

Dana Manning
28 Over the Top Road
Holland, MA 01521

January 23, 2014

State Ethics Commission
Enforcement Division
One Ashburton Place Room 619
Boston, MA 02108-1501
ATTN: Kathy Gallant Dept. Chief of Investigations

Dear Ms. Gallant:

We spoke briefly on January 23, 2014 as I had a question on how I should go about filing a complaint with your division. My complaint involves numerous town officials and I wanted to clarify if I should file individual complaints or if my concerns should all be submitted as one document.

I will follow the online format to assist you in processing this lengthy complaint. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

I: My information:

Dana Manning
C: (508) 864-3290
28 Over The Top Road Holland, Ma 01521
email: emancipateddana@gmail.com

II: Person (s) about whom I am complaining

Brian Johnson

Highway Surveryor (municipal, elected, paid position)
Town of Holland

Jo-Anne Higgins

Highway Department Secretary (municipal, appointed, paid position)
Assistant Assessor (municipal, appointed, paid position)
Town of Holland

The three sitting Select Board Members of the Town of Holland at the time taxpayer dollars were diverted and secretly used to pay for a private lawsuit filed by Brian Johnson.

Christian Petersen -Selectman (municipal, elected, paid position)
James Wettlaufer- Select Board Chair (municipal, elected, paid position)

Mike Kennedy-Selectman (municipal, elected, paid position)

Town of Holland Finance Board Members

Andrew Harhay Finance Committee Chair (municipal, appointed, unpaid)

John Ebersold Finance Committee Secretary (municipal, appointed, unpaid)

Tony Roman Finance Committee member (municipal, appointed, unpaid)

(Members not in attendance: **Earnest Fancy, Bryce Mahan**)

The three members specifically in attendance at the May 24, 2012 Finance Committee meeting were advised by James Wettlaufer (who was also in attendance according to the minutes) that, "there are some legal expenses that will need to be carried over into the next fiscal year. Expenses that have been incurred this year but have not been billed."

III: Summary of Complaint:

My Ethics Board Complaint stems from events that began on February 19, 2011 but are still ongoing as this complaint is being filed.

On Saturday February 19, 2011 Brian Johnson (Highway Surveyor Town of Holland) and 8-12 of his friends and relatives went ice fishing on Hamilton Reservoir in Holland Massachusetts. Brian Johnson and his buddies surrounded Peter Frei's home from 6:40am -3pm (when police were called) and were a deliberate nuisance all day. (See [Attachment A](#) to help visualize location.)

Ice fishing, drinking beer, revving quads, displaying vulgar signs, urinating on Frei's property, being deliberate nuisances, shouting obscenities, trespassing on Frei's property and finally assaulting Peter Frei were not activities that were part of Brian Johnson's duties as Highway Surveyor. The events of February 19, 2011 were captured by Frei in photos and tape and documented on his blog, 01521.com. (See [Attachment A1](#).)

After Peter Frei was assaulted (approximately 3pm) Frei called the police to report the incident. Frei was injured and bleeding after being sucker kicked from behind. Brian Johnson and his group (the ones that still remained) lied to the police in an attempt to criminalize mr. Frei. Officer Forcier's narrative states the following:

"Officer Beane spoke to Mr. Frei-see attached narrative, while I spoke with several male subjects who were fishing on Lake Hamilton in front of Frei's residence. The following individuals identified themselves verbally- Brian Johnson-Kyle Rutkowski-John Folger-Tim Fortuna-Dave Crawley-Tom LaPlante and Al West. I asked these individuals if anyone had just been in an altercation with Frei and they all said no. Johnson told me that Frei had come out onto ice and was yelling at the group of them stating that they were trespassing on his property. Johnson said he felt threatened by Frei because Frei said "Stay off my property or I'll fucking kill you." ...[Johnson] further stated that he did not assault Frei, but did see him slip and fall down on the ice."

The police report labels the incident "A&B" for assault and battery. (Police report- [Attachment B](#))

Frei did not slip on the ice. (Johnson will testify to these events on February 26, 2013 at which time, an under oath he states that Frei did not slip on the ice.) I was in the upstairs bedroom window watching and I saw Peter Frei get kicked from behind and fall backwards on the ice hitting the back of his head, (he also injured his hip and elbow and cutting his hand.) Brian Johnson and his gang call this no altercation? Officer Forcier came into the house and reported to us that Johnson said Frei threatened to kill. Frei was able to immediately prove this was a lie by playing the officer a recoding of the events that had just occurred which Frei had recorded on his iPhone for his own protection.

The microphone was completely visible at all times. The recording was not made secretly or ever intended to be made secretly. It was made for self protection after years of Johnson harassing Frei. Harassment which had also escalated. Frei had reason to be afraid of Johnson, not the other way around and that is why he recorded the incident. If Johnson, in an act of abject moral turpitude had not lied to the police (Frei threatened to kill me....) then Frei would never have had to use the recording to reveal the truth. Johnson, and 6 other people (some of them Johnson's employees and one was Johnson's father in law) conspired, and lied to the police in an attempt to have Frei arrested.

At trial on February 26, 2013 Brian Johnson testified that, "[he] never made the statement that Frei threatened to kill [him]" to the police. Which was a direct contradiction of what Johnson stated to the police on February 19, 2011. Officer Forcier testified that he had taken the statement of Johnson, and simply wrote down what Johnson told him. (In the end the Jury believed the Police Officer, and the tape recording, not Johnson.) Forcier also confided to Mr. Frei's attorney that "the town" had tried to get him to arrest Frei and press criminal charges.

Peter Frei has been threatened by Brian Johnson prior to this incident. Brian Johnson had called Peter Frei on two prior occasions ([Attachment B2](#)). Also, I was witness to this as I was on the phone with Mr. Frei and he merged the incoming call so that I could hear the caller too. Brian Johnson insulted and swore at Frei, he threatened him as well. This happened on two separate occasions. Johnson has swerved his truck over double yellow lines toward Frei in an oncoming car, Johnson has kicked in the car door of Frei's car, Johnson has threatened Frei in the town hall (Frei complained to BOS. Frei received a letter back from James Wettlaufer (see [Attachment B3](#)) where Wettlaufer states "While we do not condone Mr. Johnson's actions, we do understand them and you would do well to realize that elected officials do not give up their right to freedom of speech when they take an oath of office."

Frei blogged about Brian Johnson hiring his next door neighbor (Alexander Haney) to run a front loader to remove snow for the town. Haney did not have the necessary

licenses to operate heavy equipment. Frei informed the police. (See police report- [Attachment C](#), and [Blog article attachment C1](#))

Frei has been prevented from passing along a public roadway by Johnson and his neighbor Alexander Haney. (see police report [Attachment D](#) and [blog article D1](#)) Johnson tried to open Frei's car door and pull him out of the car. Fortunately, Frei had felt threatened by being prevented from continuing on the public roadway and already locked his doors.

For these incidences Frei attempted to get a Criminal Prevention Harassment order. During these hearings when Johnson claimed that Frei threatened to kill him Frei was forced to play his recording of the events in order to defend himself from false accusations. Peter Frei played his recording to reveal the truth that Frei was the victim, not Johnson.

In response to the playing of this recording, Brian Johnson, in his capacity as an individual, not a town official, filed a lawsuit against Peter Frei for a violation of the wiretap statute even though Johnson was not an aggrieved person since he had no privacy rights violated.

Either the Town offered, or Brian Johnson used his position as Highway Surveyor to convince the Board of Selectmen (Wettlaufer, Petersen and Kennedy) to pay for Johnson's legal fees for his private lawsuit against Frei. The BOS Executive session minutes from March 1, 2011 are handwritten in Kristen Laplante's (Executive Secretary/ Town Clerk/ Highway Department Secretary until succeeded by JoAnn Higgins) handwriting The Executive Session minutes state, "discussed litigation on moving forward on a case with Peter Frei." (See [Attachment E](#)) Based on the date, it would appear that taxpayer dollars also paid to defend Johnson when Frei appropriately sought a Criminal prevention Harassment Order following the February 19, 2011 attack! We didn't learn until the Finance Board minutes of May 24, 2012 that that the town was still paying Johnson's legal fees.

On February 26, 2013 the Trial for BRIAN JOHNSON vs PETER FREI, Palmer District Court, Civil Action #: 1143CV293 started. See my subpoena to testify. ([Attachment -F](#)). I stood in the upstairs window on February 19, 2011 and witnessed the assault on Peter Frei and was called to testify.

After a two day trial Johnson was awarded \$100 for his complaint on the violation of the wiretap statute. With that decision he gets attorney fees.

Peter Frei prevailed on several of his civil rights violation counter claims including Defamation of his character (by Johnson). The Jury also found that Johnson intended to inflict emotional distress, that Johnson's behavior was "extreme and outrageous and beyond the bounds of decency and intolerable in a civilized society." In addition the Jury found that Johnson did indeed interfere with Frei's civil rights. For this Frei was awarded \$1600, plus attorney fees. (See Jury slips [Attachment G](#))

Brian Johnson was represented by Attorney Tani Saperstein. After the trial when the attorney's fees were submitted to the court Saperstein's fees had a footnote on them that said. "K:\CASEFILE\Holland, Town of-General Rep\Johnson, Brian\Rigali Letter 3-11-13.doc" on page 1 and K:\CASEFILE\Holland, Town of-General Rep\Johnson, Brian\Affidavit of Tani E. Saperstein 3-11-13.doc" on the last page of her submission for fees (see [Attachment H](#)) Clearly indicating that the Town was paying these legal fees for Brian Johnson despite the fact that Johnson's lawsuit was a private matter and not related to the Town of Holland or Johnson's official capacity as Highway Surveyor.

In an email exchange between Attorney Henry Rigali and Peter Frei dated April 17, 2013. Attorney Rigali states that Selectman Mike Kennedy confirmed what we already knew. Kennedy confirmed the Town of Holland paid Brian Johnson's legal fees in the Johnson v. Frei lawsuit. (see [Attachment I](#))

A second email was sent by Attorney Henry Rigali to Scott Cole at the Ethics Commission and to Attorney Ben Coyle who is currently counsel for the Town of Holland. After the question was raised about who was actually paying Johnson's legal fees attorney Ben Coyle (Bacon and Wilson) who after the discovery filed a court appearance on behalf of the Town of Holland. Coyle stated to Rigali that, "the Town of Holland is paying Attorney Saperstein's legal fees in the Johnson v. Frei case, stating he felt this to be a matter of public record." ([Attachment J](#))

After receiving confirmation from a Town Official that taxpayer dollars were misused by the Town of Holland to pay for Brian Johnson's personal vendetta against Peter Frei Henry Rigali filed a written Ethics Board Complaint. (Rigali had previously spoken to the Ethics Board over the phone) The complaint went to Scott Cole. ([Attachment K](#))

Post trial motions were filed. Concerning the attorney fees, Judge Poehler reduced the fees on both sides. She ruled that a third party could pay and that would not negate the statutory mandate for attorney fees, even to a party who did not pay for the attorney. Judge Poehler did not however, address the ETHICS of Brian Johnson receiving and using over \$16,000 of taxpayer dollars to fund his private lawsuit. A lawsuit which never would have taken place if Johnson had not lied to the police (stated Frei threatened to kill him) in an attempt to deliberately criminalize Frei. On page 7 footnote 10 of Judge Poehler's decision she states, "I am assuming the attorney's fees and costs will be repaid to the Town of Holland....." ([Attachment L](#)) Anything less than repayment in full accompanied by significant fines would be unacceptable after such gross misappropriation that spans multiple town boards and departments and more than 6 town officials.

Between January 2013 and August 2013 I tried to serve on the Finance Board. Andrew Harhay refused to let me serve. Each time I would dispel one of his manufactured excuses he would just make up another. After inventing eight months on trying to participate in public service, the local paper heard about my plight and called me to ask

if they could do a story about it. I agreed. (See [Attachment M](#) for the story the paper ran.) In the process of doing this story I reviewed the Financial Committees minutes from February 2011 (original assault on Frei was Saturday February 19, 2011) through when the article was printed. This is when I discovered that the Financial Committee, led by Andrew Harhair as Chairperson, was involved in budgeting the money for Johnson's legal expenses based on marching orders from James Wettlaufer as indicated from the Financial Committee minutes of May 24, 2012.
(See [Attachment N](#))

In conjunction with the Finance Board trying to keep their dirty little secret, which is why they went out of their way to prevent me from serving the public despite two ongoing vacancies. Peter Frei also experienced intentional maltreatment, mainly over assessment of his property taxes, from other town officials one of whom is a personal friend of the Johnson family, she is also the Highway Department Secretary, and the Assistant Tax Assessor. This person is JoAnn Higgins and she made false statements in a post hearing brief submitted to the Tax appellate Board. These statements were designed to keep Peter Frei over assessed and overtaxed. Higgins works under Christian Petersen, Assessor, and at the time he also served as Selectman when the Select Board voted to pay Johnson's legal fees (Wettlaufer, Petersen and Kennedy.)

Peter Frei has a garage that is being taxed as a finished dwelling. He sought an abatement. JoAnne Higgins and Chris Petersen were the representatives that came to court to represent the Assessors office. They were also the same two assessors who personally came out to Frei's property to assess it and saw it as unfinished then as it still is today, and will forever remain because Frei has been denied permits to finish it.

Peter Frei was denied an abatement. JoAnne Higgins makes numerous false statement to the Tax Appellate Board. In Higgins brief she states that there is "an open floor plan and access to outdoor grilling and seating area with unobstructed view of the lake." She goes on to falsely claim that, "the second floor has an area of 552 square feet and included a full bath, an office area inside the turret and comfortable open concept seating areas with cathedral ceilings through out." (see [Attachment O](#))

Higgins should not just be fined, she should be completely relieved of her duties in the assessor's office. Frei's garage has no electricity, no plumbing, no heating, no insulation. The upstairs (above the garage bay) is a storage area with plywood floors. We have a little grill. Most normal people do grill outside. We sit on a few ratty lawn chairs. If you look at the property on any of several documents provided you can see that it is nearly impossible to NOT have a view of the lake since the property is a peninsula.

Higgins claim that there is a full bathroom, (yet there is no plumbing) is FALSE. Higgins claim that there is an office comfortable seating areas and cathedral ceilings is FALSE. Comparables that Higgins uses are not even marginal, they grossly fall short of being comparables as those garages are finished, have separate electric meters to further prove the use and yet they are still only being taxed as garages, not finished

living spaces! The only garage in Holland that Higgins is taxing as a dwelling is Frei's, yet Frei's garage is UNEQUIVOCALLY UNFINISHED and he has been denied the permits to finish it! ([Attachment P](#))

There are numerous properties in town that do have fully finished garages that are being lived in (two more on Island Road alone--- which were not the comparables Higgins used in addition to the ones she did.) These taxpayers do enjoy comfortable open concept seating and full bathrooms in their garages, yet they do not get taxed for it. We would drive by nearly every night to see dual Christams trees in both house and garage finished living spaces. Meanwhile, Peter Frei has a garage of studs, uses it as storage space, gets taxed on living space and the Assistant Assessor, friend of Brian Johnson, deliberately lies to the Tax Appellate Board as a favor to Johnson. There is no other explanation for it. She has been to the property and seen that it is not finished. Frei showed in court his permit denial.

Photographs submitted to the Tax Appellate Board of the upstairs and downstairs show the stud construction. What is additionally clear from these photos is that both levels contain a hodge podge of random items that are typically placed in storage areas of homes (like attics and garages), there are no cathedral ceilings (nothing on the upper level attic space is open to the first floor as cathedral style requires) and there isn't even any insulation, in fact because there is no insulation you can see all the roofing nails! (See [Attachment Q](#))

Intentionally levying an improper assessment to Frei's property is not Higgins only abuse of her position. She consistently under assesses at least three town officials.

Bradley Noble was an assessor with Higgins until recently. His property record card reflected an unfinished basement. As an assessor with Higgins he enjoyed the privilege of being under assessed. When his home went up for sale it was sold with a finished basement. ([Attachment R](#) is the MLS listing.) Even though JoAnne Higgins had the opportunity as the home was in the process of being sold to go in and properly inspect and assess the property, as it was the home of one of her bosses she was derelict in her duties and to this day the home is assessed as if the basement is not finished.

Christian Petersen is an Assessor with Higgins. He also was the assessor that came to the Frei property with Higgins and also appeared in court with Higgins prior to her submitting her false statements to the Tax Appellate Board. Petersen was simultaneously a Select Board member and voted yes (along with Kennedy and Wettlaufer) to go forward with the Frei Lawsuit ([previous attachment see item E](#)) As Assessor he, like his fellow assessor Noble, enjoys the privilege of being under assessed. He has a wine cellar in his finished basement that he does not pay taxes on. His property record card claims his basement is unfinished. JoAnne Higgins doesn't inspect or correct this intentional error.

James Wettlaufer, Chairperson of the Select Board. Wettlaufer has used his title and position to dictate to the Finance Board the budget to accommodate taxpayer dollars to fund Brian Johnson's private lawsuit. As BOS chair he led the vote to fund a lawsuit against Frei with taxpayer dollars. And he too enjoys being under taxed as he has an in-law apartment in his home which he does not pay proper taxes on.

JoAnne Higgins is incompetent or corrupt, or most likely both.

As if this complaint is not already long enough, there are some unique connections and additional questions that these connections raise, that also need to be pointed out.

Please once again refer to the May 24, 2012 minutes of the Finance Committee. On page two the very last lines of the document state that these minutes were circulated to:

"cc: Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector, Assessors, Accountant" (see previous [Attachment N](#))

Town Clerk:

Kristen LaPlante (municipal, elected, paid position)

For the record, Kristen LaPlant's husband is Tom LaPlant. He works for the highway department under Brian Johnson and he was also present out on the ice on February 19, 2011 when the assault on Peter Frei took place. (See police report-[Attachment B](#), his name is listed there.) Tom Laplante is therefore one of the seven that denied an altercation took place, one of the seven that claimed Frei had slipped on the ice, and one of the seven that conspired to lie to the police by accusing Frei of swearing and threatening to kill them. Tom LaPlante went along with everything that Frei's tape dispels. While Tom LaPlante is not an elected official, his wife is. Laplante's wife Kristen, being the Town Clerk, Was cc'd on the May 24, 2012 Finance Board minutes about the ongoing expenses of this lawsuit and therefore had knowledge of the Town paying for Johnson's private lawsuit. Does she have a duty to report this misuse of taxpayer dollars?

Tom and Kristen LaPlant socialize with Brian Johnson and his wife. Kristen LaPlant also used to be the Highway Department Secretary (the job that JoAnne Higgins does now) simultaneous with being the Town Clerk. The fact that these people socialize together makes it unlikely that any reports about misappropriated funds would be filed by one on "their Friend," Brian Johnson. Tom Laplante is in an even worse position, as supplicant to Johnson, he could lose his job for telling the truth.

Town Treasurer:

Linda Blodgett (municipal, elected, paid position)

Linda Blodgett wrote the checks to Tani Saperstein that paid for Brian Johnson's lawsuit. Linda has always complied with documentation requests. Repeatedly, from numerous individuals I have heard that Linda Blodgett is the ONLY honest Town Official in our Town Hall. Maybe it is not her job to refuse to write checks that fund a private lawsuit, but was it her job to question it? Was it her job to report such behavior to the Ethics Board?

Town Collector:

Steve Anderstrom (municipal, elected, paid position)

Mr. Anderstrom is not well liked by the current Select Board. I can only assume the last Select Board did not like him either since both boards had James Wettlaufer as the Chair. In 2013 two members of the Select Board (Arnold and Wettlaufer) tried to gang up on Anderstrom and bully him on how he conducts his office. This essentially created an Open Meeting Law violation which I filed against Arnold and Wettlaufer with the Division of Open Government. They found that an OML violation did indeed take place. What is most interesting here is the Letter that Wettlaufer sent to Frei when Frei complained about Johnson's inappropriate conduct. Wettlaufer said, "..... the Board of Selectmen does not have the authority to convene an investigation against an elected official." (See previous [Attachment B3](#)) When Wettlaufer is called upon to manage the behavior of a Town official he is friends with he claims to have no power over any elected Town official, but then in May 2013 when Wettlaufer is called upon to manage the behavior of a town official he is not friends with he exercises power and authority he claims to not have, and violates the OML to do it.

In his position of Chairman of the Board of Selectman, Wettlaufer is in the unique position to lead, and mislead, other town servants in any direction he chooses. I believe Wettlaufer (and Johnson) even tried to intimidate the Police when they wanted to have Frei arrested. Wettlaufer has used his position to influence and approve the misappropriation of tax payer dollars to pay for Brian Johnson's private lawsuit against Peter Frei.

Assessors:

J Bradford Noble (municipal, elected, paid position)

Christian Petersen (municipal, elected, paid position)

Cynthia Porier (municipal, elected, paid position)

Assistant Assessor JoAnne Higgins (municipal, appointed, paid position)

These assessors received the Finance Board minutes of May, 24, 2012. It has been ongoing for several tax years that Frei is repeatedly over assessed. It is no different for this tax year. He files abatements. He has gotten abatements, but it's awful hard to get justice when the Assistant Assessor lies to the Tax Appellate Board. Meanwhile numerous town officials enjoy the privilege of being under assessed and not paying taxes for things that should be included (as finished) on their own property record cards.

Town Accountant:

Timothy Harrison (clearly paid, probably appointed)

He too received a copy of the Finance Board minutes that discuss Johnson's ongoing legal fees. I thought the Town accountant was responsible for keeping the books legal. Did he too go along with paying for private legal fees that were incurred by Johnson while Johnson was ice fishing and clearly not acting in his official capacity? He should have reported this impropriety.

2012 Select Board Members:

James Wettlaufer -Chair

Mike Kennedy

Lynn Arnold

Wettlaufer and Kennedy were sitting members of this board in March 2011 when they voted along with Christian Petersen to fund Johnson's private vendetta with taxpayer funds. It is not clear what Lynn Arnold's position is on this matter as she is a newcomer to the Select Board. That said However, Lynn Arnold is the Chair of the Planning Board. And the Planning Board in February 2013, shortly before Frei went to trial with Johnson, denied Frei his special permit to finish his unfinished garage. (see previous [Attachment P](#)) (Frei figured that if Higgins-Assisstant Assessor, and Petersen -Assessor- were taxing the garage as a finished building and calling it a house, then he would finish it, and use it in the same mannor as he is being taxed.) Arnold may be part of the conspiracy than runs through nearly every Holland board. Certainly Arnold, by positions she holds, has in depth knowledge of all of the details, including Johnson's private lawsuit against Frei (as Wettlaufer, Kennedy and now Arnold instead of Petersen, just went into executive session over it again on December 3, 2013) even if she did not vote to fund it, the bylaw for accessory dwelling is written in such a way as part of it's intention is to legalize already existing situations. Arnold as Chair and the rest of the Planning board did not grant Frei the permit he needs to finish the garage to match how he is being taxed. Frei is over taxed by Higgins, friend of Johnson, with no remedy to fix the situation as she lies to the Tax court to prevent him getting a proper remedy.

Malfeasance is part of Brian Johnson's entitlement and abuse of his position.

Besides accepting taxpayer dollars to finance his private vendetta against Peter Frei, Johnson uses town equipment to plow his parents driveway every storm. (See [Attachment S](#))

Brian Johnson transports routinely transports his children in town vehicles ([Attachment T](#))

I often see Brian Johnson at the bank in the next town over in a town truck on a Monday morning. The town of Holland does not have accounts at this bank, I asked, which means Johnson conducts personal business on town time.

Johnson runs a roofing business out of his home. He is known to roof, with his town employees on town hours. This allows everyone to double dip and get paid for the roofing job while still collecting a salary from the town.

After significant storms when trees come down the highway department clears the downed trees and limbs. The weed used to go up to the town barn and be available for the elderly who may need it to help heat their homes. In other years it has been put out to bid. Now, in the Johnson years, he himself is often seen picking up the wood and bringing it directly to his house for his personal use. On one occasion a friend of Johnson's named Tim Fortuna got two cords of wood from the Board of Selectman for \$150. It was never properly put out to bid. Fortuna was out on the ice on February 19, 2011 with Brian Johnson the day Peter Frei was assaulted. Fortuna as a friend of the

town officials receives special privilege and this act (the wood transfer) was recored in the Select Board minutes.

Johnson hired his friend and neighbor Haney, who does not possess the proper licenses from the state to operate heavy equipment to push back snow for the town at the elementary school.

A long time friend of Johnson (Kaitbinski Construction) gets sand and other town resources for secret handshake deals that do not go out for bid.

Brian Johnson used town time and resources to make campaign signs for Mike Kennedy. In addition Johnson also posted those campaign signs using a town truck to go from location to location and he did it while still being on the clock for the town (June 2013.)

In Summary:

Taxpayer dollars have been misappropriated to pay for Brian Johnson's private lawsuit. It has been hidden from the taxpayers and the scandal spans several town boards and even more town officials. This is rank conspiracy. Town officials (Brian Johnson) should not be making false statements to police officers to get town citizens (Peter Frei) arrested. Maybe Frei should not have recorded Johnson, but it's a good thing he did (as a matter of self defense) otherwise Frei might be in jail based on Johnson's lies.

Even more egregious is the fact that after Johnson lied to the police he then used his lies and his position to influence the police and the Select Board to go after Frei.

We have a corrupt Select Board and a corrupt Finance Board as they both supported the misuse of funds.

We have an assistant tax assessor who is friends with Johnson, works for Johnson over taxes Frei, and lies to the court, and assessors themselves are routinely under assessed.

As a taxpayer I find the actions of these town officials reprehensible. This entitlement mentality and recruitment of other officials to serve a personal cause is nothing more than a conspiracy. On many levels the same morally reprehensible people have tried to cover it up and keep the taxpayers from knowing. I want full disclosure and maximum penalties levied against everyone involved.

I look forward to your dissection of this matter. I realize the complaint is lengthy. Please call me for any additional details that you wish to have provided. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dana Manning

