

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Township cemetery a losing proposition

I just read the Feb. 23, 2013 issue of the Bedford Now newspaper that the township board passed a resolution to roll the cemetery debt into the general fund.

According to the Bedford Now article, the cemetery fund, which was created by the board in April, 2011, has a deficit of \$64,893 in fiscal year 2011 and \$430,300 in 2012. Additionally, the cemetery fund still owes the sewer operations and maintenance fund \$500,000 plus loan borrowing costs of 2 percent.

To date, approximately 228 burial sites have been sold and revenues have fallen short of what is needed to keep the fund in the black. At best the cemetery only has generated approximately \$162,300 in revenue.

At the Bedford Township June, 2009, board meeting it was stated that the construction of the cemetery was badly needed in the township. The funds for the construction of the proposed cemetery would be borrowed from the sewer and maintenance fund and this money was to be paid back with interest in a relatively short period of time. It was to be a win/win for both the township and the sewer department. Additionally, it was hoped that the cemetery would be perpetually self-sustaining so that money from the general fund could be spent elsewhere.

Now after several years of operation the funds borrowed are not paid back and the cemetery is running a deficit. The recent approval by the township

LETTERS WELCOME

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board to roll the cemetery operating fund into the township's general fund will not allow them flexibility to have special tax assessments to fund the cemetery. Yes, another tax assessment for Bedford residents.

This is another example of our government running something that should be run privately. If the cemetery can't support itself on its own merit then why should the residents have to support it through taxes? The decision by our township board to construct this cemetery was a farce. It never should have happened. I believe that any board member who voted and supported this cemetery should have their current income and/or retirement income and benefits taken away until the deficit is paid for. Why aren't our government officials ever held accountable or take responsibility for their actions?

Wake up Bedford residents, our government will always find ways to increase your taxes, mismanage them and spend your hard-earned dollars.

Ken Swint, Temperance