

Rule Commission. The investigation found the Seller's mistakes and poor advisements were "caused by her blinding self-interest, rather than her mistake or omission." The second example: Foreman "alone" guided the writing of Section 7.2 on the qualifications of the town manager—while acting as the town manager. With the new charter, the town manager may be fired with at least five votes from the council, "almost impossible to terminate."

On using the town seal, the investigation cited campaign finance laws prohibiting the use of a town seal as an endorsement of a ballot issue. The investigation goes so far as to claim the failure to follow the law—whether by error or intention—"renders the document void as a materially fraudulent misrepresentation to the public."

The investigation goes into a complicated

timeline in April and May of 2022 when \$2,512.50 of town money was spent for alleged electioneering, about the same time the town put the question on the ballot. It concluded, "The timing of Foreman and Abbott's actions ... point to a clear scheme to deceive the [Board of Trustees] and the voters." After the election materials started to appear on doorsteps around town in October, Schoening formally complained to Foreman and Interim Town Lawyer Joe Rivera, who both claimed, "The town seal is neither copyrighted nor protected." Later that month, just before the election, Elliott filed her formal election campaign finance complaint. By then election campaigning was nearly over, and the investigation claims, "the facts were purposefully hidden from the Town Council."

Also implicated in the report was Laura Kronick, the one who wrote the check for \$2,500 (99.8 percent of the total) back to the town to "cure" the "mistake." The investigation challenges the innocence of the action by signifying its result. "This illegal contribution undoubtedly had a direct impact on the outcome of the Home Rule Charter ballot question in the November 8th, 2022 election." The investigation concludes the timeline with, "The actions of Mike Foreman, Sana Abbott, Brandy Turner, and the HRCC as a whole are a clear misappropriation of funds, and they covered up their actions throughout March-November of 2022."

The investigation asks, "Does the Home Rule Charter violate Gerrymandering laws?" and uses six Colorado case law criteria to determine whether it did. If any one of the criteria substantially failed, it would fail constitutionally. The investigation shows the HRC failed in all six, citing the abuse and lack of transparency already revealed. On whether the redistricting was fair, Colorado law considers 5% or less "fair"; the charter moved 16% of Monument voters from their existing districts. The investigation called this a "whopping" disparity. When the investigator questioned Sellars why this disparity was not corrected, she resigned.

The investigation accuses several acting members of "cyberbullying" the investigator and witnesses to the investigation. Screenshots were provided of social media posts from Ramos, King, Abbott, and online blogger Ryan LeVier that the

report said included "false claims and threats." The investigation claims this led to hesitation from others to participate in the investigation.

The investigation returned to the issue of workplace harassment, something that appears to be out of the scope of the investigation but one that the report claims "an additional area of concern ... that should be addressed." Harassment was apparently reported several times in past years. One interview claims that a sexually offensive statement from then-Trustee LaKind was ignored by Foreman. "The Town Manager did nothing to stop the sexual harassment of a Councilwoman [sic] and allowed the hostile work environment to continue, suggesting the councilwoman report it to police instead."

The full report is 16 pages long and can be accessed at shorturl.at/imv13. The entire Google folder of screenshots, emails, and letters documenting the claims made in the report may be accessed at shorturl.at/nowxZ.

The Monument Council usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next two regular meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 3 and Jan. 17 (both dates following observed holidays). Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Town Council.

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MA (Cont. from 1)

Graham provided an overview of school funding, which comes from the Public-School Finance Act of 1994. The state calculates the total per-pupil funding by setting a base number and adding money for factors such as cost of living, personnel costs, district size, and at-risk student count and then subtracts a "budget stabilization" factor to address statewide budget balancing challenges. 40% of the district funds come from a local share, made up of property taxes and specific ownership taxes (e.g., car registration fees) and the remaining 60% is backfilled by the state from other revenue sources. The current per-pupil revenue is around \$8,500 per student, he said, which is allocated to Lewis-Palmer District 38, MA's authorizer, and disbursed to MA based on its per-pupil count. MA uses this money to pay all its expenses, including the bond debt service for both campuses.

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