

Christine H. Burke
P.O. Box 195
Hopedale, MA 01747

December 20, 2020

Brian Keyes, Chairman
Hopedale Board of Selectmen
Hopedale Street
Hopedale, MA 01748

RE: M.G.L. Chapter 41 Section 109

Dear Mr. Keyes:

I am writing in response to the allegations made in your November 23, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen that my continued work with the Hopedale Water and Sewer Commission was improper.

As Town Counsel points out in his letter, M.G.L. Chapter 41 Section 109 applies to a situation where an official has “removed” from the Town. I did not “remove” or abandon my residency in Hopedale. I sold my home on April 29, 2020. I had lived on Route 16 with a “for sale” sign on the front lawn. There was nothing hidden nor clandestine about the sale of my home. As you may know, the transfer of real estate is also a matter of public record.

As you may also know, the indices of residence include more than owning property in a Town. From and after the sale of my home, I continued to reside in Hopedale on Richard Road. To date, I continue to maintain membership in all of the social, civic, and charitable organizations with which I have been affiliated for many years. I continue to receive mail in Hopedale. Again, I have not “removed” from the Town of Hopedale as the statute contemplates. I applied for an absentee ballot in October of 2020 so that I could participate in the Presidential election in November. It was at that time that I resigned from my position on the Hopedale Water and Sewer Commission.

Mr. Deli Priscoli alleges in his November 23, 2020 email to you and others that I filed a “change of residence form on May 25, 2020” and voluntarily abandoned my residency. Kindly provide a copy of this change of residency form as I have no recollection of the same.

I have never committed “voter fraud” as you allege in your October 29, 2020 email to the Town Coordinator. Furthermore, there have never been any “biased shenanigans” as you allege in your email to Jon Deli Priscoli on November 24, 2020. Please refrain from besmirching the character of any of my colleagues on the Water and Sewer Commission as they, and I, have done nothing but carry out our responsibilities to preserve and protect the water quality and supply in the Town.

In the future, the curtesy of a telephone call or email might save you and the Town of Hopedale much time and money spent pursuing this matter on behalf of the GURR.

Very truly yours,

Christine H. Burke

CC: Louis Arcudi, Hopedale Board of Selectman
Glenda Hazard, Hopedale Board of Selectman
Ed Burt, Hopedale Water and Sewer Commission