

**Investigation declared over,
CORA request suggests otherwise**

Two executive sessions and two special meetings were called to address the investigation report of Dec. 28, 2022. See January's OCN article for complete reporting of the December special meetings leading up to the investigation findings and recommendations to the Town Council.

Background: The previous Board of Trustees launched the investigation late in the 2022 election cycle that accused the Home Rule Charter Commission of electioneering and fraud. The investigation called for publicly censuring much of the newly elected Council (King, Abbott, Kronick, LaKind), the termination of the town manager and other employees, and filing ethics complaints against the previous town attorney. None of the recommendations has been adopted by the new Council.

April 3: Monument pays for LaKind's personal attorney: The Town Council broke to executive session to seek guidance from Town Attorney Bob Cole on specific legal questions relating to the report of the investigation findings. Following the session, most members of the public left and three people remained online. An action item was taken to instruct

the town manager to pay Mayor LaKind's personal attorney fees that incurred during December's investigation. The action item read: "Sherman & Howard Invoice No. 862015 to Mitchell LaKind for Professional Services, 12/22/22 through 1/31/23." The item passed 6-0 with LaKind—since it benefited him financially—recusing himself from the vote. The council did not disclose the amount of the fees.

Council Member Laura Kronick noted that every-

one had to sit through what she called "a debacle" at the end of last year. Kronick referenced "one person" [LaKind] who "stood up and did the right thing." King added that the town was left without an attorney at the time, and LaKind had taken it upon himself to "handle the situation." Council Member Jim Romanello put forth the motion. The meeting adjourned without public comment.



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