

On Sat, Feb 29, 2020 at 2:52 PM Walsh, Bennett (HLY) <[bennett.walsh@state.ma.us](mailto:bennett.walsh@state.ma.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Board of Trustees:

I hope all are having a great weekend.

Update on the email I sent you all on 26 Feb where I informed all that we spoke to the BOT chairman and DVS Secretary to inform them over the confusion of the 15k for the trustee account audit and how the Board of trustees are now interfering with the day to day operations of the home.

My email requests to BOT chairman and secretary was met with the following response:

- a signed ltr by the DVS Secretary (on official state ltr head) ordering the soldiers home in Holyoke to comply with the audit parameters decided upon by DVS Secretary and BOT chairman. (Assumption is BOT chairman informed / aware of letter I received and I'll send separate correspondence to him to alert him of comply letter and my response that I am sharing now)

In addition - DVS Secretary told me a contract has already been signed for the \$15 k audit. I reiterated again that there is confusion amongst Shh executive team and the majority of the board over the fact that the audit will cost \$15 k.

**Additionally- I informed the DVS Secretary that the nov 2019 BOT minutes that stated the SHH executive team would conduct the audit search were incorrectly changed by the BOT chairman. The minutes were changed to BOT chairman/ & DVS /EHS to decide on the audit.**

I reiterated that the \$15 k audit will be an agenda item on this week's finance meeting and the 10 March full board meeting. The finance mtg will not take place without this item on the agenda.

This meeting took place on Friday , in person , in Duxbury between myself and the secretary. (The CFO was with me in Duxbury and asked to leave the meeting. )

I chose not to get in a longer debate in order to ensure the Board was properly informed and the tone of the meeting (while stressed it was not "adverse paperwork" both the tone and the written word given to me would say otherwise- ie a "cease and desist letter on governor letterhead with the language of "comply" and dates associated as set forth by the BOT chairman.

Shh legal council sent copy of letter. (He is cc'd in order to maintain confidentiality)

It is our assumption that a contract has been signed by DVS with the caveat that SHH trustees will pay the bill set forth in the contract agreed upon by DVS and the BOT chairman. EHS was referenced as being on board with this decision.

For further background - I became aware that the BOT chairman was having separate discussions between himself and DVS without superintendent/ shh executive team involvement in late October / November timeframe.

I spoke to the BOT chairman directly about this in November and asked him to not have discussions about the Soldiers home in Holyoke , with DVS, without me or SHH executive team, being involved.

I even stated words to the affect that I could not stop him from speaking to DVS without me but to please inform me if a conversation that affected the soldiers home in Holyoke took place and would have an effect on the staff, and veterans of the soldiers home. So- I could then be involved in the decision before it was made without Holyoke representation.

It is our opinion that such conversations took place concerning the \$15 k audit.

As chief executive officer of the soldiers home in Holyoke, it is my duty to inform you these actions took place in order to assist you in your decision making process going forward.

Myself, and the rest of the executive team, will provide this same type of information at the next two meetings.

Again, this type of situation is taking away from  
The day to day operations of the soldiers home .

Thanks

Bennett Walsh

Superintendent soldiers home in Holyoke

413-552-4728