

What has new administration accomplished?

In November the people of Bedford Township voted in a new township board. The new members ran on a platform of transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility. The board is made up of some new faces and some familiar faces in different roles than before.

We, the taxpayers who voted for them, hoped for and expected some good changes. There have been some changes, but some questions arise as to how good they really are.

The township board consists of a supervisor, treasurer and clerk, which are somewhat independent of each other. However they should be working together for the good of their boss, the taxpayers of this township. There are four Trustees to watch over these three offices, to agree or disagree with what is being done in the way of direction, spending and making wise choices for Bedford Township.

Here is what I think we have seen so far:

1. Hired an additional person in Treasurer's Department.

2. Purchased new software for Treasurer's Department.

3. Had little to no bidding on outsourcing payroll companies.

4. My "favorite," (Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government) funds, which I believe incur a fee of \$5,000 yearly and have a track record of no one seeing any benefit to the township or taxpayers living in it year after year.

5. Appointments of people to committees without some brief information regarding their qualifications, and then being asked to vote on them. Seems somewhat inappropriate to me. Also, are there any reports about their meetings and what they are doing?

My hope is that our township will realize we are in a declining population (means less tax money) and will have the wisdom of Solomon in their leadership of Bedford Township.

Frank Knoll, Lambertville

Editor's Note: Township Supervisor Greg Stewart responded to the letter and said, "The new hire is actually split with Assessing to replace an employee who had left. The new employee is also training to replace another soon-to-retire

individual.

The new software purchase for the treasurer's department is correct. "It is to be able to accept credit cards and to assist in general ledger transactions of cash. Incredibly, handwritten receipts needed to be manually entered in the past.

"Outsourced payroll has been done at the township for over five years. It is a matter that we have been asked to review along with other issues that may save money in the future."

"The board did approve to continue (TMACOG) membership at a cost of \$4,849 dollars a year. The board has also appointed representation for their Environmental Committee, issues such as air quality, water quality and how they can affect our pocketbooks as well as our health. The board will be getting reports on these issues, as well as TMACOG work that can affect our future development. The value of TMACOG will be assessed for the following year."

Mr. Stewart said in terms of appointing people to committees, only re-appointments have taken place. "One appointment, the former supervisor was appointed to the Housing Commission. Subsequent appointments have been made with documentation and with input from board

members and committee members."

As for the meetings, all agendas and minutes are posted on the township's Web site after they have been approved. Copies are available at township hall. The township newsletter is also available.

"We are striving to make the newsletter more educational and informative," Mr. Stewart said.

In terms of the declining population, Mr. Stewart said the new budget reflects these concerns. "Our revitalized (Economic Development Corp.) will also be addressing these issues."