

From: pownalvermonter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 9:52 AM
To: AGO - Info <AGO.Info@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: FOIA

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I sent this request almost one month ago. What is the status?

----- Original Message -----

On Friday, August 12th, 2022 at 7:50 PM, pownalvermonter <[REDACTED]> wrote:

To Vermont's Attorney General:

On July 28, Better Bennington Corporation executive director and elected Pownal justice of the peace Jenny Dewar had another serious mental breakdown and berated a member of the Pownal Select Board at her place of employment.

-----Original Message-----

From: "town.agent@townofpownal.org" <town.agent@townofpownal.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 3:27pm
To: "Senning, Will" <will.senning@vermont.gov>
Cc: "Angie Rawling SB" <selectperson5@townofpownal.org>, "Julie Weber" <julie.weber@townofpownal.org>
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: letter of complaint

Hello Will,

Angie Rawling, a member of the Selectboard, has asked me to send the attached letter to you. She dictated the incident to me and I recorded it. She has reviewed and states it is an accurate recording.

She is requesting intervention regarding an incident with a Pownal Justice of the Peace at Angie's place of employment this morning. I have Julie, town clerk, included here. She is aware of the incident, and aware that Angie asked me to send this along and help get some guidance. I am not a witness or party to any of it, but am assisting at the request of Ms. Rawling.

Ms. Rawling requests resolution and assurances that similar will not occur at our upcoming election. There is also concern that this places the town at liability when one of its officials, in their official capacity (announcing they are a JOP), approached someone at their place of employment like this. The Selectboard will be discussing further in an executive session tonight to assess board support of next actions, whatever those may be.

Per advice of our local Sheriff, Ms. Rawling is pursuing a no-contact order. Stewart's is issuing a no-trespass against Ms. Dewar.

Rebecca Dragon

I am writing to you today to share an experience I had with a local Justice of the Peace at my place of employment. I serve as a Selectboard Member, but my regular employment is as a Shift Supervisor at the local Stewart's. I have been employed there for 4 years. Most officials in town are aware that I am employed there, as I have served them personally for these years. Ms. Dewar is one such person. I have waited on her numerous times in the past.

This morning (July 28, 2022), Ms. Dewar came into the store during a very busy time. There are two registers side by side. I was working them, moving back and forth between the two. Every time I moved to the other register, she changed lines so she could be in my line.

When she got to my register, I said good morning to her and rung up her item. I told her the price. Instead of paying, she asked me "are you going to be nice to me at the next election?" I told her that I wasn't going to discuss local politics while I was at work. She stated that she "knew" I "discuss politics at work with other people all the time." I told her again that I won't discuss politics at work, and she refused to stop speaking about it, berating me for an incident that occurred at last election in March, when I requested she not handle my ballot. She started making accusations against me and still did not pay me for the item she was purchasing.

I turned to my boss and asked him to take over the transaction. He came to the register, and I moved back. She continued making accusations against me, now to my boss. She also kept saying "I am a justice of the peace." She did this in front of several customers. My boss (Stephen) also told her that we weren't going to talk about local politics and asked her stop. He also said to her "this is a private business." She still would not stop, so I went into the back area of the shop where I was out of her line of sight.

After a while, I assumed she was done and gone from the store. I was incredibly shaken, but I came back out and my boss looked at me and I said "that was ridiculous." I didn't realize it but Ms. Dewar was at the door exiting. She heard me speak and came back to us saying "are you talking about me? What did you say about me?" I responded, "I am talking to my boss."

She then started again with accusations against me, again saying she was a Justice of the Peace, and bringing up the incident from a previous election. When she would not leave or stop, both my boss and I walked away from her and ignored her. She eventually left the store.

Although I am on the Pownal Selectboard, I was clearly at my place of employment. I was standing behind a register, in a uniform. After multiple attempts to ask her to leave me alone and to stop, she refused. She kept announcing she was a Justice of the Peace, to an audience of customers and my employer. When I walked away, she even tried to make accusations about me to my employer.

I feel that this was harassment by a Pownal public official. At my place of employment. Not only did she cause me emotional distress, but she could have jeopardized my employment. The Stewart's Shop is filing a no-trespass order, and I am seeking a no-contact order as well. I am writing to you to request intervention regarding this matter.

A Justice of the Peace should not be harassing citizens at their places of employment. I am requesting that you consider not allowing her to serve at the upcoming election, possible disciplinary action, and removal of her appointment as a Justice of the Peace.

My boss, Stephen Green, would also be willing to speak with you. There were also customers who could attest to this incident. Also, we have security cameras in the store that will show this incident if needed.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. I am really rattled by it and hope some action can be taken.

Sincerely,
Angie Rawling

At the request of Stewart's, law enforcement issued Ms. Dewar an order of no trespass hours before she led Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters on a tour of Bennington.

Under the freedom of information act, please send me any communications between Ms. Dewar and the AGO, since July 1, 2022.

Concerned Citizen (anonymous for fear of retaliation)
xoxo