

Chairman O'Neil and Select Board Members,

On December 20, 2023, Chairman O'Neil put forth an article to be put on the town ballot. This article, is asking voters to "Hand Count" the Presidential election to be held in November. Vote was taken with a 4-1 in favor of putting on the ballot.

Whether this article was proposed through the Selectmen or if had been proposed through a citizens petition, due diligence should have been executed before putting forward.

It is the determination of the Secretary of State's Legal Counsel and the Town's Legal Counsel that this article, even if passed, is non binding. I have attached the responses from said counsels. There are RSA's that must be adhered to regardless to the outcome of such articles.

Chairman O'Neil, you have been a long time member of this board and was a Chairman of the BOS in 2010, when Moderator Hantman took over that role from former Moderator Wally Fries who would hand count the closest race, not knowing this was not allowed per RSA. The Town got reprimanded from the SOS for doing a "hand count" at the end of the night. We were given a slap on the wrist for practicing this verification and stopped doing it immediately. The results on the tape at the end of the night are final and there can not be a hand count, even for verification purposes.

On a personal note: I don't get involved with all the bickering back and forth on FB, I have always felt that as TC I keep my opinions to myself. But I would like to put this out there publicly. I have been involved in the Elections for the last 20 years working closely with the Town Moderator. I take pride in the fact that we, all the election officials from Moderator, Ballot Clerks, Supervisors of the Checklist, to the Greeters have taken their roles with the utmost respect for the process and go above and beyond to make sure that we have a fair election and

keep the integrity of the election intact. With over 50 elections under my belt, I have faith in the system and our election workers to provide a clean honest election. I have never been in election where there has been any large discrepancies in the totals and by signing and putting the town seal on the results, I am certifying that the Town Moderator and I have no doubt the totals are correct and do so with pride. I wish the townspeople would have a little more faith in their election officials and the election process.

We test the ballot machine before every election and it is open to the public. But yet, concerned citizens never show up to watch the process. I can count on one hand the number of people who have actually come and watched and asked questions.

So with all this being said, in closing, I am requesting that the Selectboard withdraw their article put forth since it is a non binding article and against RSA. 656.40