

Bedford Twp. Board takes control of cable access

TEMPERANCE — In a surprise move, the Bedford Township Board last night stripped control of the local studio for public access cable away from the Bedford Public Schools and "officially" moved it a quarter-mile south to the township hall.

The board voted unanimously to amend one of two ordinances that govern cable television operations in the township.

The move comes after a contentious meeting last month with former members of the township's advisory cable committee during which they alleged that the township owed the school district tens of thousands of dollars in back franchise fees.

Township officials stopped paying the district \$10,000 a year in 2002, shortly after they agreed to hire Triple L Productions of Lambertville to broadcast township board meetings. Previously, high school students in Bedford's broadcast journalism program taped the meetings on a scattershot basis.

While several issues of disagreement remain over the township's decision to withhold payment, township legal counsel Phil Goldsmith said the amendment passed last night "clarifies" where public access broadcasts originate within the local cable system.

"This resolution will move the location from the school system to the township hall, then further work will be done on the repeal of [an earlier and conflicting cable ordinance], bringing further clarity to the issue," Mr. Goldsmith said.

"This is just the first step in the process of trying to get this thing straightened out where everyone could understand it," Supervisor Walt Wilburn said.

However, the board did not discuss the outstanding monetary issue between the schools and the township.

In a related move last night, the board accepted the resignation of Gene Stock from the cable committee. Mr. Stock, a longtime community activist, had been a leading voice calling for the township to pay the school system a share of franchise revenues.

Stock quits 2 seats; DiPofi to replace him

BY JOSHUA KENNEDY
Bedford Now

Bedford Township activist Gene Stock has resigned from both the township's Economic Development Corp. (EDC) and the cablevision advisory committee.

Mr. Stock, a Bedford native, cited politics over the cablevision committee's recommendation that the township repay \$60,000 in skipped payments to the Bedford Public Schools as part of a cable franchise agreement with Buckeye Cable Co.

Mr. Stock was one of two members on that seven-member committee who was reappointed in January after initial debates over the payment and how the matter has been publicized.

The board wasted no time

in filling Mr. Stock's vacated seats. At the same meeting where they officially accepted his resignation, they appointed Vince DiPofi, current Temperance Action Committee (TAC) chairman.

Mr. Stock said he hasn't ruled out further volunteer work on the township's behalf but said that he's disappointed by the current board's wrangling over money owed.



GENE STOCK

SOUTH COUNTY

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

Stock vacates 2 board posts

The Bedford Township Board is seeking to fill two posts vacated recently by longtime community leader Gene Stock.

Mr. Stock recently resigned his posts on the township's Economic Development Corp. (EDC) and Cablevision Advisory Committee.

The committees have recommended Vincent DiPofi Sr. as a replacement. The posts' terms would run from March 1 to Dec. 31, 2009. Trustees are

scheduled to decide on the appointment at their meeting at 7 tonight.

The five-member cablevision board meets at 7 p.m. the third Monday of every month. The nine-member EDC meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month.

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