

FIRST TWO VISITS: OCT. 31  
NOV. 19

# Tiverton

## Documents Not Received



### School Committee Minutes:

- Readability: Good
- Thoroughness: Good
- Layout: Good
- Legal Compliance: Full

### City/Town Council Minutes:

- Readability: Good
- Thoroughness: Average
- Layout: Average
- Legal Compliance: Partial

“ The Tax Assessor explained to me exactly which of the lots were redeemed and which had been sold. The clerk was helpful and explained all of the different aspects of the tax sale. She cleared me off a space at her own desk and let me look at the entire folder from the past tax season which was open record. She was in the process of making the preliminary list for the next tax sale as I walked in the door and suggested that I come back in two weeks when it would be ready.

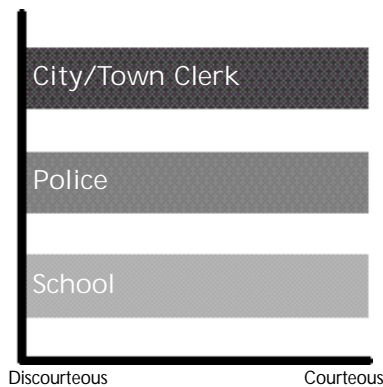
At the City Clerk’s office, the copying fees were outrageous, \$.50 per page, but they gave me all the information I needed. The staff was a bit frazzled, but tried to make the process as easy as possible. The clerk copied everything and collated all the minutes and agendas for me. ”

Tiverton is one of two towns that ranked as “very courteous” across all three departments. The Police Department, despite its courteousness, was the only division of the local government in Tiverton to deny access to any of the requests made. The Tiverton Police Department required a written request to be filed. Tiverton is also one of the two towns in the state that never asked for identification, but unexpectedly, they asked for the reason for the request in 80 percent of the interactions.

Tiverton is one of the three divisions of government across the state that charges over the legal limit of 15 cents per page for photocopies. The Tiverton Town Clerk’s office charged 50 cents per page for copies of the minutes and agendas.

In addition to overcharging, Tiverton is one of two towns that did not provide the most recent minutes available. According to the Open Meetings Law, minutes from a meeting of a public body are available either 35 days after the meeting or at the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever ever comes first. On October 31, the date of the request, Tiverton provided minutes from July 7, 22 and August 5 when in fact there were regularly scheduled meetings held on September 9, 23 and October 14 which should have been made available. (There was a meeting on October 28 that would make the October 14th minutes public record.)

## How We Were Treated



## Comparison: Cities/Towns

