

Via Email

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March 5, 2021

Denise Griffin, Selectwoman  
Town of Boothbay Harbor  
11 Howard Street  
Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04538

Re: **Your Comments at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen Meeting**

Dear Selectwoman Griffin:

In the *Boothbay Register*, you are quoted as saying the following at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting:

“... One of the items that slowed down the negotiations process was that the Teamster president personally threatened our town manager and indirectly threatened the police chief. That kind of behavior is a violation of Maine labor relations law and I personally have no tolerance for it and I'm pretty certain that the rest of you on the board don't have any tolerance for that kind of behavior either. I only mentioned it because the next time we have a union negotiation, I might not be here and I wanted you all to know about it. We've put it all behind us, but I thought it was important that you know ... I don't think we need to respond to it, but our attorney Matt Tarasevich did put it in writing. It's in his file and I'm sure we can get a copy of that if we'd like.”

Let me give you the real facts and a brief lesson on the law. The Teamster Members in Boothbay Harbor are fortunate to have wonderful health and welfare benefits from Allegiant Care, which is the largest Teamster health and welfare fund in New England. While not unique to Boothbay Harbor, Local 340, with the approval of Allegiant Care, has permitted non-bargaining unit management employees to share the benefit of Allegiant Care coverage.

Simply stated, Local 340 has no obligation to even discuss extending Teamster health and welfare coverage to non-bargaining unit employees under its collective bargaining agreement and certainly was/is under no obligation to agree to such a provision. During the recently concluded and difficult negotiations, I pointed out this fact to the Town's attorney and directly to the Town Manager. I assume that this is the “threat” that you were referring to during the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In my opinion, your defamatory statements during the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting are an example of the old saying, “No good deed goes unpunished.” Given your stated concerns for how the next negotiations will be conducted, perhaps the Selectmen should direct their attorney to not seek to provide Allegiant Care coverage to the Town’s non-Teamster managers. While such a directive will deprive the Town’s managerial employees of the potential benefit of Allegiant Care coverage, the Selectmen will ensure that no such future “threats” will be made.

Very truly yours,

Brett R. Miller  
President & Business Agent  
Teamsters Local Union No. 340

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