

My response to Moderator Chandler resignation letter:

Elections are very important and they have consequences. That is why I put forward the following warrant article: “To see if the Town of Danville shall vote to hand count the ballots for the Presidential Election of the United States by hand in the General Election.” This isn’t about John Chandler and it isn’t about Shawn O’Neil. It’s about the machine. It is a question to ask the voters. I or another Town resident could have obtained 25 signatures and obtained the same result via a citizen petition, but I believed that my fellow board members felt the same way. As a result, I presented it for their consideration on the topic and to move it forward. There is no need for vetting by the Town Moderator, Board of Selectmen (“BOS”), Town Clerk (except for signature verification of a citizen petition), etc. If it meets the criteria to move it to the ballot, then the legislative body (the Townspeople) will be the deciders of its fate at both the Deliberative Session and Town meeting. The final decision will be made by the Townspeople and not Shawn O’Neil or John Chandler.

Mr. Chandler’s statement “that the Board of Selectmen, and especially Mr. Shawn O’Neil, has no interest in working with me” is an unfair presumption to make both at the personal level and that of the entire Board.

Mr. Chandler continues citing the introduction of a warrant article at the BOS meeting, the intent of which was to ask the residents of the town for a hand count of the presidential election. The reasoning behind the warrant article request was to maintain procedure and further preserve the integrity of the election. Mr. Chandler continues with his opinion of the discussion, which I do not share, but that can be reviewed on the Town website for context. At no time did I nor the BOS imply that there were shenanigans being performed locally. The issue I presented via the warrant article was focused on the electronic machine and a means to ascertain the true vote of the Townspeople via a hand count.

I respectfully disagree with Mr. Chandler’s statement that I do not take my election duties seriously. His recollection of the state primary on September 13, 2022 is true. I had prior obligations to address matters with my 81 year-old father who lives with me and has dementia. I apologize if real life issues get in the way from time to time, but family comes first. I hope most people will understand and the Board, in fact, fulfilled its duties.

Next, at the referenced general election of November 8, 2022, I was out of town for scheduled travel and sent in my absentee ballot. The remaining obligations for the day were delegated and to be coordinated by the Vice Chairman in my absence.

During the town election of March 3, 2023, Mr. Chandler clearly has a different recollection of the events of the day and was never denied his right to free speech, nor was he ever compromised to break the law. Again, Mr. Chandler’s exaggerated accusation of bullying and shame are also erroneous. There were several failures that were pointed out to Mr. Chandler that were met with his indignation, such as inserting the card into the machine to close the election immediately, rather than one hour and seven minutes later.

While I appreciate Mr. Chandler’s analysis of his interactions with the entire Board, it is extremely unfair of him to assume that the members do not care about his training or experience, or that they all have “individually shown disdain, contempt, and arrogance”, that simply is not true.

In closing, the fact that Mr. Chandler apologizes to the townspeople of Danville for his resignation lacks sincerity with only two months remaining in his term and four scheduled events on the horizon. The timing of his resignation nineteen days before the primary is selfish and insensitive to all town employees and the volunteers that dedicate their time managing and working the twelve-hour plus voting day at the Community Center.

God Bless,
Shawn O'Neil