<u>8/04/26 Resident Submission by Jock McCown</u>

The last board meeting on July 21 included an online presentation by the auditors. It was a high-end summary of their audit of the 2025 financial statements. But it didn't include the actual 2025 financial statements. A 14-slide summary deck hardly conveys as much information as a full set of financial statements. Last year's complete financial statements ran 91 pages. Each slide except for one referenced various page numbers of financial statements that clearly exist, yet they weren't shared with residents. The auditor said the financial statements had not been released due to "some administrative stuff" and referenced the rep letter from the town. He indicated that the financials "could go out tomorrow or this week."

Two weeks later, there are still no 2025 financial statements. There is nothing on tonight's agenda about that key document. With this the only meeting in August, any discussion of the actual 2025 financial statements will be no earlier than September. Back at the May 19 meeting when Steve Conti said the 2025 was effectively completed, he indicated the auditors will present the 2025 financials in June. Obviously, that didn't happen. There seems to be a recurring inability by this administration to disclose and discuss financial statements on a timely basis, even when they already exist. The 2025 regulatory statements were filed with the Comptroller's Office no later than May 1, but they don't include footnotes and key details. In the past, the town never filed regulatory statements without the audited financial statements having been finished. Perhaps this year is different, as the 2025 balance sheet I initially downloaded was missing the $379,000 surtax from the yearend Open Space fund balance. I checked the regulatory filing earlier today and did see that mistake had been corrected.

From a comment Supervisor Hansan made on July 21, it looks like whenever the actual 2025 audited financial statements are available, they will just be posted on the website with no further discussion. That would be a poor disclosure practice related to the most important document the board provides to residents each year.

I encourage the board, after the 2025 audited financials have been made available to residents, to include an agenda item at the next meeting for a fulsome discussion of the 2025 financial statements and to respond to resident questions. The 2025 letter to management, 30 pages in 2024, should also be disclosed. Any control deficiencies identified by the auditors should be explained along with the plan to correct them. Taxpayers paid $125,000 for the 2025 audited financial statements. They deserve to see and understand the entire work product they got in exchange for a fee that was more than three times what it was just a few years ago. Thank you.