

Board of Selectman,

I want to open tonight with some positive updates, and to say thank this board for your part in them.

Yesterday, to our relief, we learned that the complaint against our liquor permit has been withdrawn.

For those who are unaware a complaint was filed against us by William Wheaton Sr. who is the President of Brooklyn Fire District. We knew Mr. Wheaton had gathered a group of likeminded individuals to oppose our permit which we now know included the EBFD Chief Brian Pepin, but we are very pleased to say they have withdrawn their opposition as of yesterday and we thank all involved for helping them to make the right decision.

Issuing a public thank you to the new members of the EBFD who are trying to reason with the Brooklyn Fire District to end the lawsuit. Patrick Gauthier's resignation from the Fire Commission and retirement from the EBFD is a huge step in the process. Seeing the prime "bad actor" – to use the EBFD's own Attorney's words - removal is a positive direction for the town.

In addition, we want to recognize the Town Highway Department for removing the illegal "No Parking Fire Lane" signs that had been posted on South Main Street since May of 2021. Thank you to all those involved in the decision to remove them. It was a show of good faith and checked off one of the action items that I had intended to address with you here tonight.

The action items that are still open and we would like to see this board discuss during executive session this evening are as follows:

1. Assistance obtaining public meeting minutes from the Brooklyn Fire District. We have requested these minutes and mortgage documents through FOIA but have yet to receive a response other than:

"It is the position of Brooklyn Fire District, Inc. that it is not a public agency or agency as defined by FOIA, required to produce the documents which you requested..."

I've referenced all applicable statutes in previous statements. They are a public agency, and all that documentation is public information they are just dragging their feet to delay the lawsuit and because they know there is unfavorable information contained within.

2. Discuss the validity of the “fire lane” markings on the shared easement leading to 15 South Main Street. In separate discussions with Fire Marshal Doug Kramer, and First Selectman Tanner. We are requesting something in writing be produced regarding the fire lane. We have been unable to locate anything to date.
3. Continued research over the “mortgage” for 15 South Main Street and or the Brooklyn Fire District. Again, I’ve spoken at length about this and requested documentations. It seems like a very simple thing to be found. The Brooklyn Fire District claims they paid their mortgage off this year. That should be in the 2022 town records. We would like to see those documents.

I do want to reiterate our position that the lawsuit brought against us by the Brooklyn Fire District (and EBFD) is nothing more than a deflect and distract campaign on their behalf to hide their own misgivings. Delaying the end to this case is only buying them more time and costing the town more money.

They are public agents who are acting unbecoming and utilizing taxpayer funds and resources to cover up money mismanagement, and until you can prove to me otherwise I will continue to express that point at all public meetings until I see results taken from these remaining action items.

In conclusion. The action items completed to date are very much appreciated. Additional steps to end the lawsuit will be as well. I do want to remind everyone though that the case “being done” is not the end. We have suffered a tremendous economic and emotional toll over the past few years that cannot be undone with retirements, resignations, sign removal, and covering up lines and painting alone.

I have attached the liquor permit complaint here for the board to see. It was not a public document. We had to request it through FOIA. I feel like it is important for the Board to see since eight of the twelve “complainants” are members of the EBFD.

I am asking that this statement, and two pages of attachments be entered into the public record.

Thank you again for your time and I hope you have a productive meeting during executive session tonight.

Jenn & Matt Nemeth



