

James Nyhan | For Bedford Township Trustee | Response

WHY I DESERVE YOUR VOTE TO THE BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD

A Tool to Help Question and Evaluate Candidates for Bedford Township Office

- 1) **Priorities** – What should be the top five priorities of Township Hall over the next four (4) years? (1 = most important) Why do you feel these are the top five?
- a_____ Improving police protection
 - b_____ Improving fire protection
 - c_____ Improving parks and recreation
 - d_____ Promoting economic development
 - e_____ Reducing the size of Township government
 - f_____ Full Disclosure of Township financial records (publish on Township web site)
 - g_____ Maintaining and improving infrastructure (roads, water, sewer)
 - h_____ Improving the commercial development and revitalization of the Temperance Overlay District & the surrounding area.
 - i_____ Develop a Capital Improvement Plan for 5-10 years out.
 - j_____ Practicing greater fiscal responsibility and lower taxes
 - k_____ Improving services for citizens and being more customer friendly
 - l_____ Improving the use of the Township Public Access Station on Buckeye Cable.
 - m_____ Making better, bold and courageous decisions that benefit the entire township long term in spite of intense written and vocal pressure from special interest groups.
 - n_____ Recognizing and protecting the property rights of all citizens
 - o_____ Improving the use of the Township web site to communicate with residents.

Why do you feel that “Your top Five Priorities” are the most important?

Each item above starting with “improving” or if it is implied, would be in my top picks!! To narrow this list down to top 5 is very difficult. They are all great points with much depth to each. Being aware of the wants and needs of the township while lawfully executing in the spirit of balance is the key to a successful township. It requires thinking “out of the box” to satisfy the demographics and personalities of the township. Unfortunately, some difficult decisions are required to be made at times to move the township forward for the majority of the people – decisions like this need to be made with the utmost integrity.

2. What is your position on economic development for Bedford Township, especially the Temperance area? What is your plan to encourage economic development?

The Temperance downtown district is soon to be a huge liability if we do not do something soon to bring growth and development to the area. We need to think of ways to grow our downtown area without a financial burden on our community or the area businesses. We need to offer an incentive for current area business to stay in the area while offering incentive to newbies for future growth.

3. What is your position on "Town Hall Meetings" where township officials can meet with residents to discuss their concerns and to keep them informed of what is going on in the township? Would you be willing to have these on a monthly basis and also have them televised and streamed live on the Bedford Township web site?

Absolutely – Town hall meetings are good, I am not sure of the frequency needed to be effective but we need to be effective. Having our meetings on cable/live stream gets the discussions out there for our citizens. The way we currently use cable/live stream can be enhanced if we allow our viewers to be interactive in all 3.

4. What is your position on using the Township Access TV Channel on Buckeye Cable and live streaming on the Township web site to communicate with the public? For example, a monthly one-hour TV show hosted by the Supervisor or Clerk to get current information out to residents about various issues, township boards and up-coming meetings. Since most Township Board meetings do not last the full 3 hours that is allotted, this show could be broadcasted at the end of one of the meetings each month with the public in attendance.

The more information provided to the public the better. Again, being interactive with our public viewers would help our output while increasing our viewership. Great communication brings involvement. Great townships like Bedford get more people involved. Communication tools are endless. Using live streaming tools such as "Facebook Live" along with cable and other media resources are only a few ways of delivering/receiving information and data. We need to understand our demographics to allow media resources to effectively deliver/receive information for both "immediate" and "planned" communication.

5. What is your position concerning having all board members being fully informed before decisions are made at Township Board Meetings? ***Agenda items need to be fully understood before meetings – discussion and determinations should be done at the public meetings. We need to hold the laws of the land concerning meetings and agenda items with the utmost respect and integrity.*** Do you think that there is enough discussion on issues by all board members when decisions are made currently? ***I would say at this time there is a lot of talk! Healthy discussion is being dampened by personal agendas, personality conflicts and lack of respect for peers ultimately hurting the citizens of this township.***

6. There may be some tough future decisions concerning cuts to current employee and trustee benefits. Are you willing to make these cuts if necessary? ***If necessary, I am willing to cut the mentioned and much more! Understanding the future while dealing with the immediate is very important when making cuts or awards. I have been up against this many times over the years in business.***

7. What is your opinion of the current practice by the Bedford Township Supervisor of limiting the time for public commentary to 2 minutes concerning agenda items and 3 minutes for general comments at the end of each Bedford Township Board Meeting? Would you recommend any changes to this policy? ***I agree with limitations in a public forum – each individual needs to***

be heard. Again, we have many avenues to communicate and we must exercise each to understand what is important to our community and our citizens.

8. What motivated you to seek a position on the Bedford Township Board? I see a board that needs harmony and balance. I feel I can bring this to the table along with many skills the people of the township has taught me in my 25 years of business in the township. What do you see is your role as a member the Bedford Township Board? Offering objective feedback with my understanding of the township will allow me to be the effective leader I am. Do you think that all board members should take the responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda? Absolutely! I am a bit set back that this question was even asked.

9. How many Bedford Township Board meetings have you attended in the past year? Due to my current commitments I have been present for 6 but viewed each on line. How many times have you watched the videos of Bedford Township Board meetings during the past year? I have watched many from the past year and many more from earlier years. After attending or viewing past meetings, do you have any recommendations to improve the efficiency and decorum at future meetings. A clear understanding of agenda items along with a clear understanding of the township "business" seems to be lacking to say the least – respecting difference of opinion among board members and talking through them is healthy – I see a board that does not know the difference. I would encourage open communication among all board members - at all times – allowing a lawful and informed decision to be made in a timely manner with the townships best interest in mind.

10. What are some new ideas that you would recommend if elected? We have a great township with a lot a very smart people. We need to communicate with our people and understand what is important to them. I would immediately move to open up all communication avenues to ensure each voice is heard and then prioritize the wants and needs of our people.

- What is your "Vision" for Bedford Township in the next 4 years? I see a town that gets along first and foremost. I see a town that is in balance and harmony. I am not trying to create a fairy tale world but only trying to re-create the place I grew up in! I see a town with involved and informed citizens. I see a town that has each other "backs". With all this said everything else will fall in place. I could talk about roads, sidewalks, growth, technology or whatever is important to you – but if we do not get along and do not understand each other it is only talk and will only remain talk!!**

11. How should the public hold you as an elected official accountable for your campaign promises and your votes? Politicians seem to be known for lack of accountability and it is pretty frustrating to me as a tax payer. I would hope I have not over extended my commitments. In my many years of business you learn very fast that over extending your commitments will come back and bight you very hard. As in business, politicians need to be held at the same standard as their local citizens and business are.

James Nyhan | For Bedford Township Trustee | Response