

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Township needs to cut staff, not create taxes

Next month, taxpayers are going to be asked to vote on another tax increase, this time for parks. I would hope taxpayers would consider voting no for the following reasons.

The township board increased taxes last year because they simply wanted the money. This park millage is on the ballot and earlier they discussed a road tax. If the road tax would have made the ballot, there would have been one definite tax increase and two possible other tax increases in the past 12 months.

The township continues to staff like it's the 1990s even though it is 2010. The township has a planning department that has two full-time employees at full wages and benefits. In the deposition to our trial, the planning coordinator said the township had (a) no rezoning requests and (b) only two site plan reviews for all of 2009. Why can't Bedford officials reorganize the work and find savings to go for things like the parks?

It is Bedford's practice to minimize the effects of this tax and other past tax increases. The result of all of these increases is that Bedford is

Letters welcome

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becoming a relatively high-tax and low-services township compared to the other communities our size. Monroe and Sylvania are somehow able to find ways to maintain and improve their truly great parks without tax increases.

Tax increases seem to be the only solution to every issue in Bedford. If the township would staff differently, they can find money for parks from their current income. Does anyone doubt we will see a road tax next year? Why don't township officials answer this question: Since they want a tax increase in 2010, after a tax increase in 2009, when, if ever, will they stop?

**Jon Whitman
Monroe**