

May 13, 2024

Hello Board of Ethics,

Q The town board has asked that I consult on the Health Department process and procedure regarding nitrogen reducing septic systems while they try to determine the feasibility of requiring septic system upgrades upon property transfer. I understand that it would be inappropriate for me to weigh in with my opinion on whether or not I think this is a good idea and I will not vote on this matter, but when I read your opinion letter Regarding my involvement with this topic it seemed that you would be OK with me sharing factual information on process and procedure. If possible, please add this topic to your next meeting, and I would be glad to come in and speak with you. I believe the town board is eager to continue the conversation and they seem to have had a lot of questions at the last work session, but I do not want to communicate with them on the topic unless you approve it.

Thank you,

Meg Larsen, Councilwoman

May 21, 2024

Dear Ms. Larsen,

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Thank you for bringing this issue to us.

After our discussion yesterday, we agreed that the proposed Town law on septic system upgrades would fall broadly under the potential financial-benefits section of our August 8, 2023, Opinion for you, because of your family business.

We understand some Town officials have asked for your expertise and factual information on process and procedure, and we understand the reasons why. When you asked us for an opinion last year, we advised that while you were properly recusing yourself from financial discussions on wastewater systems, you could participate in non-financial issues because the Town benefits from your expertise.

However, in the current situation, since passage of the proposed Town law could result in a financial benefit to you and your family, we recommend you recuse from any and all Town discussion, communications or action relating to it, including technical discussions, because of the breadth of the proposal.

You told us you understood our reasoning. Stepping away protects both you and the Town. Other experts can provide technical expertise to the Town Board on the proposed local law.

Thank you for seeking our advice again.

Sincerely,

Duff Wilson (chairman) on behalf of the Board of Ethics
Laura Cunningham
Deborah Grayson
Shelby Mundy
(Robert Raiber recused)