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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 2 Promoting economic development
 - e _____ Reducing the size of Township government
 - f 1 Full Disclosure of Township financial records (publish on Township web site)
 - g 4 Maintaining and improving infrastructure (roads, water, sewer)
 - h 2 Improving the commercial development and revitalization of the Temperance Overlay District & the surrounding area.
 - i 3 Develop a Capital Improvement Plan for 5-10 years out.
 - j 1 Practicing greater fiscal responsibility and lower taxes
 - k 1 Improving services for citizens and being more customer friendly
 - l 5 Improving 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 5 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?

A – The priorities listed a. through o. all work together. I am convinced that improving, f., j. and k. will improve most all of the other choices. Greater fiscal responsibility with taxpayer’s dollars will set our focus on the path to put the public first and think ALWAYS of maintaining/improving the police, fire, parks, and all the other choices that have the best interest of our community in full focus. Governing a community is not using their dollars to build bigger buildings, offices, and make the elected officials more comfortable and satisfied. Governing (and not control) is a method of utilizing all of the choices above in the best interest of our constituents.

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

A. – We live in Bedford Township which consists of 3 postal codes of Temperance, Lambertville, and Samaria. These areas of our community are all demographically different which brings a unique character to our community. I am interested in economic development for all of Bedford, but not at a price to lose the small town character of Bedford. The next Board MUST market Bedford Township to draw

business and industry into our community. I plan on working together with Monroe County and the State of Michigan to attract business to Bedford in whatever area individual businesses want to come and develop. The Township Board's ability to encourage economic development is through ordinances compatible to business, cooperation with county agencies like the Road Commission, Drain Commission, Planning Commission, Chamber of Commerce, etc. Historically Bedford officials have isolated themselves and/or maintained a less than favorable relationship with Monroe County. We tend to associate more with Toledo, however Toledo does nothing to assist Bedford due to the state line between us. Certainly if we can attract any business that fits into our Master Plan to locate in or around Temperance that would be to Bedford's advantage.

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?

A. – Town Hall Meetings are extremely important, and yes I would pursue them. I am not sure a monthly basis would be advantageous because Bedford residents are active and lead busy lives. But I would certainly encourage bi-annual or more frequent if a concern arises to have them more frequently. I believe the elected officials lose sight of the people's needs and concerns without Town Hall Meetings. It is an excellent opportunity for the residents to speak to those who are serving them and allocating their tax dollars. And most certainly "yes": they should always be televised and streamed for greater viewing. The one caveat though is that the entire Board must be onboard with Town Hall Meetings in order for them to be effective so the public can hear from each member. It is not a violation of the Open Meetings Act to meet in the whole if official business is not conducted and no decisions are made.

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.

A. – That is an excellent idea both to have programs hosted by elected officials and broadcast on the local channel. Our local channel that the cable users pay for through Franchise Fees is vastly under-used. There is so much that channel could be accomplishing in terms of enhancing local talent, giving opportunity for students experienced in broadcasting, and simply educating the community on the community in which they live. The current use is inefficient.

5. What is your position concerning having all board members being fully informed before decisions are made at Township Board Meetings? Do you think that there is enough discussion on issues by all board members when decisions are made currently?

A. – Currently all Board Members are able to be informed if they so choose. The agenda is published on Thursday before the following Tuesday's meeting. I believe that is sufficient to study and research items on the agenda to be fully informed in order to

make a decision. I am a firm believer in NOT polling other Board Members to determine “how do you plan to vote on this item?” In fact “polling” is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. I believe the public’s business should be discussed IN PUBLIC – in full view of the taxpayers who choose to attend or view the meeting proceedings. When Board Members converse prior to a meeting it is too easy for “lazy” members to just listen to a fellow Board Member and follow him/her. In the past Board meetings took 10- 15 minutes because Board members came without the intent to discuss the business and when no discussion was held on each item the meetings were over quickly.

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?

A. – Bedford Township employees and elected officials are very fairly compensated and their benefits are certainly adequate. I am willing to do what is necessary to be fiscally responsible with the taxpayers’ dollars.

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?

A. – Yes, I would encourage change to the Public Comment Policy. Firstly, the Board needs to set the Meeting Policy and not one person who conducts the meetings. I think there are methods that can be instituted to prevent people from dominating and dragging out the meeting unnecessarily, keeping in mind the meeting is for the purpose of the elected body to conduct the public’s business so some control must exist.

8. What motivated you to seek a position on the Bedford Township Board? What do you see is your role as a member the Bedford Township Board? Do you think that all board members should take the responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda?

A. - I want to see Bedford flourish. I want to see young families locate here and revive the community. A Trustee must hold the full-time officials accountable to budget and spend money in the best interest of the general public. It is not a statutory requirement but I also feel it is my responsibility to respond to public problems when the red tape and stalling of Township employees and officials cause unnecessary problems for the public. Yes every Board Member has the ability and responsibility to put items relating to public business on an agenda.

9. How many Bedford Township Board meetings have you attended in the past year? How many times have you watched the videos of Bedford Township Board meetings during the past year? After attending or viewing past meetings, do you have any recommendations to improve the efficiency and decorum at future meetings?

A. – I believe all of them. I may have missed one or two in all 3.5 years on the Board. I have viewed several of the videos to be reminded of the discussion. Personally I

don't think debate or even disagreement is out of line in a meeting when business as important as what the Township Board is discussing is on the agenda. Efficiency, oh yes. The person conducting the meeting needs to allow everyone to voice their opinion, but end the repeated, defending, and whining when a Board member doesn't get their own way on an issue.

10. What are some new ideas that you would recommend if elected? What is your "Vision" for Bedford Township in the next 4 years?

A. – *As I stated in my five top priorities, I hope to see fiscal responsibility, open disclosure and accountability of those candidates that the voters put into these offices. On another vein I desperately want to see pedestrian mobility in Bedford Township! I want to pursue grants to put in walking, biking, running, and any other type of pedestrian mobility allowing our residents to move from one place to another without a car.*

11. How should the public hold you as an elected official accountable for your campaign promises and your votes?

A. – *They should pay attention to my discussion on the Board, my votes always on their behalf, my communication with them when they have needs, my follow through when I say I will do something. If I do not deal with their business as they determine represents them then by all means do not elect me again.*