

## COMMUNITY CHAT - September 26, 2013

Questions asked from the public who requested an answer:

1. Tom M'Quaid (Valetta) – He relayed problems with his road. He said the road was built with defective asphalt. When the new part of Valetta was built the heavy trucks during the construction phase did damage to the existing road. He said work needs to be done but he does not want, nor does he think it needs complete reconstruction. He said they could patch it for far less of a cost to the homeowner than rebuilding it. He would like the Road Committee to consider allowing them to patch it using a Special Assessment to homeowners. He thought it would cost about \$200 per lot owner as compared to \$2000-\$10,000.
2. Frank Knoll – Wanted to thank the MCRC for work done and increasing the amount of roads being improved and maintained. He said he has lived here many years and has seen far more this year than in the last 15 years. He also questioned the cemetery on Lewis Avenue and asked the Board to consider selling it to get out of the debt, and the headache.
3. Gene Stock – Thanked the Board for adding the supporting documents for each Board meeting to the website with the agenda. He also appreciated moving the 5 minute public comment up before the Board makes decisions. He asked why other Board members were not present. He also said he had received questions from people on his web page that could not attend the meeting:
  - a. Why is there not an office for Buckeye Cable in Bedford as the Ordinance states? Paul Pirrone read Greg Stewart's answer. (to summarize) Greg wrote that *the Ordinance was overridden in 2006 by PA 480. He quoted Section 484.3303 Sec 3 (8) which says "a franchising entity shall not require a video service provider to obtain any other franchise, assess any other fee or charge, or impose any other franchise requirements that is allowed under this act....."* He also wrote that *Flick's Carryout does provide some Buckeye Cable services.*

Steve Lennex gave a history of the former Cablevision Committee relaying how advantageous it was to have a volunteer committee from the public work with the cable company regarding programming, rates, and customer service. He asked that a volunteer committee be re-instated because the cable company needs oversight and it would help with many other things not the least of which would be holding down cable rates for cable users.

- b. Another question from Stock's web site was how are the roads being repaired determined by the Board? Pirrone read a response written by Stewart. This is a summary: *Many factors for selecting road work are - public can give input to the Township Road Committee (who works with the Township engineer and MCRC), MCRC uses a computer generated evaluation program called PASER, the funds available in the township budget, State and Federal grants, traffic/safety issues and other criteria that must be weighed.* Jason Shepard, county Commission also shared about the County's involvement, issues the County has faced with the MCRC, and budgetary factors in road improvement and maintenance.
- c. Another question from Stock's web site was, *"when will the Township start live streaming of Board meeting on the township web site?"* This question will be posed to the Clerk for a follow up answer.
- d. *"When will the Township officials be posting financial on the Township web site?"* Pirrone read a detailed statement prepared by the Township Treasurer in answer to the question. Basically he said he and the Clerk are working on a solution. There are a couple formats

available. He has found some discrepancies that he is resolving before it can be added to the website.

4. Don Earley – He asked if the cemetery gate at the new township cemetery has been fixed, stating that he asked the same question at a previous Township Board meeting and has not heard back. He also stated that the cemetery is not well maintained as the grass needs mowing and there are dead trees that were planted when it was developed. He stated that the graves were too small, a person has to remove the headstone on certain graves in order to be interred, the graves face the wrong direction, and other issues. He and others suggested that there be more citizen input regarding the cemetery, and a committee be formed which would include several residents as well as representation from the mortuaries and gravestone businesses in order to investigate solutions to the issues. Others suggested it be sold.
5. Tom Swan – He asked questions about the cemetery financing. He quoted from a letter written by a Board member called “Setting the Record Straight”. He asked why he never received any follow up information after he asked several questions at a Township Board meeting months ago. It was told to the public that the cemetery was a good deal, but with the comments he heard it did not sound like a good deal. He asked if there was any method that could be instituted to rectify the problems with “too small, wrong direction, etc.” He wanted evidence from a Board member to substantiate that it remains a good deal.

Other questions that arose from the cemetery topic were, “Does the Township have to be responsible for cemeteries? “What input can citizens have in these decisions since Board members meet with engineers and attorneys, but do not allow the public to have input or know meeting times of the discussions?” Jason Shepard said that he has spoken with Barry Buschmann, Township Engineer about the cemetery issues.

Sheriff Dale Malone was in the audience along with several other deputies and officers. He gave a detailed report regarding the Sheriff Department’s activities, services, and accomplishments in Bedford Township. He also relayed some of the changes that have been made in the Department to improve the number of personnel he has available on a 24 hour basis in Bedford. He said he is in the Bedford Substation on Mondays to meet with citizens.

A question was asked why the Deputies do not stop over-weight trucks in Bedford. Malone said that the Department does not have anyone trained as a Motor Carrier nor anyone that is certified with scales to ticket or apprehend over-weight trucks. That would be the State Police who can be reached at 734-242-3500.

6. Frank Knoll – he questioned the value of spending tax dollars on agencies such as SEMCOG and TNACOG. He asked if the Board was tracking the return to the taxpayers, and if so would there be a written report given to the public. Knoll suggested that when a new business opens the Board take them some flowers, have a ribbon cutting, take them a welcome basket and let them know the community is glad they are here. He suggested that the money spent on that endeavor would be much more valuable to the community.

The question was asked if anything will be done or accomplished regarding the questions that were addressed at the Community Chat. Pirrone and Tienvieri stated they will commit to following up on the questions with the appropriate Board member that is responsible for a particular area or question. The answers will be given also at a Regular Meeting of the Township Board during Board Comments.

People who want additional formal responses are: Don Earley, 1898 Brookwood Lane, Temperance; Tom M’Quaid, 1279 Valetta Dr, Temperance