

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? ***In an effort to be more specific I have listed what I believe are the fundamental issues that need to be addressed. Not that the other ideas are not important but that this list is reflective of how I view the work to be done.***

First, we MUST, as a board, find a way to work collectively to accomplish the work of the township and not personal agendas. Second, I will represent an organization and attention to detail not seen before where agenda items do not disappear without explanation or an update on the status/outcome. Third, I want to do several top to bottom reviews of our systems to include: business development (permitting, zoning, ordinance), personnel review and promotion systems, economic development climate and direction, and lastly, how we serve our fellow neighbors. I am the only candidate that has continued to call for stated goals/benchmarks to be set by the board so that there is greater accountability to the public. I believe that a divide exists in this community between our leadership and our community and I want to work with the other board members to make town hall as open and as service focused as it has ever been.

Why do you feel that “Your top Five Priorities” are the most important? ***Leadership sets the tone for a community and improved leadership would be my first priority. The civility, passion, dedication, and integrity of the leadership will directly impact the community and as leaders, we cannot just set the standard. We must live it as well. We need to return to an “ambassadorship” mentality where we truly “serve” our neighbors.***

- 2) What is your position on economic development for Bedford Township, especially the Temperance area? ***Future economic development is of huge importance to the overall health of Bedford and should get immediate attention. The economic climate in Bedford and the ease in which businesses can come into Bedford will affect our overall success. That is why we not only have to focus on the Temperance corridor, but our general policies, ordinances, zoning, and tone toward conscientious business growth. None of us want business dropped next door to our***

homes, but we can carefully and conscientiously create opportunity where businesses can thrive WHILE protecting and preserving our sense of community and small town charm.

What is your plan to encourage economic development? ***There are several simultaneous forces that will need to be brought to bear on economic development. First, we are in desperate need of a top to bottom review of our current practices and ordinance as it relates to business starts, permitting, and in some cases, zoning issues. We are not business friendly and we will only truly attract new businesses when we have a dynamic that is more favorable. During this process we need to ensure we do not disrupt our sense of community. Second, we need to have an Economic Development Committee that is comprised of realtors, business owners and township representatives (ideally the Supervisor, a Trustee, and someone from building/planning) to develop a strategy on how to create the best climate for businesses to become interested in Bedford. This group could also facilitate requests for information from businesses looking to move to Bedford. Additionally, I would like to work with the current Monroe County Economic Development Corporation to ensure a board seat is filled by a Bedford business owner. Given our size and impact on the county, I think it is crucial to have representation in this capacity.***

- 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? *I am open to having Town Hall Meetings. In my opinion, these are more important where communication between a community and its leadership are strained. My intentions are to improve the relationship, accessibility, openness, and transparency so that our neighbors feel included when they want to engage.***

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? ***I think the key to having successful town hall meetings would be to have an initial schedule...maybe once every other month and then increase or decrease from there. Public interest, participation and activity would dictate the frequency or need to continue from there. I believe it would be essential to ensure that these meetings were not replacements for, or too similar to the standard board meetings. I believe a more engaged board could largely eliminate the need for this type of venue as needs would be heard regularly by virtue of improved communication and greater access to the board by the residents of Bedford. As for broadcast, I do not believe at this***

moment, given other needs in the community that the additional cost of televising these meetings is our highest priority. This would be where public support and their voice would need to be heard.

- 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? **The concept of improved communication is essential. However, as with most things in government the issue is largely cost. As a Trustee I would want to be convinced by our neighbors that this was more important to the community than other needs that are already facing us as a township. I believe that a more engaged, passionate, and active board should be in the community more which will improve communication to and from our neighbors. Hopefully, this access will make the connectivity between town hall and our residents better.**
- 5) What is your position concerning having all board members being fully informed before decisions are made at Township Board Meetings? Your question of being fully informed. **This question requires two answers on two separate thoughts. First, it is the responsibility of every board member to prepare themselves for meetings, topics, etc. Being ill prepared is not the same as being uninformed. Preparedness is a must for anyone who seriously wants to be in public service. That said, there must be sufficient time given for issues before the board to be researched, analyzed, and considered. Part of the current problem and frustration for me is that subjects come up, get discussed, and no follow up is done until the issue surfaces again. This lack of organization and accountability is unacceptable in a township our size.**

Do you think that there is enough discussion on issues by all board members when decisions are made currently? **On the whole, I do believe there is enough conversation on issues before the board. I also think often the discussion is off subject and not focused on the matter at hand. Personalities, alliances, and agendas seem to dwarf the facts and figures. I think this wastes time and discourages the public from wanting to engage. I do not hear residents talking about issues over a cup of coffee. Rather, they discuss the behavior of the board and how embarrassing it is at times. This is unacceptable for the largest community in Monroe County. We can do better, be better and should expect MORE!**

- 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? **Provided this is in the best interest of the township and its residents, yes. I have a track record as a**

Deputy Chief of Police, as an Executive and as a Board of Directors member of having been able to make very difficult decision with huge implications in a number of areas. I am confident that I can and will analyze information on all subjects before me as a Trustee and will be able to make a logical decision based on what is best for our community.

- 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? ***I am in favor of time limits. Without them, one person, regardless of their motivation, can hold a meeting hostage and it is not fair to all the other residents who want to participate in the meeting to have to continue to listen without any limits. Additionally, with the ability to have your time extended by having a township resident yield their time to you, this allows for longer comments. This check and balance is healthy for meetings so that all of the work of the people can get done and not be subject to the whims of a single person. Ideally, if the board members are truly being ambassadors in our community, if we truly are practicing a participatory style of government, if we are truly communicating, this becomes less of an issue because all citizens, regardless of their ability to make the board meetings are being heard.***

Would you recommend any changes to this policy? ***At this time, I would not. I could see a time, and on some issues of more intense focus that these times could be increased to allow for more substantive comments to be offered by the public.***

- 8) What motivated you to seek a position on the Bedford Township Board? ***I continue to say that we can be better, do better and expect more from our leadership. I moved to Bedford as it is, without question, one of the most amazing places a person could pick to live. However, current infighting, agendas, and pettiness are distracting the board from doing more. Failing to do just a little bit more is holding Bedford back from solving some issues that are achievable.***

What do you see is your role as a member the Bedford Township Board? ***TEAM PLAYER! We cannot be a board of seven. We must be a body of one that works toward the same goals. I promise that I will ensure accountability. I will continue to bring up prior commitments and ask for updates to ensure that committee work, unexplored areas, and problems get addressed. Our current board has no system in***

place to ensure that follow up is being done. I believe my organizational skills can vastly improve this issue.

Do you think that all board members should take the responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda? ***It is the expectation that an agenda is set in advance of a meeting and, for uniformity sake, this should be done by one person. Provided that requests for agenda items are submitted in keeping with known time frames by all board members, there should not be any problem with having an issue added to the agenda by a board member. Additionally, the rules under which the board operates during their meetings, Roberts Rules of Order, also allows for the meeting agenda to be amended.***

- 9) How many Bedford Township Board meetings have you attended in the past year? ***I have not attended a full board meeting. I prefer to watch them online or live on TV.***

How many times have you watched the videos of Bedford Township Board meetings during the past year? ***At this time, I have watched every posted board meeting on the township website.***

After attending or viewing past meetings, do you have any recommendations to improve the efficiency and decorum at future meetings. ***I believe that the meetings are slightly more informal than they should be. Board members tend to talk over one another and often are not respectful of another having the floor. I certainly do not think we need "high brow", inflexible tone or tenor at the meetings. However, I think the respect, kindness and courtesy shown by some of the board to other board members could be vastly improved.***

- 10) What are some new ideas that you would recommend if elected? What is your "Vision" for Bedford Township in the next 4 years? ***My NEW VISION FOR BEDFORD would be:***

1. ***Clear Goals set by the board with ACCOUNTIBILITY to the public annually on progress.***
2. ***ACCOUNTIBILITY AND FOLLOW-UP on the issues that arise at a meeting which currently, no one is resolving or taking action.***
3. ***CHANGING THE MINDSET of our Leadership – Servant/Ambassadorship Leadership***
4. ***INCREASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT by the entire board in the community. All board members need to be attending community***

- meetings, going to functions to ensure that our neighbors have greater ease of access to their leadership.*
5. *Top to Bottom REVIEW OF BUILDING, ORDINANCE & ZONING to become more business friendly while maintaining our sense of community.*
 6. *Focus on ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT to ease the need for millage and additional taxation.*
 7. *Development of an advisory board of civic, spiritual, and scholastic leaders, business owners, and residents to:*
 - a. *IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS*
 - b. *Consolidate/SHARE RESOURCES as a cost savings measure*
 - c. *Develop strategies on COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT*
 - d. *Supplement existing Emergency Preparedness Plans*
 8. *Develop long term strategies on infrastructure and capital purchases so that future need is planned for and addressed early to avoid a “responsive” approach to governance.*

11. How should the public hold you as an elected official accountable for your campaign promises and your votes? *Ideally an engaged community will monitor my actions to ensure they are in keeping with my commitments. I have said that this election is about character. The best indicator of future expectations should be past performance. I believe that I have maintained my integrity and commitments. I would ask that I be held accountable for my comments and campaign platform of accountability, organization, goal setting, and improved communication with my neighbors.*