

TOWN OF CANAAN

Office of the Selectboard

Po Box 159

318 Christian Hill

Canaan, VT 05903

RESOLUTION OF CENSURE AND POLICY REAFFIRMATION TOWN OF CANAAN SELECTBOARD

WHEREAS, the Selectboard of the Town of Canaan is entrusted by the voters with the responsibility of conducting the Town's business in a transparent, accountable, and lawful manner; and

WHEREAS, the public trust placed in elected officials requires that all members of the Selectboard conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the confidence of the voters and protects the integrity of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, the Selectboard has adopted purchasing policies establishing procedures for the authorization and approval of municipal expenditures and purchases in order to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper stewardship of public funds; and

WHEREAS, these policies exist to ensure that no individual official may independently obligate the Town financially or act outside the authority granted through formal action of the Selectboard; and

WHEREAS, concerns were raised regarding actions taken by Selectboard Member Alfred Buckley that appeared to exceed the scope of authority of an individual Selectboard member and did not follow the purchasing policies duly adopted and enforced by the Selectboard; and

WHEREAS, these concerns were brought forward for discussion by the Selectboard and considered in a properly warned public meeting so that deliberation and any decision of the Board could occur openly and transparently; and

WHEREAS, the Selectboard has determined that the actions described above were inconsistent with the Town's adopted purchasing policies and the expectation that individual members act only within the authority granted by the Board acting collectively; and

WHEREAS, actions that disregard adopted policies risk undermining the orderly administration of Town business and eroding the confidence that the voters of Canaan place in their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Vermont law does not provide the Selectboard with authority to remove a duly elected Selectboard member from office, but the Board retains the authority to formally express its disapproval of conduct that conflicts with adopted policies and the proper functioning of municipal government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Selectboard of the Town of Canaan hereby formally censures Selectboard Member Alfred Buckley for acting beyond the scope of the authority of an individual Selectboard member and for failing to follow the purchasing policies duly adopted and enforced by the Selectboard.

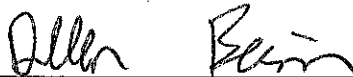
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Selectboard affirms that the confidence of the voters is fundamental to the proper functioning of local government and that adherence to adopted policies and procedures is necessary to maintain that trust.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Selectboard reaffirms that no individual member of the Selectboard has independent authority to authorize purchases, direct vendors, or otherwise obligate the Town financially unless such authority has been specifically granted by vote of the Selectboard or pursuant to the Town's adopted policies.

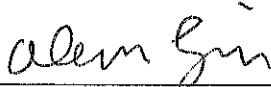
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Selectboard commits to strict adherence to all duly adopted Town policies and procedures governing purchasing, contracting, and municipal operations in order to ensure transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall serve as the official expression of the Selectboard's disapproval of the actions described above and shall be entered into the official minutes of the Selectboard.

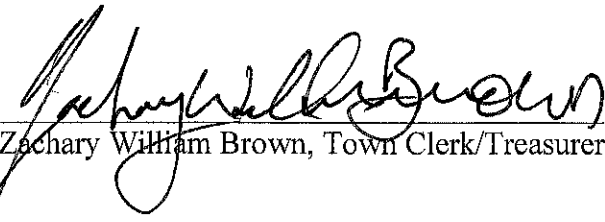
Adopted by vote of the Canaan Selectboard on March 30, 2024


Dillon Begin

Alfred Buckley


Alan Leigh

SELECTBOARD
TOWN OF CANAAN

Attest: 
Zachary William Brown, Town Clerk/Treasurer