

Tammy Hodgman

From: Barry A. Tibbetts
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 2:53 PM
To: Tammy Hodgman
Cc: Barry A. Tibbetts
Subject: Fwd: Human services advisory committee- Katherine Turpen. FOR AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danielle Davis <danielledavis1989@yahoo.com>
Subject: **Re: Human services advisory committee- Katherine Turpen**
Date: October 31, 2023 at 11:52:01 AM EDT
To: TownCouncil <towncouncil@windhammaine.us>
Cc: Christopher Howell <chowell@rsu14.org>

On Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 11:10:40 AM EDT, Danielle Davis <danielledavis1989@yahoo.com> wrote:

Greetings,

I went to the TC website to watch the 10/24 meeting video again, as I am concerned about the 919 Anglers rezoning and I saw on the agenda that Katherine Turpen was appointed to the Human services advisory committee. The name stuck out to me, here is why (link just below). I am concerned with this appointment and I will explain further below but I'm asking someone, anyone, to strongly reconsider the appointment for these reasons that follow.

[Maine School Counselor Bragged She Would Handout Breast Binders to Daughters Without Telling Parents - The Maine Wire](#)

Maine School Counselor Bragged She Would Handout Breast Binders to Daughters Without Telling Parents - The Maine Wire

By Steve Robinson

A public school guidance counselor in Maine caused a stir by bragging to a father that she would secretly handout breast binders to female students.

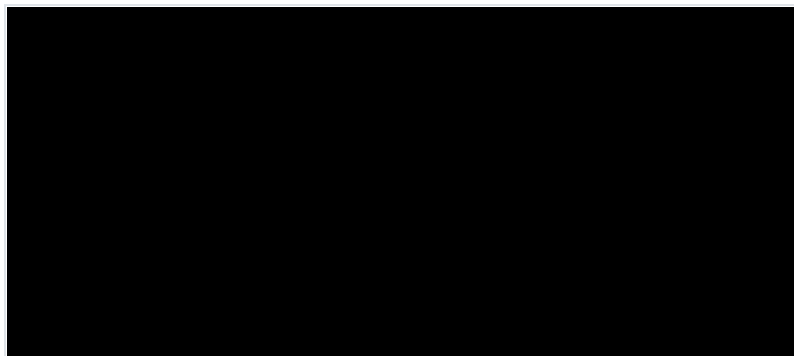
I was there for the above incident and long story short, during a School Board meeting in early 2023 Turpen stood up and interjected herself into a private conversation being had by a parent and another community member. Turpen said repeatedly, three times, in front of some of the school board members and the Superintendent, Chris Howell, (who over saw and over heard), as well as several parents (myself included) and community members that she would in fact put a chest binder on that parents minor child without them knowing. Turpen was visibly and vocally proud of the fact she would do it without the parents knowing and with out any parental communication. This demonstrates abuse of power and lack of communication. To me, as a parent, this is quite frightening that she would do anything physical to a minor child without parental communication and/or consent for a minor. Turpen was employed by another school district at the time, unsure of her role, but I do know briefly after this incident, she was no longer employed there but unsure why. Were Turpen's references checked prior to recommendations for the committee or being appointed a member?

I do not believe Howell took any action about the incident, even when the concern was brought to him. Howell may be able to speak otherwise, I am not sure. Also, after this incident Turpen was permitted to be around students as she participated in a graduation ceremony with Howell present. This made Turpen appear as a role model and that the school endorses her behavior.

Had Howell informed the Counsel of Turpen's actions, would you have reconsidered appointing her? As you will note by this article below, this is not the first time Howell has withheld information regarding sexually related behavior; first of a student and now a member of our community.

[School officials who recommended Windham football star for award knew of sex charges](#)

This article interviewed other members on the selection committee, who were very upset this information was withheld. There were several different articles on this.



School officials who recommended Windham football star for award knew of...

At least one member of the award selection committee is 'terribly upset' that he wasn't made aware of the sexual...

[Principal recommends sex assault suspect for athletic award](#)

Principal recommends sex assault suspect for athletic award

WINDHAM, Maine (AP) — A Maine high school principal recommended a football player for a...

I am not fully aware of the role Turpen will play on this committee, nor am I aware of the committee's mission, however if she is to remain on the committee it is pertinent Turpen's actions be disclosed to co-workers and those she is advising. I do believe communication is key to be in this type of role of "advisor" and I do believe she has clearly demonstrated a lack of communication.

Considering this additional information about Turpen, you as elected Town Counselors have a moral and ethnic duty to us citizens of Windham to further look into this appointment as well as all sources of references.

*****Again, I strongly ask you to reconsider the appointment for these reasons I stated above.

Please answer:

Who recommends members for this committee?

Who makes the final appointment of a member?

Were Turpen's references checked prior to recommendations for the committee or being appointed a member?

Is a background check performed?

Who, if anyone, recommended Turpen for the role?

Who else is on the committee?

What is the purpose of the committee?

What types of services will the committee offer?

How much of this role is advising children/minors?

When was the committee formed?

How is the committee funded?

Thank you,
Dani Davis