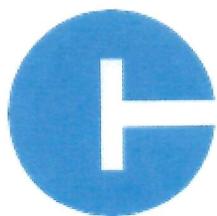


Steffes, Molly

From: FOI
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Steffes, Molly
Subject: FW: Formal Appeal: Constructive Denial of Records – Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe
Attachments: FOIA Request – 2019 2020 Sherman School Cyber Incident, IT Procurement, & Retention Logs.pdf



MIKIA GRAY
Secretary
Freedom of Information Commission
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1100
Hartford, CT 06106
860-566-5682
Mikia.Gray@ct.gov

REC'D & FILED

APR 16 2026

Freedom of Information Comm.
By MB
FIC 2026-0363

From: managingeditor@shermanct.com <managingeditor@shermanct.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 5:03 PM
To: FOI <FOI@ct.gov>
Cc: Don Lowe <dlowe@shermanct.gov>; Carol Havens <chavens@shermanct.gov>; Matt Vogt <vogtm@shermanschool.com>
Subject: Formal Appeal: Constructive Denial of Records – Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission,

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-206(b)(1), I am filing a formal appeal against the Town of Sherman, specifically First Selectman Don Lowe, for the Constructive Denial of a Freedom of Information request.

On Thursday, April 2, 2026, I submitted a written request (attached) for public records regarding a 2019/2020 ransomware incident, seeking vendor invoices and incident reports.

Under C.G.S. § 1-206(a), the agency was legally required to acknowledge this request within four business days. The First Selectman's office completely ignored the request. On April 14, I sent a second notice affording them an additional 24 hours to comply. That deadline has passed with absolute silence.

The First Selectman has demonstrated willful non-compliance and contempt for the statute. I respectfully request the Commission docket this appeal, compel the immediate release of the 2019/2020 IT procurement records, and find the administration in violation of the FOI Act.

Frank Washabaugh
Editor, *Sherman CT News*

Re: FOIA Request – 2019/2020 Sherman School Cyber Incident, IT Procurement, & Retention Logs

From: managingeditor@shermanct.com

Thursday, Apr 2 at
11:08 AM

REC'D & FILED

To: **Carol Havens** | chavens@shermanct.gov, **Don Lowe** | dlowe@shermanct.gov, **Matt Vogt** | vogtm@shermanschool.com, **Patricia Cosentino** | cosentinop@shermanschool.com, **Tim Laughlin** | laughlint@shermanschool.com

Bcc: wfritz@gmail.com

Dear Town Officials and Freedom of Information Coordinators,

Under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200 et seq.), I am formally requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records regarding the 2019 data breach, ransomware incident, and subsequent emergency IT expenditures at the Sherman School.

Please provide the following documents generated between **January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2020**:

- **Communications:** All emails, memos, and digital correspondence sent or received by the First Selectman's Office, the Board of Selectmen, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education containing any of the following keywords: "ransomware," "breach," "malware," "encryption," "cyberattack," or "hack."
- **Financial & Procurement Records:** All executed contracts, vendor invoices, purchase orders, and payment warrants issued to the IT vendor "Network Support," or any other third-party cybersecurity/IT consultant retained for emergency remediation or network security during this timeframe.
- **Incident Reports:** Any and all data security incident reports, forensic IT audits, or formal complaints filed with local law enforcement, the Connecticut State Police, or state agencies regarding network compromises or data breaches at the Sherman School.

Preemptive Notice Regarding Document Retention (Form RC-075): I recognize that certain IT and administrative records from the 2019-2020 timeframe may be approaching or have reached the end of their minimum retention schedules as dictated by the State Library's Office of the Public Records Administrator.

If the Town of Sherman or the Board of Education claims that any responsive records (including emails, forensic reports, or vendor invoices) have been purged or destroyed pursuant to state retention schedules, please consider this a formal FOIA request for the **fully executed Records Disposal Authorization (Form RC-075)**, signed by the State Public Records Administrator, legally authorizing the destruction of those specific documents.

As established under C.G.S. § 1-210, any records maintained by a third-party contractor (such as "Network Support" or other IT vendors) performing a governmental function on behalf of the town are subject to disclosure under constructive possession.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request within four business days, as required by law. This request institutes an immediate legal hold on all responsive documents.

Respectfully,

Frank Washabaugh

Freedom of Information Comm.

By IVS

PC 2026-0363

APR 16 2026

Editor, Sherman CT News

From: **Matt Vogt** | vogtm@shermanschool.com

Friday, Apr 3 at 11:02 AM

To: managingeditor@shermanct.com

Cc: **Carol Havens** | chavens@shermanct.gov, **Don Lowe** | dlowe@shermanct.gov, **Patricia Cosentino** | cosentinop@shermanschool.com, **Tim Laughlin** | laughlint@shermanschool.com

Hello Mr. Washabaugh,

Your request has been received.

--

Sincerely,

Matt Vogt

Chair

Sherman Board of Education

vogtm@shermanschool.com

REC'D & FILED

APR 16 2026

Freedom of Information Comm.
By WMS

FILE 2026-0303