Formal Complaint Submission & Request for Resignation – Sept 12 Incident

9 messages

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Sun, Sep 14, 2025 at 10:16 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov, attorney.general@maine.gov, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, opega@legislature.maine.gov, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Chief Towne, Town Manager, and copied officials,

On **September 12, 2025**, I delivered my formal complaint against Officer Steven Schiessler to the Berwick Police Department. **This incident occurred on my birthday — a day that also happened to be personally significant to me. Instead of being treated with the dignity and respect every citizen deserves, I was humiliated in a public office.**

While submitting my documents, **Ms. Denise Dunn threw or pushed my paperwork onto the floor**. This was not only humiliating but an **egregious and unacceptable act** by a public servant toward a citizen.

This conduct is especially disturbing given that Ms. Dunn:

- Already knows I am a **100% disabled veteran**.
- Already knows I have faced ongoing harassment and retaliation.
- Already knows I am only exercising my right to file a complaint and seek equal protection under the law.

This incident cannot be dismissed as a simple lapse in professionalism. When a town employee reacts to a citizen's lawful complaint by throwing it to the floor, it demonstrates **contempt for both the citizen and the accountability process itself**. Such behavior undermines public trust in Berwick's institutions and sets a dangerous precedent for how vulnerable residents may be treated.

I have attached:

1. **Formal Complaint & Exhibits – Officer Steven Schisler Misconduct (Sept 12, 2025)**
2. **Formal Complaint Delivery Receipt (Sept 12, 2025)**
3. **Video Evidence of Denise Dunn's conduct** – available here: https://youtu.be/O4anA-dPzTc

My Requests

1. Formal acknowledgement of this complaint and assignment of a case number.
2. A full and impartial investigation into both Officer Schisler's misconduct and Ms. Dunn's actions on Sept 12.
3. Written confirmation that this matter will be reviewed by oversight authorities.
4. **Resignation of Ms. Denise Dunn.**
    - Given the **documented pattern of misconduct toward me** and now this **egregious public display of hostility**, I do not believe Ms. Dunn can continue to serve the public with impartiality, respect, or integrity. At minimum, she must be removed from any role that involves public interaction or complaint handling.

No citizen — and certainly not a disabled veteran — should ever be subjected to this type of treatment when seeking help. I trust that you will act with the seriousness and urgency this matter deserves.

****Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) Request****

In addition to the above complaint, I am hereby submitting a formal request under Maine's Freedom of Access Act (1 M.R.S. §§ 400–414) for a copy of the lobby surveillance video from the Berwick Police Department covering the period of **September 12, 2025, from 3:50 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

My formal complaint delivery receipt shows the precise time of **4:03 p.m.**, when this incident occurred. This footage will directly capture Ms. Dunn's actions behind my back as she threw my paperwork onto the floor.

Please confirm receipt of this request and provide the video within the statutory timeframe.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
Berwick, Maine

---

2 attachments

Formal Complaint Delivery Receipt – Officer Steven Schiessler (Berwick PD, Sept 12 2025).pdf
194K

Formal Complaint & Exhibits – Officer Steven Schisler Misconduct (Sept 12 2025).pdf
1793K

Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov> Sun, Sep 14, 2025 at 5:15 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Good afternoon. I have received your email.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 10:16:47 AM
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>; Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>; Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov <Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov>; Rafferty, Joe <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>; Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>; attorney.general@maine.gov <attorney.general@maine.gov>; Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent) <governor@maine.gov>; opega@legislature.maine.gov <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>; Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: Formal Complaint Submission & Request for Resignation – Sept 12 Incident

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Sun, Sep 14, 2025 at 6:48 PM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>
Cc: Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe"

<Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov, attorney.general@maine.gov, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, opega@legislature.maine.gov, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov

Subject: Request for Substantive Response and Timelines – Formal Complaint & FOAA Request

Dear Mr. Capello, Chief Towne, and copied officials,

Thank you for your acknowledgment of my email dated September 14, 2025. I appreciate the confirmation of receipt.

Given the seriousness of this matter, I am now respectfully requesting a **substantive response with clear timelines** addressing the following:

1. **Case Assignment & Acknowledgment**
    - Please confirm the assignment of a case number and the individual responsible for handling my complaint against Officer Schiessler and Ms. Dunn.
2. **Investigation**
    - Provide a timeline for when I can expect a full and impartial investigation into Officer Schiessler's misconduct and Ms. Dunn's actions on September 12.
    - Please also confirm whether outside oversight will be involved, as I requested.
3. **Oversight Review**
    - Written confirmation that this matter will be reviewed by oversight authorities, given the implications for public trust and the clear conflict of interest if handled solely in-house.
4. **Accountability for Ms. Dunn**
    - Clarification on whether Ms. Dunn will be removed from public-facing duties pending review, given her documented pattern of misconduct and the egregious public display of hostility witnessed on September 12.
5. **FOAA Request**
    - As submitted in my September 14 email, I formally requested the lobby surveillance footage from September 12, 2025, between 3:50 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.
    - Please confirm receipt of this FOAA request and provide the statutory timeframe in which the footage will be made available.

This matter involves not only my rights as a citizen and disabled veteran, but also the broader public's trust in Berwick's institutions. I expect that the seriousness of these requests will be met with the urgency and transparency they require.

I look forward to your timely response and to seeing this process handled with the impartiality and integrity that the residents of Berwick deserve.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
Berwick, Maine

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 8:00 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>
Cc: Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov, attorney.general@maine.gov, "Office of

Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, opega@legislature.maine.gov, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov, "Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Subject: Follow-Up: 10-Day Silence, FOAA Request, and Council Escalation

Dear Mr. Capello, Chief Towne, District Attorneys of York County, and all copied officials,

As reflected in prior correspondence — including this chain and the attached threads — my requests and FOAA submission remain unanswered. During this 10-day silence, I escalated the matter to the **Berwick Town Council**, where I read my concerns into the official record, submitted exhibits, and formally requested an investigation. Yet across the Town Council, the Town Manager, and every official copied here, I am still being stonewalled.

For transparency, I have **cc'd OPEGA, Peter Schleck, and Brenda Keilty for FOAA purposes** to ensure preservation of records and compliance with statutory obligations.

Attachments for reference:

- **Exhibit 1 – Meeting at the PD (Sept 16–17, 2025)** — documents the Town Manager's response, my rebuttal, and submission of my Town Council public comment video to be appended to the record
- **Exhibit 2 – Follow-Up on Public Comment & Evidence Submission (Sept 19, 2025)** — documents my public comment to the Town Council, the transcripted remarks, and confirmation of exhibits submitted

Bluntly: everyone on this chain has been put on notice. **Stonewalling is not an acceptable tool for any government agency**, least of all when used against a **100% disabled veteran** who has been whistleblowing for over a year with substantiated concern. For context, I recently met with the **FBI for several hours**, my situation is being **covered in the news**, and I am engaged in **more than a dozen complaint processes** (some under NDA). It should be painfully obvious what is happening. The continued failure to provide transparency or accountability is one of the most disappointing breakdowns in public service I have ever witnessed.

Immediate requests (renewed)

1. Formal case assignment with a case number and named investigator.
2. A clear timeline for a full, impartial investigation into Officer Schiessler's conduct and Administrative Assistant Denise Dunn's actions on September 12.
3. Written confirmation that appropriate oversight authorities will review this matter.
4. Clarification on whether Ms. Dunn will be removed from public-facing duties pending review.
5. Fulfillment of my FOAA request for the lobby surveillance footage within the statutory timeframe.

Failure to respond substantively within **five (5) business days** will confirm this as deliberate obstruction and will force further escalation at state and federal levels.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
Berwick, Maine
rtgmich@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

Exhibit 2 Follow-Up on Public Comment & Evidence Submission (Sept 19, 2025.pdf
113K

Exhibit 1 – Meeting at the PD (Sept 16–17, 2025).pdf
306K

Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov> Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:36 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Cc: Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Good afternoon, Mr. Michaels.

Thank you. I confirm I have received your email and will contact you soon.

Thank you

Please note my email address has changed to townmanager@berwickmaine.gov

Arthur Capello

Town Manager

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8 am to 6 pm

(207) 698-1101 ext. 111

townmanager@berwickmaine.gov



NOTICE: Under Maine's Freedom of Access ("Right-to-Know") law, documents - including email - in public officials' possession of city business are classified as public records. This means if anyone asks to see it, we are required to provide it. There are very few exceptions. We welcome citizen comments and want to hear from our residents, but please remember that what you write in an email is not private and could appear in the local newspaper.

Book time to meet with me

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 2:10 PM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>
Cc: Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov, attorney.general@maine.gov, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Follow-Up: 10-Day Silence, FOAA Request, and Council Escalation

Good afternoon, Mr. Capello,

Thank you for confirming receipt of my email and for committing to follow up. I appreciate the acknowledgment.

That said, I would respectfully request a clear timeline for your response, given that the substantive issues raised in my email—including case assignment, investigative review, and my FOAA request—remain outstanding. I fully understand you may need time to consult, but a target date for reply would help ensure clarity and accountability.

My intent is simply to keep communication transparent and constructive, and to avoid further misunderstandings about expectations or timelines.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your follow-up.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 8:00 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>
Cc: Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov, attorney.general@maine.gov, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Subject: Urgent Follow-Up: Pattern of Mishandled Complaints and Consequences in Court

Dear Mr. Capello, Chief Towne, and copied officials,

I am again following up regarding my **formal complaint of September 12, 2025** and my **FOAA request** for lobby surveillance footage (Sept 12, 2025, 3:50–4:15 p.m.). It has now been six additional days without any substantive response addressing case assignment, investigative timelines, or oversight review.

This ongoing silence is not just procedural neglect — it is part of a long and damaging pattern that has directly affected my ability to seek justice.

On **August 12, 2025**, I called dispatch requesting that an officer come to my home to take a complaint. Instead, **Officer Schiessler called me rather than arriving as requested, and then hung up on me mid-conversation**. When I called dispatch back, I made clear that he had hung up, requested another officer, and was told one would be sent. Yet no one ever came, and **my complaint was effectively never taken**, despite my explicit and repeated attempts. That single failure deprived me of documentation that could have supported me in court. Instead, Marisol was able to feign ignorance under oath and claim she could not recall events from August 12 — leaving me with no official record to challenge her misrepresentation.

Only days later, **Officer Pilkington mocked me and drove away**, again refusing to take a complaint. And then, on **September 12**, when I attempted to submit an updated complaint — including the fact that Officer Schiessler and his wife were monitoring me online — **Administrative Assistant Denise Dunn threw my paperwork on the ground** in the police department lobby. The irony is unmistakable: the very officer who hung up on me on August 12, who makes over six figures in salary, is the same officer I was attempting to file against on September 12. Yet neither my initial complaint nor my follow-up was ever meaningfully addressed.

The past month has underscored the core issue: **my complaints are not being taken seriously**. I have been hung up on, driven away from, mocked, and even had my paperwork thrown on the floor — all while trying to report harassment, abuse, and misconduct. These failures have now bled directly into my court proceedings, leaving me trapped in a loop where the absence of proper documentation is used against me, while the misconduct of others goes unchecked.

This cannot continue. I again renew the following requests:

1. Formal case assignment with a case number and named investigator.
2. A clear timeline for a full, impartial investigation into Officer Schiessler's conduct, Ms. Dunn's actions, and the broader failures in handling complaints.
3. Written confirmation that oversight authorities will review this matter.
4. Clarification on whether Ms. Dunn will be removed from public-facing duties pending review.
5. Fulfillment of my FOAA request for the lobby surveillance footage within the statutory timeframe.

These events, taken together, demonstrate a **systemic refusal** to acknowledge, process, or investigate my legitimate complaints. The longer this continues, the more harm it causes — not just to me personally, but to public trust in Berwick's institutions.

I expect a written, substantive response no later than **10-3-2025**.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
Berwick, Maine

[Quoted text hidden]

Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov> Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 11:16 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Cc: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Good afternoon, Mr. Michaels.

Your requested information was sent to you today in the mail.

Thank you

Please note my email address has changed to townmanager@berwickmaine.gov

Arthur Capello

Town Manager

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8 am to 6 pm

(207) 698-1101 ext. 111

townmanager@berwickmaine.gov



NOTICE: Under Maine's Freedom of Access ("Right-to-Know") law, documents - including email - in public officials' possession of city business are classified as public records. This means if anyone asks to see it, we are required to provide it. There are very few exceptions.

We welcome citizen comments and want to hear from our residents, but please remember that what you write in an email is not private and could appear in the local newspaper.

Book time to meet with me

From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 8:00 AM
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>
Cc: Tim Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov; Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov; Rafferty, Joe <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>; Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov; attorney.general@maine.gov; Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent) <governor@maine.gov>; opega@legislature.maine.gov; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com; Schleck, Peter <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov
Subject: Re: Formal Complaint Submission & Request for Resignation – Sept 12 Incident

Subject: Urgent Follow-Up: Pattern of Mishandled Complaints and Consequences in Court

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

> [Quoted text hidden]
> [Quoted text hidden]
>
> > [Quoted text hidden]
> > [Quoted text hidden]
> >
> > Book time to meet with me
> >
> > [Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 12:07 PM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov, Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>, jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov, lchase@berwickmaine.gov, lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov, mlaterreur@berwickmaine.gov, cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov, vandrick@berwickmaine.gov
Cc: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Good afternoon, Mr. Capello, Chief Towne, and copied officials,

Thank you for confirming that you sent a response in the mail. I will review it when it arrives. That said, I need to raise several important concerns:

1. **Transparency & Delay** – Mailing a response, rather than providing it here on the official record, unnecessarily slows the process and creates barriers to transparency.

2. **Removal of Recipients** – Your most recent reply removed everyone from the chain except myself and Chief Towne. I am now re-adding them for the sake of transparency, as I have consistently requested. This recurring pattern forces me to carry the burden of restoring oversight visibility that should never be removed in the first place.

For as long as history will show, I have gone through every official process available, doing so civilly, lawfully, and peacefully. In return, I have been met consistently with obstruction, stonewalling, and systemic inaction—or, at times, retaliatory action. Despite that, I continue to act in good faith, hoping that my complaints and concerns will finally be taken seriously. Yet, as this very email chain demonstrates, stonewalling is alive and well, and my civil requests are still being ignored.

I would also like it noted for the record that it took a tremendous effort on my part just to secure a sit-down meeting with Chief Towne and yourself on September 3rd. That meeting was cut short by 30 minutes, with you stating it was “going around in circles,” even though I had provided printed and organized questions in advance. You told me then that you would provide answers. Yet two weeks later, on the date you had promised those answers, you instead stated you owed me nothing. I received no answers, no fulfillment of outstanding FOAA requests, and here I remain—still waiting on those very questions and records.

The reality is that it has now been months without meaningful engagement, without a substantive response, and without any of my documented concerns being addressed. And yet, I remain here in good faith, still hoping that this response you have now chosen to send by mail will finally provide answers and fulfill the requests I am legally entitled to.

I should not have to push this hard simply to secure the bare minimum of accountability. These delays and omissions erode trust in the process and place unnecessary barriers in front of a citizen exercising their lawful rights.

Note for Transparency:
For the sake of full accountability, I have also added the Berwick Town Council members to this email chain. This matter was raised publicly during the September 16th Council meeting, where I submitted exhibits and spoke on the record. On September 19th, I followed up directly with the Council in writing to request confirmation, answers, and action (see attached **Exhibit 1 – Follow-Up Email to Berwick Town Council, September 19, 2025**). To date, I have received no response. Including the Council here ensures that all elected representatives remain fully informed and that the record reflects my continued good-faith efforts to pursue resolution through every appropriate channel.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
Berwick, Maine

[Quoted text hidden]

---

2 attachments

Gmail - Formal Complaint Submission & Request for Resignation – Sept 12 Incident.pdf
516K

Exhibit 1 – Follow-Up Email to Berwick Town Council (September 19, 2025).pdf
113K