

Milford

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Schindler resigns; Stock calls it "a colossal mistake"

Majority of Select Board members acknowledge hostile work environment

By Theresa Knapp

At its meeting on Oct. 24, the Select Board accepted the resignation of Town Administrator Diana Schindler, effective Nov. 18, 2022.

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard read the letter of resignation in which Schindler said:

"While I've appreciated the opportunity to work in Hopedale since 2020, given that the Board didn't fulfill its obligations regarding my contract by not setting goals and objectives for me to implement, it has made it impossible for my performance review and contract renewal to be administered fairly and effectively. Therefore, please accept my resignation from the position of Town Administrator effective 11/18/2022."

Hazard apologized to Schindler for not expediting her evaluation, and also expressed frustration with the situation.

"I can't help but want to thank [Select Board member] Brian Keyes and the band of persistent past and present town officials who have successfully created a hostile work environment for the Town Administrator, and I also wanted to thank them for impeding our efforts to get a future Town Administrator because I'm sure that any candidate that Google's Hopedale is just going to run in the other direction," Hazard said.

When asked to respond, Keyes said, "I'm not even going to respond to that nonsense, to be honest with you," then took issue with the Nov. 18 departure date, saying



Former Town Administrator Diana Schindler at Special Town Meeting on Nov. 14. Source: www.townhallstreams.com

Schindler's original contract said she would stay in the position for 60 days after her resignation was submitted.

The board agreed to honor the Nov. 18 date.

Select Board member Bernice Stock, who previously served as Hopedale's Town Administrator, said he was

RESIGNATION
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Helping The Community One Gift At A Time – You Can Help, Too!

By Susan Manning

What started as a group of four good friends volunteering at the food pantry in Milford, has turned into an annual toy collection drive.

Santa's Pouch is a local group founded seven years ago by four forever friends to collect new unwrapped toys for local families in need of holiday help.

The project started after the friends saw a need for help at the food pantry in Milford where they were volunteering monthly. The food pantry serves the communities of Hopedale, Milford and Upton but no one is every turned away.

The pouch in Hopedale — and yes, it is someone's actual porch! — is open for no-contact drop off of toys.

Each year, the project has grown and now includes other fundraisers as well as local groups who help with donations and with

leaving a donation box.

In addition to gifts, the group also accepts Venmo donations which are used to go toy shopping at the local Learning Express toys stores in Franklin and Westboro.

"They are always gracious and give us a discount helping us buy more toys," said Let Ann DiPietro, who, along with Meg Rivett, Tracy Griffin

Johnson and Laurie DiPietro, started the organization.

The four friends had been volunteering at the food pantry for about 20 years when one year, they noticed the small toy donation room did not have nearly enough toys for the need.

"Every year our friends and community come together to help! We can never thank the community

COMMUNITY
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