



Above: Photos sign and door hanger included in Kelly Elliott's campaign finance complaint against Steve King. Courtesy the Town of Monument.

Elliott, Stephens, Romanello and Schoening voted for the investigation. Elliott emphasized how the town's receipt for \$2,500 of door hangers that specifically asked for a "yes" vote on Home Rule was illegal and needed investigation. She claimed she did not want to "drag this out" into the next administration, calling to conclude the investigation by the end of December. Stephens said, "Our oath calls us to uphold the law" and claimed the evidence justifies a thorough investigation. Schoening claimed a "breach of trust" and that if the "shoe were on the other foot" the other side would demand an explanation. "We owe it to

the taxpayer to find out [the truth]," she said. Ramos and LaKind voted against the investigation. Both mentioned several times of their uneasiness of making this decision without town legal counsel present. "Without legal representation, I do not feel good about this at all," LaKind said. Ramos argued that an internal investigation should be made first. "Anyone can investigate this, but \$20,000 to gain back \$2,500 is unacceptable," he said. Ramos proposed a postponement of the resolution, but the proposal failed. A second resolution, Resolution No. 95-2022, called to hire an investigative attorney: "A Resolution

to Hire Special Attorney Scott Gesler for the Investigation of the Town of Monument Related to Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) by a Legal Signatory's Signature on Mr. Gesler's Letter of Engagement." Attorney Gesler was not present for the meeting. LaKind expressed several problems with the board's recommendation. "How did you [the other four councilmembers] come to the conclusion of this one candidate who is guilty of an ethics violation for the exact same thing you want to investigate, as being selected by the four of you, in some form of 'walking quorum' which is illegal?" Most of the others

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As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

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