

Roxanne Maher

From: Eleanor Murray <eleanor.murray06@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Town Council Group
Subject: Questionable addition to Planning Dept Budget resulting from highly unusual blight case

A recent blight case at 528 Colonel Ledyard Highway, was unusual in several regards:

- 1) The owner was well known to have limited mental abilities to understand or manage what was happening to his property. Nevertheless foreclosure proceedings moved forward against him when he owed \$28,100 in various fines.
- 2) Penalties are not supposed to increase after that point, but somehow they did. Did he even know? Three additional charges were filed, a total of \$85,200.
- 3) At this point the property was legally appraised at \$350,000.
- 4) It was sold for \$90,000!
- 5) The owner's remainder was \$0!
- 6) Back at the Planning Dept., the resulting \$75,000 is being added to the budget to hire outside assistance to write the POCD. (Parenthetically it is suggested that several town members are capable of writing this easily for far less. I can provide those contacts.)
- 7) Further, the \$75,000 is money that might be utilized well by other Town Commissions, like Beautification, Historical, Economic Development and others. It does not belong to Planning simply because it is a result of a Blight sale anymore than funds from speeding tickets belong to the Police Dept.
- 8) Finally, from a humane and concerning standpoint regarding Seniors in our lovely town, losing capabilities could happen to any one of us. We can lose our ability to care for our property, or contact Legal representation, or reach out to relatives in far off locations. And then here we are. Frankly, I'm ashamed of what happened here, as much as I am alarmed. I am asking you, as elected representatives to look into these facts and act. Please, you can see these issues.