

▶ **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Compensation package for township board members criticized

We want you! (The best and the brightest)

In a noble act of courage last week Bedford Township board members (the group of five: Stewart, Hershberger, Francis, O'Dell and Steiner) passed a resolution to accept the compensation committee's recommendation for their raises.

Of course, this vote for raises is expected to help attract the best and the brightest or "next guy" to run for office. Unfortunately, missing from the equation was the compensation committee's ability to look at their total payroll package.

So, let's pull back the

curtain and reveal to prospective candidates and their staff the benefits that are waiting for them.

(1) A Cadillac health care plan that only requires a 10 percent premium contribution (this amounts to less than what a married couple on Medicare pays for their premiums). State law, Public Act 152, requires a 20 percent contribution. However, another vote by the group of five (three years in a row) exempted township officials and their staff from the additional expense. Cost to taxpayers: \$26,133 a year. The 2014 Kaiser Family Foundation study finds

families pay on average \$4,823 a year for health care coverage.

(2) Health care reimbursements are \$4,000 for full-time, \$2,000 for part-time. Cost to taxpayers: \$38,000 a year.

(3) Pension — a contribution of 13 percent of salary for full- and part-time positions (no match required). The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists the national average 401K match at 4.1 percent. The supervisor's pension (Greg Stewart) alone is \$8,900 a year. Total cost to taxpayers: \$118,875 a year.

(4) Dental rider — cost

to taxpayers: \$17,130 a year.

(5) Life insurance — cost to taxpayers: \$6,039 a year.

(6) Lifetime health care — cost to taxpayers: \$52,400 a year. This policy has been changed. However, it still covers retired township personnel and grandfathers two others.

All benefits totaled cost taxpayers \$258,577. Now assuming our elected officials stop acting like Congress, taxpayers could expect a savings of \$212,855 a year. This number leaves a 5 percent 401K match and removes all the overly

generous benefits.

What could taxpayers expect from a savings of \$212,855? A. 3,669 tons of laid asphalt. B. Additional deputies to patrol the township.

Finally, suggestions to Bedford Township

officials: publish your salaries and itemize your benefits in the township quarterly newsletter. This way the "next guy" can see the total payroll package.

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