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LETTER: Upper Providence needs expanded board

Monday, November 7, 2016

I read Lisa Mossie's remarks where my name and PAC, "Upper Providence First," are mentioned. To be honest, I'm quite astounded that a sitting five-year Upper Providence Township supervisor would insert herself into the process around a ballot question for our township by trying to sway voters to vote no. Mrs. Mossie is making this political, which it should not be. The entire point of getting the question on the ballot: "Should membership of the Upper Providence Township Board of Supervisors be expanded from a three person board to a five person board?" is for the voters to decide if they would like more representation at the township board level. We heard firsthand from a former supervisor as to why he believes two more supervisors would be for the good of the township and the residents.

Upper Providence First has presented the following reasons as to why we believe the electorate should vote YES on Nov. 8 to add two additional supervisors:

- More representation throughout the township
- Upper Providence is the fastest growing township in Pennsylvania with 23,000 residents and growing every year
- Every surrounding township has five-member boards except our township. Why not Upper Providence?

Mrs. Mossie writes "I believe that my job as a supervisor is to always do what's best for the township and I believe that Mr. Barker is also guided by this same principle." This is amusing as Mrs. Mossie has helped herself and Mr. and Mrs. Barker during her term. For example, Mrs. Mossie's husband is in the vending machine business. Her husband's vending machines ended up in the brand new police administration building. This never went out to bid nor did any of the three vending machine businesses that reside in Upper Providence even get a shot to bid on that business. Does that sound like someone that puts the township and its residents first?

Also, Mrs. Mossie and Mr. Barker did the unprecedented thing by electing to take \$5 million from the Upper Providence Sewer Authority fund to pay \$5 million in cash for the new police administration building. This is absurd and bad decision-making. Why not do the financially prudent thing and raise a municipal bond as interest rates are at an all-time low. Now that \$5 million has to be paid back to the Upper Providence Sewer Authority. Where's that \$5 million repayment coming from?

Lastly, we have a sitting supervisor, Mr. Barker, whose wife is the director of parks and recreation. Mr. Barker has not been able to vote on the Upper Providence Township budget during the last five years because his wife runs parks and recreation. Does that sound like someone that puts the township and its residents first? With the help of Mrs. Mossie, Mrs. Barker's annual salary has been increased over the years to roughly \$90,000 a year. The average parks and recreation director salary is \$45,000 a year. Does this sound like someone that puts the township and its residents first?

These are a few examples but there are many, many more. We need two more supervisors so this kind of behavior is stopped. Time to drain the swamp in Upper Providence Township government.

— *Jim White Upper Providence First*

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