Gmail **Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>**

Complaint

2 messages

Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov> Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 9:49 AM
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Cc: Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>

Mr. Michaels,

I am aware that in an effort to give you a timely response, Town Manager Capello has already sent you an email advising of the board's decision regarding your complaint as I have been out of town. However, as the Vice Chair of the Berwick Selectboard, I wanted to send you a direct message from myself and the board.

On October 7, 2025, the Berwick Selectboard met and reviewed your complaint in detail. After careful consideration we have determined that the complaints against Chief Towne, members of his department, and the Town Manager Arthur Capello are unfounded.

This ends the process with the board and we consider this matter closed at this time.

Linda Hutchins-Corliss
Vice-Chair
Berwick Selectboard

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 5:11 PM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>
Cc: Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>, Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>, Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Complaint — Request for Records and Clarification

Vice-Chair Hutchins-Corliss and Members of the Berwick Selectboard,

Thank you for your email confirming the Selectboard's decision.

For transparency and record-keeping, please provide the complete record of the board's review of my complaint, including:

1. The minutes and/or audio/video recording of the October 7, 2025 meeting where my complaint was reviewed;
2. Any materials the board received or considered (memos, emails, notes, staff communications, and correspondence among board members, the Town Manager's office, police department personnel, and counsel) regarding my complaint and its handling; and
3. The board's written rationale supporting the determination that the complaint was "unfounded."

This request is made under Maine's Freedom of Access Act (FOAA), 1 M.R.S. §§ 400–414. As required by §408-A(3), please acknowledge receipt within five (5) working days and provide a good-faith estimate of the timeline for production. If any portion is withheld or redacted, please identify the specific statutory exemption(s) relied upon for each item and provide a segregable index.

Given that the Town Manager was the subject of my complaint, please also clarify who served as the neutral point of contact for the board's review and whether the Town's conflict-of-interest/complaint policy allows the subject of a complaint to manage communications about that complaint. If such a policy exists, please include it with your response.

Finally, please confirm the Town's designated Public Access Officer for FOAA matters and whether any appeal or reconsideration mechanism exists at the municipal level. If not, I intend to consult the Public Access Ombudsman at the Maine Office of the Attorney General regarding any FOAA compliance or process concerns.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
Berwick, Maine

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