

**\*Please include somewhere on the agenda and include in the packet for Board Members to be discussed before the executive session occurs\***

### Legal Service Agreement

#### **Question's Grady has for Board Members before executive session:**

- The Board of Trustee's approved \$10,000 for legal expenses on the 2024 budget, which we have already breached, how much more is the board willing to approve for legal allocation?
- Which area of the 2024 budget are we adjusting to allocate these funds?

#### **Statements Mike Grady would like Made:**

**(1)Additional Funding:** Whatever the amount is that the board is willing to approve in additional funding towards legal expenses in 2024, I feel we should provide half in the form of legal retainer.

***I.e. The Board is willing to allocate \$4k more, I would request \$2k be held in retainer on behalf of "The Town of Norwood" and \$2k be made available for upcoming legal expenses. Once depleted, David may use up retainer for remainder of 2024***

#### **Statement (1) Why?**

- Legal retainers create a fair & ethical relationship between the client (The People of the Town of Norwood) and the Attorney (David Reed).
- Legal retainers create a reasonable expectation for both parties on work to be performed and monies to spent.

**(2)Communications** have been an issue over the last several months, specifically surrounding attorney interaction. I would like it to be clear, It is highly important to the budget, The People of The Town of Norwood and myself, that a member of Town Staff & a Member of the Board be present at any meeting occurring with the attorney's on behalf of The Town of Norwood. (I am fine with Shawn or Candy as their roles will need to have a finger on the pulse with legal matters)

#### **Statement (2) Why?**

- In 2024, discussions with the attorney's office have already created animosity that has since disrupted workflows and interfered with relationships amongst districts, staff and board members, which has in turn reflected poorly in the public eye. That said, while we (as a board) may be willing to allocate more funds towards "unforeseen circumstances", I **will not** allocate more towards the emotional distress of others, to any group, district, board or staff member involved, by continuing previously accepted communication systems with the attorney/s.

### **(3)Scope of Representation**

- I would like to request that we restrict any type of work/representation right now that allows work to occur on an “ongoing basis”. This means, any activity that we request the attorney’s office to “take care of” on an ongoing basis.
- I would like the Scope of Representation to **clearly** reflect the amount of money (including retainer) that is agreed upon by the Board of Trustees.

### **Statement (3) Why?**

- We did not budget for this type of activity. We budgeted \$10k for 2024, which we are over budget on. If the board desires to increase the legal expense in 2025, then propose it.. But, as far as I can tell, in 2024 - it’s time to tighten our belts.
- A fair and ethical relationship between an attorney and client involves an appropriate assessment of the financial commitments and of the foreseen work to be performed.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion,  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Grady  
Town of Norwood  
Board of Trustees  
06.03.2024