

On Tuesday May 23, Erin Meagher avoided a felony conviction, a conviction which would have required her to step down from her elected office as a Trustee in the Village of Brewster, by pleading guilty to the reduced charge of Petit Larceny, a Class A misdemeanor. A person is guilty of Petit Larceny if he or she is convicted of stealing property.

Wednesday May 24, the Mayor and 3 members of the Board of Trustees released a statement asking Erin Meagher for an immediate resignation from her position as a Village Trustee. Erin provided a statement to HamletHub, published on Thursday May 25, in which she declined to resign as she believed she had committed no act of moral turpitude.

Although the phrase moral turpitude does not have a precise definition, it generally refers to actions that violate sentiments or standards of a community: actions that shock the public. Among the crimes against property there are specific actions viewed as involving moral turpitude, such as fraud and crimes where fraud is an element, all theft offenses and false representations. It seems straight forward enough to me that Erin Meagher's admission of guilt is also an admission to conduct of moral turpitude.

Conduct of moral turpitude can be used to determine honesty or trust-worthiness of candidates for elected office. With that in mind, Erin Meagher should offer her immediate resignation from her seat as a Trustee in the Village of Brewster

Christine Paccini
Deputy Mayor and
Trustee