

September 2, 2020

VIA USPS and EMAIL

Supervisor Chad Lupinacci
Councilwoman Joan Cergol
Councilman Eugene Cook
Councilman Mark Cuthbertson
Councilman Edmund Smyth
Huntington Town Hall
100 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743

COPY TO:

Town Clerk Andrew Raia
Elwood Board of Education
Elwood District Clerk Mary Lou Marx

Honorable Supervisor and Town Board,

We are four former Trustees of the Elwood Board of Education who have each served as President or Vice President in the past six years. We are writing on behalf of ourselves and no other group or organization to highlight a lack of community transparency in a letter recently received by the Town from the current Board of Education and School Superintendent.

On or about August 17, 2020, two officers of the Elwood Board of Education, who are the sole and exclusive members of the Board's "Legislative Committee," wrote to the Town to urgently take action in regard to a proposed settlement for a certain LIPA certiorari claim in connection with the Northport Power Plant. In said letter, the specific request was to take affirmative action by August 11, 2020 (for reasons unbeknownst to these writers, the letter requested an action prior to a date that had subsequently lapsed).

It has come to our attention that this letter was not discussed in any public session, without discourse with residents, and not voted upon by the Board of Education prior to its delivery to the Town. Furthermore, the letter was not posted to the District's website for public disclosure until nearly two-weeks later. It is our opinion that the Board acted without transparency and in violation of Open Meetings Laws. As such, we felt that it was urgent to alert the Town that this letter can only represent the opinion of the signed authors and not the community at large.

As Trustees, we strove to act in the best interest of our constituents with utmost transparency and frequent communication. Given the breakdown in process perpetrated by the current officers of the Elwood Board of Education, we felt compelled to bring this to your attention. Please note, this is not a position letter on the current settlement debate in the case brought against the Town by LIPA, but merely an outreach by former public servants to highlight the opaque process that premeditated the referenced letter from the Elwood Board of Education.

Sincerely,

David T. Ciccone Joseph P. Fusaro Andrew Kaplan Rebecca Marcus