

Newland Threatened by National Group over 10 Commandments

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The Town of Newland is being threatened by a national group over the posting of the Ten Commandments at the town hall. In a letter from “Freedom From Religion” Foundation of Madison, WI, town manager Brenda Pittman was told in the letter of

“a local complainant” who saw the display in the lobby, the letter saying that their local member saw and photographed it while in the building to conduct business. Staff attorney Patrick Elliot, writing for the foundation, pointed to the succession of US Supreme Court rulings that outlawed such displays, calling the Ten Commandments plaque “Unconstitutional,” saying “It must be removed.” Elliot further held that “Residents in your community are offended by the display.” The letter was brought to the attention of the Newland Town Council at Tuesday night’s meeting, and was distributed to the press. Town board members were incensed over the outside interference, and passed a motion to ask for the press to publish the letter, but took no other official action except to turn the matter—and the letter—over to the town attorney.