

Why I Resigned From the Pilottown Village Board

After running for Mayor and experiencing the local effects of what can only be characterized as corrupt politics, one of those involved asked me to run for the Pilottown Village HOA board. Foolishly, I agreed only to lose again, also ironically as the third-place vote-getter. But then, all the other four members who carried over from the prior Board resigned en masse after the first meeting of the newly-elected Board, leaving only the two new members. They asked for self-nominations from the HOA members to fill the vacancies and asked me specifically if I would serve. Naively, I agreed and was appointed Treasurer.

Six months in as Treasurer, I have resigned, with an innuendo being cast by the very person who asked me to serve as Treasurer as having somehow caused "disruption" in the Board Meeting when I resigned. So let's set the record straight. Yes, after having my simple suggestions to correctly take action to put the current HOA budget in balance and report back to the Pilottown Village community vociferously rejected and derided by the rest of the Board, I did resign in order to protest the irresponsible and the insulting actions of the Board that are a serious and mistaken disservice to the community constituting misfeasance at the least in direct violation of the Association Bylaws. I sent a written rebuttal of the specific statements made in the meeting in my letter of resignation - which the Board apparently demurs to share with the community; so, I'm posting it here on my Moore4Lewes website so the facts and merits can be known and considered fully.

It has subsequently come to my attention, after doing a quick review of the financial files before turning them over to the President of the Board - who was the immediate past Treasurer before asking me to serve - that the Federal HOA income tax report for 2022, due before April 15, 2023, may not have been filed this year - well prior to my being appointed in June, and without any notification to me. I had looked to see because I had just been asked to check whether there was a report due to the State of Delaware in December.

No report is due in December because the fiscal year for the HOA is the calendar year beginning January 1 - a fact which means that the budget year ends December 31, and which furthermore means that all the actions which I was suggesting to the Board at the meeting when I resigned should in fact have been taken in that very meeting in order to properly adjust the fiscal year 2024 budget to go into effect on January 1; and based on which the Board is required to determine annual assessments of HOA Members prior to the Annual Meeting in April, by which time the taxes, fees, and reports will be already due to the State and Federal governments.

Incidentally, the Bylaws establish that the Board is responsible to set and to change both the budget and the assessments to Members, which must be in place before the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws do not require the Members to vote on or approve the budget any more than the U.S. Constitution requires citizens to vote on or approve the Federal or State government budgets or the taxes we must pay. It only requires the Members to elect the Board. So, it is irresponsible and incompetent for the Board to not perform the duties laid out in the Bylaws - which clearly include changing the budget when needed to keep it in balance. Moreover, fiduciary obligations indicate the need to obtain independent audits and assure timely filings and transparent disclosure to the Membership.

So I did intend to disrupt the business-as-usual of the Board to attempt to get their attention to the proper and legal requirements and procedures any responsible HOA Board should follow. I hope this posting will further disrupt their business-as-usual.

They need to Put Community First!