



TOWN OF DOUGLAS

Timothy P. Bonin, *Chairman*
Michael D. Hughes, *ViceChairman*
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OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

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Town Administrator

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August 21, 2012

Selectman Donald Bourque
c/o the Committee to Elect Donald Bourque
P.O. Box 324
Webster, MA 01570

Dear Selectman Bourque:

Douglas Fire Department Chief Kent Vinson came before this Board on August 21, 2012 and answered questions surrounding your "Emergency Services Appreciation Day." In particular, the Board was looking to learn why Town property was used as the laws of the Commonwealth expressly state that candidates may not use public resources of any kind for a political purpose.

As a result of our discussion, we are of the belief your "Emergency Services Appreciation Day" was created to benefit your campaign for State Representative. We understand that Oxford's Board of Selectman independently (and unanimously) had the same finding at their recent meeting as well. The outrage is palpable.

Your campaign committee's decision to request and actively call for Town property for such an event was reckless. The fact that Chief Vinson felt misled about the event furthers the trouble we have with this event.

The Board of Selectman voted unanimously to send you and your campaign committee this letter asking that you correct the unseemly decision of soliciting and ultimately using Town fire apparatus as a backdrop for a campaign event.

As a Board, we debated what this letter should accomplish.

Do we demand reimbursement for any Town funds expended to bring Douglas' ladder and antique truck to and from the event held in Webster? Should we charge a "rental" fee?

Such questions lead us to ask others.

How do you measure the actual value of an antique fire truck's mileage?

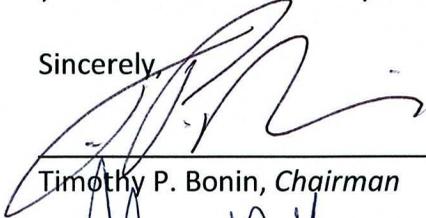
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In the end, the five of us understand that the ball is in your court. If you would entertain reimbursing the Town for such expenses, it would be recognized and appreciated.

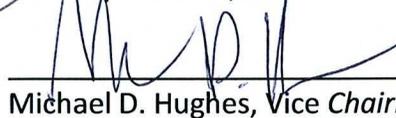
We hope you would agree the taxpayers of Douglas deserve more than an Emergency Service Appreciation Day "Best in Show in the Fire Fighting Apparatus Class" certificate from your campaign committee.

If you agree, contact our office and the Town will generate an invoice. Thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,

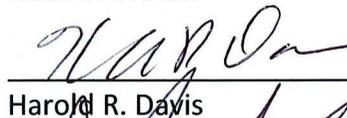


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