

Find cash for Bedford parks elsewhere

This is in response to the numerous Bedford Township officials and also the park board official who have been quoted as saying that Bedford residents defeated the recent parks millage because we "didn't understand." Let me assure all of them that I, for one, am tired of being insulted by this comment, and I want to assure them that we understand perfectly well.

Perhaps the reason this millage request has been defeated four times (!) is that we have watched as our elected officials "found the money" to build a brand new township hall on Jackman Rd. It seems that not long after our township officials were done beating their chests in pride over the fact that they didn't have to go to the voters to pay for it, they started asking for parks millages. This township pays township residents to serve on boards and commissions that, in this economy, should be converted to volunteer boards.

Our park board is paid \$50 a meeting, and they are scheduled to meet twice a month. With six members on this board, the taxpayers are spending \$7,200 a year for these citizens to meet. I might suggest that since they care so much about the parks, perhaps they would be willing to donate their income to them. Our nine-member economic development board is also a paid board. If these parks are so crucial to the economic well-being of our township, perhaps these members should forgo their income from this board and donate it to the parks as well.

We also watch as taxpayer dollars are spent paying the township attorneys to babysit the board at every board meeting, which is not necessary. This is another area where taxpayer dollars are being wasted.

Each time a ballot initiative is put on the ballot, taxpayer dollars are spent to cover the cost of the election. Now our township board is choosing to spend more taxpayer money to put the parks millage on the ballot once again in November. I hope they aren't assuming that the citizens of Bedford are the ones who "don't understand." It seems to me that they are the ones who don't understand. Perhaps what the citizens of Bedford are telling them is to find the money somewhere else. What part of "NO" don't they understand?

Sylvia Lennex
Lambertville
