. I have no plans, incidentally to meet with the city manager, nor were any suggested hence this request now for ALL of us to be updated via return email so we can all understand the current state of affairs.

I'd like a response before noon on Monday so I am prepped for my conversations with Mr. White and Mr. Goldberg.

Thank you,

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 3, 2023 at 9:11:57 AM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

Hi Beth

No urgency on this. I'll fill you in when I next see you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

MB PRA4446

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

On Wed, May 3, 2023 at 6:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello and Good Morning,

I wonder if you could unravel this for me. The Governor goes on record saying the state is working with the city.

Please provide details so I can become an active and integral, and immediate part of this crucial conversation.

Thank you

<JHYOBRGMFYFA47O5XQM4RX6EMXY.jpg
>

Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit'
in Newport
wcax.com

From: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sun, 7 May 2023 18:08:56 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: City Manager search info

NCIC has not completely dissolved, and may still be able to provide guidance and help.

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 2:00 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hi Chris,
NCIC is no longer in business.
Beth

On May 7, 2023, at 1:28 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) NVDA and NCIC will have services available for this or know who would.

It would be beneficial in the process to CC the City Manager in these matters, she has the widest knowledge of resources and we are in crunch time.

Chris

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 12:21 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
For Informational Purposes Only

Hello,

I am attaching the proposal that was drawn up by Mr. Alan Gould, at the council's request.

I also attach a very interesting article about placing an interim city manager during the actual search. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

This is just for informational purposes so that we can have a lively conversation at the next executive session. But of course reach out directly to me if you feel I can do more follow up or research on the subject, I'm happy to help in any way so we have all the info that'll help us move forward.

<https://www.essexjunction.org/news/item/essex-junction-trustees-name-hysko-and-luck-as-interim-co-managers>

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>
<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

From: "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sun, 7 May 2023 22:18:42 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: City Manager search info

I'll ask at the beginning of the next executive session the recommendation and thoughts of the council members.

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 5:17 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Will try to find time to reach out. This was the article.

In a similar vein. When we had our first personnel exec session, Jim asked if Laura needed to stay suggesting she'd like to go home. I asked Laura if she wanted to stay, she declined and left. I did not include her in the next one since it's a city council task to formulate a plan to search for a new city manager. I was questioned by two council members why Mr. Johnson was there because he is not council either. I accepted that co structure criticism again being reminded it's a task for the city council, this is how I learn.

If we are meeting in Executive Session and only the council is involved I'm not sure why we'd read the City Manager, or anyone else in because what's talked about at Executive Session, I believe, is confidential? Please correct me if I'm wrong. VLCT is very helpful so I'm happy to double check to make sure I'm doing everything absolutely by the book, it is my ultimate goal.

Have a great week

Beth

On May 7, 2023, at 2:09 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

NCIC has not completely dissolved, and may still be able to provide guidance and help.

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 2:00 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Chris,

NCIC is no longer in business.

Beth

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1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)

NVDA and NCIC will have services available for this or know who would.

It would be beneficial in the process to CC the City Manager in these matters, she has the widest knowledge of resources and we are in crunch time.

Chris

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 12:21 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
For Informational Purposes Only

Hello,

I am attaching the proposal that was drawn up by Mr. Alan Gould, at the council's request.

I also attach a very interesting article about placing an interim city manager during the actual search. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

This is just for informational purposes so that we can have a lively conversation at the next executive session. But of course reach out directly to me if you feel I can do more follow up or research on the subject, I'm happy to help in any way so we have all the info that'll help us move forward.

<https://www.essexjunction.org/news/item/essex-junction-trustees-name-hysko-and-luck-as-interim-co-managers>

**Beth Barnes, Mayor
Newport, Vermont**

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

From: Travis Bingham (travis.bingham@newportpd.org)
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 6:13:12 PM
To: Beth Barnes (beth.barnes@newportvermont.org)
Cc: Laura Dolgin (Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org)
Bcc:
Subject: RE- Pride Parade

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(5)(A)(v)

I would assume it was on FB but I'm not sure if there was another social media platform that the pride folks were using. Was there any direct threats for the actual parade? Or was it general comments around the pride parade?

TB

Chief Travis R. Bingham
Newport Police department
222 Main Street
Newport, VT. 05855
802-334-6733 (phone)
802-334-2818 (fax)
travis.bingham@newportpd.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes [mailto:beth.barnes@newportvermont.org]
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 9:44 AM
To: Travis Bingham <travis.bingham@newportpd.org>
Cc: Laura Dolgin <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Pride Parade

Hello,

I was alerted to some very negative FB posts surrounding the parade on June 25, I doubt this surprises any of us. The majority of chatter is positive but I wonder, Travis if this is something you'd like to see. I'm always happy to meet.

Btw, I had a message yesterday morning from a Bayview resident so I spent time visiting with them in their home yesterday afternoon. They were very welcoming and I enjoyed the time we spent talking about life on Bayview. I always learn something new.

And sorry, but while writing this another constituent PM'ed me. She asked if there are any laws about visible trash at Newport homes.

As always, thank you both.

Beth

MB PRA4452

From: "Zoning Administrator" <zoning.administrator@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 9 May 2023 18:07:40 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Question from my 3rd grade/NCES

Hi Beth,

Cute question, **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

Frank

On Tue, May 9, 2023 at 1:17 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Frank,

I keep forgetting to ask you a question my kids asked me to follow up on. We are reading a book about a Lemonade stand. One little girl raised her hand and said her dad told her it's illegal to set up a lemonade stand in Newport.

Is this true or is it a dad who is trying to wiggle out of doing a lemonade stand? 😊

Thanks
Beth

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Tue, 9 May 2023 18:12:43 +0000
To: "Zoning Administrator" <zoning.administrator@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Question from my 3rd grade/NCES

Oh dear, I think this Pappa is not gonna like that the Mayor was his daughters sub for 2 weeks! Thx Frank!

On May 9, 2023, at 1:50 PM, Zoning Administrator <zoning.administrator@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth,

Cute question. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

Frank

On Tue, May 9, 2023 at 1:17 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Frank,

I keep forgetting to ask you a question my kids asked me to follow up on. We are reading a book about a Lemonade stand. One little girl raised her hand and said her dad told her it's illegal to set up a lemonade stand in Newport.

Is this true or is it a dad who is trying to wiggle out of doing a lemonade stand? 😊

Thanks
Beth

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 11 May 2023 09:10:51 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement

Begin forwarded message:

From: Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 5, 2023 at 7:40:20 PM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 7:38 PM
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

I was going to have a few questions for you regarding city issues after the DPW negotiating meeting on Tuesday. Is it possible to get the Mayor to come in as well to get us updated? Possibly Chris also if he wants to stay. I will send this email individually to the Mayor and Chris.

On Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:29 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>

MB PRA4455

Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, Chris Vachon
<chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Dolgin** <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, John A. Wilson
<johnwilson@newportvermont.org>

fyi --

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Dolgin** <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 4:27 PM
Subject: Re: REVISED Fwd: Gov Scott statement

MB PRA4456

To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>, Kevin Charboneau
<Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>

Hi Beth

What will it take to get you to listen to the city manager and the city attorney?
Particularly when both are providing consistent information.

You are micromanaging and are outside your boundaries to instigate this meeting. Newport is a City Manager form of government. The mayor only has ceremonial responsibilities, sets the agenda with the city manager, and facilitates the meetings. Even though the charter says the mayor is the CEO of the city, the mayor and city manager must cooperate and communicate for the betterment of the City of Newport. Both positions are accountable to the city council. The mayor cannot conduct city business without the council's consent. Other than you stating you've attended 'great meetings,' no explanation has been provided to the council as to how these various meetings intersect with city business.

You are running out ahead of long-term projects that require sensitivity and I am concerned your rogue and unbridled interference will cause damage for the city. This meeting that you have scheduled should have been strategically planned with the city manager. Instead and now that it is scheduled, it must have the city manager and preferably another council member present. *When is it occurring? Please send us all the links so that the council can take comfort that at least I will be included. I would like Council President John Wilson to attend as well.*

I cannot understand why this matter has become a priority for you. Please be aware that David White will charge the city for this meeting that you have scheduled **at \$295.00 an hour**. And by the way, the city attorney charges **\$200.00 an hour**.

In your email, you admit that you have no plans to meet with the city manager. This statement demonstrates irresponsibility and puts the city in a tenuous position as the council goes about recruiting a new city manager. Your priority ought to be the City Manager's departure, of which there appears to be no mayoral leadership, no transition plan, and no courtesy shown to the City of Newport employees. The second priority ought to be the water and sewer rates. There are many important items that need continuity and coordination for upcoming council agendas over the next several months. The city manager is a resource to you and the city council for these areas and more.

The council minutes pertaining to the subject of Governor Scott's support are attached. Beth, I encourage you to come in and meet with me to learn more about the depth and breadth of these topics in order to capably understand how to carry forward with the limitations of your elected position. If you are uncomfortable meeting with me then please invite another council member so you can get the information you need. I am a resource to the entire city council and I encourage you all to take advantage of my offer.

****I am sending this email 'two at a time' to each council member and the city attorney to try and avoid a violation of the public meeting law.****

MB PRA4457

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

On Thu, May 4, 2023 at 5:37 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Pardon the error, I inadvertently forgot the City Manager whom I now include. A simple oversight at this early hour.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 4, 2023 at 5:30:03 AM EDT
To: Clark Curtis <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>, Kevin Charboneau <Kevin.Charboneau@newportvermont.org>, "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Fwd: Gov Scott statement

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Hello,

As an update, I have zooms today and two early next week to meet and become familiar with David White (White and Burke), David Snedeker (NVDA) and Michael Goldberg (EB5 Receiver). Each one expressed appreciation that I reached out and each one made immediate room on their schedules to assist me in understanding some of the history that brings us to today with the hole issue.

However, in seeking information from our own City Manager who is leaving in less than 30 days, please see her response when I asked for similar background. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)**

These are unacceptable answers to my request for information in order to understand a serious city issue.

As a professional courtesy to all city council members and the mayor, please explain by way of return email an answer to my original email query, what was the Governor referring to

MB PRA4458

when he said the State is working with the City. I have no plans, incidentally to meet with the city manager, nor were any suggested hence this request now for ALL of us to be updated via return email so we can all understand the current state of affairs.

I'd like a response before noon on Monday so I am prepped for my conversations with Mr. White and Mr. Goldberg.

Thank you,

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 3, 2023 at 9:11:57 AM EDT
To: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Gov Scott statement

Hi Beth

No urgency on this. I'll fill you in when I next see you.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

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Thank You.

On Wed, May 3, 2023 at 6:18 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:
Hello and Good Morning,

I wonder if you could unravel this for me. The Governor goes on record saying the state is working with the city.

Please provide details so I can become an active and integral, and immediate part of this crucial conversation.

Thank you



Gov. Scott offers assistance for Kingdom Con 'pit' in Newport
wcax.com

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Mon, 15 May 2023 18:11:53 +0000
To: "Prosser, Jenny" <Jenny.Prosser@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Question from Mayor Barnes/Newport, VT

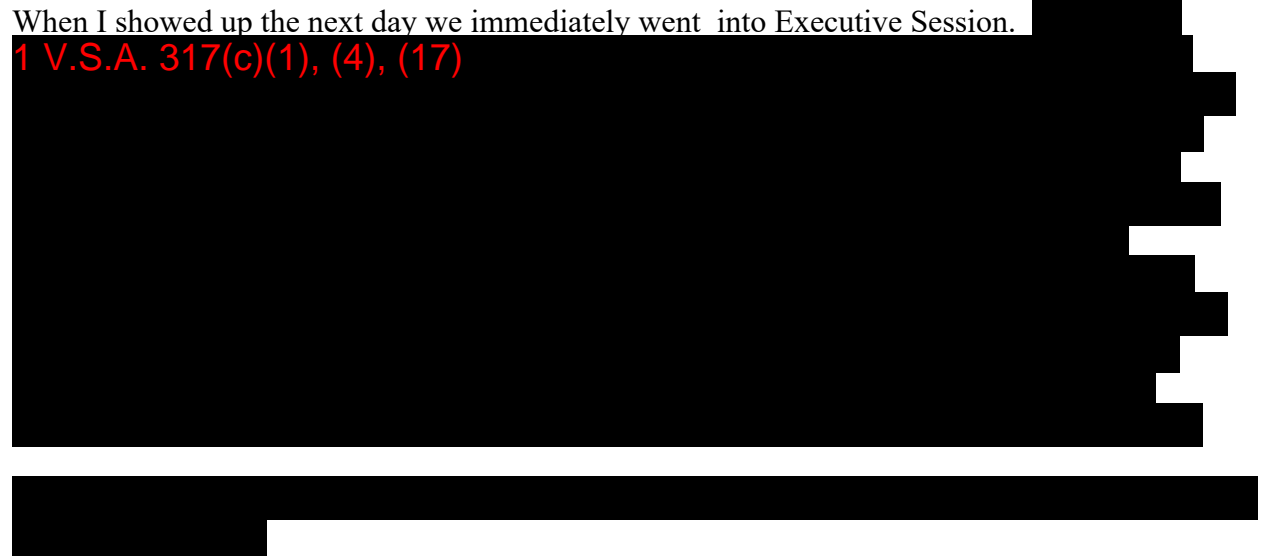
Hi Jenny,

Thank you so much for the prompt and informative e-mail.

If I may, my question pertains to me. I was told an Special Meeting with executive session was being called by the city manager, it was warned as an employment issue, that is no problem but I was so curious to know details. I wrote to the city manager and all the city council members (requesting no reply all) simply asking for details. I got NO response from all five.

When I showed up the next day we immediately went into Executive Session.

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(1), (4), (17)



I would like to know what my rights are. I have the official agenda as well as the unofficial one. I also have the text message thread and my email requesting more information about the nature of the meeting.

Can you advise me, I cannot let this set the standard for my 2 year term, it is so counterproductive for me and mostly for the people who elected me. Newport deserves better. I am supposed to have two ex sessions tonight at my meeting and honestly, am petrified to go behind closed doors for fear of another unwarranted crucifixion. Do I have the right to ask for an agenda before going in, or any other recourse? This is a terrible situation for a new mayor.

With gratitude.
Beth

On Mon, May 15, 2023 at 12:34 PM Prosser, Jenny <Jenny.Prosser@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hello,

I'm sorry I missed your call this morning.

The open meeting law gives enforcement power to aggrieved members of the public, and the Attorney General's office in its discretion. [1 V.S.A. § 314](#). Here are the specifics about the complaint process:

- First, an individual who thinks a public body has violated the OML must submit a written complaint to the public body itself, alleging a specific violation of the OML and requesting a specific cure. Upon receipt, the public body must respond publicly within 10 calendar days, either by acknowledging the violation and stating its intent to cure, or by stating no violation occurred and so no cure is necessary. If the public body acknowledges a violation, it must the cure it within 14 days. Pursuant to § 314, a cure usually involves ratifying or declaring as void actions taken at an improper meeting and/or adopting specific measures that actually prevent future violations.
- Second, if the public body denies the violation or fails to timely cure an acknowledged violation, the aggrieved member of the public can file suit against the public body in court, specifically in the civil division of the superior court in the county where the alleged violation took place. The OML treats failure to respond to a written notice of alleged violation within 10 calendar days as a denial of the violation.

I'll also note that under § 314, the Attorney General's office has concurrent jurisdiction to initiate OML litigation. Essentially, the AGO can independently file an OML complaint with a public body and, if unsatisfied with the public body's response, can file against the public body in court. So, while the AGO doesn't hear OML appeals in any formal sense, in theory a member of the public could bring a matter to the AGO's attention (either in lieu of or in tandem with going through the OML complaint process independently). It would then be up to the AGO to decide if it wishes to pursue the matter. I don't get the sense that the AGO does so frequently, but I have occasionally heard about AGO staff looking into a situation or (rarely) issuing an advisory opinion.

I hope this info helps! Please do let me know if you have any further questions.

Best regards,

Jenny Prosser

Jenny R. Prosser

General Counsel & Director of Municipal Assistance

Vermont Secretary of State's Office

802.828.1027

sos.vermont.gov

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:15 AM

To: Senning, Will <Will.Senning@vermont.gov>

Cc: Prosser, Jenny <Jenny.Prosser@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Question from Mayor Barnes/Newport, VT

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Will,

Thanks. Funny you should copy Ms Prosser as I left a message for her too. I forgot that even before I was elected I had a question and so I went back into my archives to get her email.

Can't thank both of you enough. I've never served in public office and today is my 70 day anniversary. So much to learn.

Beth

On May 15, 2023, at 9:33 AM, Senning, Will <Will.Senning@vermont.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Mayor Barnes,

MB PRA4463

I am including Jenny Prosser, from our office, on this reply. She is the municipal law / open meeting for our expert and will be able to assist you.

Regards,

Will

Will Senning

Director of Elections and Campaign Finance

128 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05633 – 1101

(pronouns: he/him/his)

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Senning, Will <Will.Senning@vermont.gov>
Subject: Question from Mayor Barnes/Newport, VT

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello Mr. Senning,

I have a question about a violation of executive session, "In an executive session only the subject matter referenced in the motion to go into this session may be discussed." There was a clear violation and I would appreciate advice on how to proceed. Someone suggested I reach out to this department, if this is incorrect perhaps you could re-direct my enquiry.

Gratefully,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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Thank You.

From: "Beth Barnes" <gotwaveslb@ymail.com>
Sent: Mon, 15 May 2023 09:16:07 +0000 (UTC)
To: "Clark Curtis" <clarkcurtis63@gmail.com>; "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "Kevin Charboneau" <kevin.charboneau@newportvermont.org>; "Chris Vachon" <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: for tonight's meeting

hello council members, apologies this is from my personal e-mail, i was in canada when it was originally sent and i didn't notice i was not on the city email.

I am sending you this very important e-mail thread, albeit it last minute. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)**

no one suggested sending it to all of you but I feel you need to read it, especially before the meeting tonight.

I have two grave concerns:

That an elected official was asked to lie about seeing a document and also being asked not to share with all of other elected officials who would be called on to vote, and

That at this meeting in Quebec of approximately 50 people from both sides of the border Comite Quebec-Vermont sur le Memphremagog, an announcement was made publicly by Mr. Coutts and separately by Ms. Karen Freeman of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board that MCM WOULD be occupying the second floor of the Gateway, not that it was a possibility, it was a celebratory announcement.

I am concerned that this did not raise any red flags. Being asked to lie as an elected official or a human being is not an option for me.

Since no one stepped forward to advise me, I follow my own guidance now and share this important information with all of you since it appears on the agenda tonight.

Beth Barnes

"Who hears the fishes when they cry?"

Henry David Thoreau

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: David W. Rugh <drugh@firm SPF.com>

To: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>; Beth Barnes <gotwaveslb@ymail.com>

Cc: John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 03:53:27 PM EDT

Subject: RE: MCM roadmap 2022

Hi all,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)



Happy to discuss further as needed.

Thanks,

Dave

David W. Rugh, Esq.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

171 Battery Street

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

drugh@firm SPF.com

MB PRA4467

Website: www.firmspf.com

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In accordance with IRS Circular 230, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication was not written or intended to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code, or promoting, marketing or recommending to another person any transaction or matter addressed in this communication.

From: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 12:38 PM
To: Beth Barnes <gotwaveslb@ymail.com>
Cc: David W. Rugh <drugh@firmspf.com>; John A. Wilson <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: MCM roadmap 2022

Beth,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
City of Newport
222 Main St.
Newport, Vt. 05855
(802) 334-5136

Please note that this email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record, and thus, subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law ([1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#)).

Thank You.

On Thu, May 11, 2023 at 12:15 PM Beth Barnes <gotwaveslb@ymail.com> wrote:

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

MB PRA4468

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

Best
Betg

From: "Laura Dolgin" <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thu, 18 May 2023 22:05:45 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>; "Clark Curtis" <clark.curtis@newportvermont.org>
Cc: "John A. Wilson" <johnwilson@newportvermont.org>; "David Rugh, Esq" <drugh@firmspf.com>
Subject: Re: Newport CM search

Hi Beth

This just in from the city attorney re: the scheduling of a special meeting:

Hello again Laura,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Let us know if there are any follow-up questions.

Beriah C. Smith

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

171 Battery Street

P.O. Box 1507

Burlington, VT 05402-1507

Phone: 802-660-2555

Fax: 802-660-2552

bsmith@firmspf.com

Website: www.firmspf.com

Laura Dolgin, City Manager

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Thank You.

On Thu, May 18, 2023 at 12:28 PM Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

I had not previously heard of that 2/3rds Councilor vote requirement to hold a special meeting. Historically they've been called by consensus of Councilors, including the Mayor. I will check with Dave, but where is your understanding coming from?

Laura Dolgin, City Manager

City of Newport

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Newport, Vt. 05855

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Thank You.

MB PRA4471

On Thu, May 18, 2023 at 11:04 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hello John and Laura,

I have referred to the minutes from the may 15th meeting and don't see where a motion was made, seconded and voted on to hold these two additional meetings. On what authority were they called. It's my understanding that special meetings may be called by 2/3's of the cc but in the format of a public meeting. The last public meeting was may 15th and the minutes do not reflect this procedure.

Thank you,

Beth barnes

On May 18, 2023, at 9:24 AM, Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Beth

The council has directed me to schedule a special meeting for Saturday morning, beginning at 8:30 for three different items: to interview a potential interim, to enter into a consulting contract with me for continuity of operations during the transition, to work out an employee agreement with Becky Therrien to take on more responsibility during the transition, and to announce to the public the status of the progress in finding a replacement. This meeting will be warned this afternoon.

Laura Dolgin, City Manager

City of Newport

222 Main St.

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Thank You.

On Thu, May 18, 2023 at 7:44 AM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Many thanks, Alan. And, thanks Laura for forwarding all correspondence since May 10th. I will be out in the community all day so will look forward to studying the correspondence tonight when I can dedicate time to it.

Best,

Beth Barnes, Mayor

On Thu, May 18, 2023 at 6:54 AM Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com> wrote:

Good morning- Laura should be able to get you caught up on any correspondence.

Alan

-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 12:56 AM
To: Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com>
Cc: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Newport CM search

Hello Alan and Laura,

Just following up on this email thread. I have not seen any indication that there's been correspondence between the two of you and I'm sure there must be some.

As co-lead, see email below, I was expecting to receive all correspondence exchanged between the two of you.

Please forward any and all updates since my original email dated May 10. I feel there must be a lot of correspondence I'm not privy to.

Thanks in advance.
Beth Barnes, Mayor

On May 10, 2023, at 3:09 PM, Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com> wrote:

Yes, Laura and I spoke this morning. All set, thank you!

-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com>
Cc: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Newport CM search

Not yet, Alan, this is in Ms. Dolgin wheelhouse so I'll defer to her.
Best,
Beth

On May 10, 2023, at 8:42 AM, Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com> wrote:

Very good, we look forward to working with you both. Did you execute the contract yet? Thank you.

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From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 5:28 AM
To: Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com>

Cc: Laura Dolgin <Laura.Dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Newport CM search

Good Morning, Alan

I'd like to introduce you to our outgoing city manager, and her to you. She and I will be working side-by-side on the search until her departure in less than a month when I will go ahead and be your point person. We will gather information to bring to the council as the search progresses.

For the next few weeks she has been authorized by the City Council to co lead the search. Thank you.

From: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Fri, 19 May 2023 09:52:24 +0000
To: "Bruce Brother" <bruce.forster@royalbanksnet.com>
Subject: Fwd: ENOUGH!!!

Weigh in

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 19, 2023 at 5:51:53 AM EDT
To: Tom Torti <tom@vermont.org>
Subject: ENOUGH!!!

Tom this has to stop, I smell very many big rats in Newport city management and my questions have put them in high alert battle mode, I can't defend myself or the city, they are too United, too clever. I want to send this to CC, CM, Ted, the search firm, the press. First, I ask you. Please weigh in, edit, etc. they are planning another brutal ambush on Saturday and I am petrified. One of the council members Carrie's a gun, that scares me most.

Thx,

City council members, please respond separately,

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(1), (4), (17)

Since May 10 (see below). I have received zero information from the city manager who is clearly, in coordination with you, conducting a search about which the Mayor knows absolutely nothing. As clearly stated in my initial introduction to Mr. Gould, the CM and I were/are "co leading" the search. There has been no identifiable, tangible, verifiable sharing of information.

I would like every piece of correspondence between Mr. Alan Gould and you and our City Manager, as was agreed. Only then will I be prepared to entertain the idea of a special meeting about which I have no background.

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Date: May 18, 2023 at 7:43:48 AM EDT
To: Alan Gould <agould@mrigov.com>
Cc: Laura Dolgin <laura.dolgin@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: Newport CM search

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For the next few weeks she has been authorized by the City Council to co lead the search. Thank you.

From: "Bruce Forster" <bruce.forster@royalbanksnet.com>
Sent: Fri, 19 May 2023 11:26:13 +0000
To: "Beth Barnes" <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Subject: Re: ENOUGH!!!

Call after 7:30 am my time. Emails get too long

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 4:52:24 AM
To: Bruce Forster <bruce.forster@royalbanksnet.com>
Subject: Fwd: ENOUGH!!!

WARNING: This email is from an external source. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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AmeriCorps Week 2023 Resolution / Proclamation for Newport, VT

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

In a similar vein. When we had our first personnel exec session, Jim asked if Laura needed to stay suggesting she'd like to go home. I asked Laura if she wanted to stay, she declined and left. I did not include her in the next one since it's a city council task to formulate a plan to search for a new city manager. I was questioned by two council members why Mr. Johnson was there because he is not council either. I accepted that co structure criticism again being reminded it's a task for the city council, this is how I learn.

If we are meeting in Executive Session and only the council is involved I'm not sure why we'd read the City Manager, or anyone else in because what's talked about at Executive Session, I believe, is confidential? Please correct me if I'm wrong. VLCT is very helpful so I'm happy to double check to make sure I'm doing everything absolutely by the book, it is my ultimate goal.

Have a great week

Beth

On May 7, 2023, at 2:09 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

NCIC has not completely dissolved, and may still be able to provide guidance and help.

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 2:00 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

Hi Chris,

NCIC is no longer in business.

Beth

On May 7, 2023, at 1:28 PM, Chris Vachon <chris.vachon@newportvermont.org> wrote:

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17) NVDA and NCIC will have services available for this or know who would.

It would be beneficial in the process to CC the City Manager in these matters, she has the widest knowledge of resources and we are in crunch time.

Chris

On Sun, May 7, 2023, 12:21 PM Beth Barnes <beth.barnes@newportvermont.org> wrote:

For Informational Purposes Only

Hello,

I am attaching the proposal that was drawn up by Mr. Alan Gould, at the council's request.

I also attach a very interesting article about placing an interim city manager during the actual search. **1 V.S.A. 317(c)(17)**

This is just for informational purposes so that we can have a lively conversation at the next executive session. But of course reach out directly to me if you feel I can do more follow up or research on the subject, I'm happy to help in any way so we have all the info that'll help us move forward.

<https://www.essexjunction.org/news/item/essex-junction-trustees-name-hysko-and-luck-as-interim-co-managers>

Beth Barnes, Mayor

Newport, Vermont

<https://www.discovernewportvt.com/transportation-airport/>

<https://www.newportvermont.org/>

<https://www.newportrecreation.org/>

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